

*"Počaji plays cleverly and wisely, doesn't play unnecessary tones, plays with finesse and his guitar tells stories"*

— *Dorota Zervanová, reviews of the album Journey home /magazine Nový Populár*

*"I would like to play, the way Picasso has painted..."*

**Stanislav Počaji** is a jazz guitarist with a style range from acoustic music to fusion, the host of **Bratislava Guitar Nights**, founder and leader of the band **Aftertee**, the musical half of project **PayaAya** and founder of the project with **Kristina Prablesková**, **Juraj Dávid Raši** and **Dávid Michael Šelep**.

He likes to use primarily acoustic guitar and the natural sound of the acoustic instrument, he also experiments with different tunings (DADGAD, Dropped D or Open-C) and likes to use a fret less guitar as well. Among the influences that shaped him, he presents musicians like **Keith Jarrett**, **Pat Metheny**, **Tommy Emmanuel**, **Esbjorn Svensson**, **Bobby McFerrin**, **Richard Bona** and others.

Since 2012, he has been endorsed by companies **Dowina** (guitars) and **G7th** (capos).

BIO

**Stanislav Počaji** was born in 1964 in Želiezovce and grew up surrounded by music in the baptist choir with a wind and mandolin orchestra, a singer choir and a big beat band. Since age 9, he played in it, first on the mandolin, later on wind instruments (the first Ec trumpet, then the baritone and euphonium).

He began teaching himself to play the guitar when he was 14.

Since year 1984 he worked on the railway as a engine-driver, he devoted himself to music professionally after leaving, about 10 years later. In 1987, he married Pavlína Stehlíková (1968) and has four children with her.

He was occasionally given lessons by **Andrej Šeban**, **Karol Ondreička**, **Matúš Jakabčic**, and attended various music courses.

In 1991, he participated in (as one of the selected participants of the first seminar for musicians "from behind the iron curtain") the East-West Music workshop "Jazz-Rock-Latin" in Denmark. This audition was his first public performance.

Later, he built his first professional band **Bos/s/a Noha** (**Marcel Buntaj**, **Martin Gašpar**, **Peter Preložník**, **Pavol Ruček**, **Ajdži Sabo**, **Lubor Priehradník**, **Boboš Procházka** a.h.), for which he, together with Lubor Priehradník composed and arranged most of the material. The band achieved success in clubs and festivals (**Frýdlant**, **Přerov**, **Karlovy Vary**, **Vienna**, **Krakow**, **Košice**, **Žilina**) until 1995.

Later, the band only played occasionally (for example, in the summer of 95 in **Vienna**, in 96 at the concert for the year of Slovak music, in February 98 in **Košice** and **Humenné**.)

In 1996 he founded the acoustic **PP Quartet** with **Peter Preložník**. He recorded spirituals with **Zuzana Suchánková** (CD SPIRITUAL WAY), he played his own compositions, he taught at jazz workshops, music schools (YMCA, Yamaha) and continued to play shows.

In 2000, he founded the band **AFTERTEE**, whose composition had gradually crystallized into the present form: S.P. , **Michal Šimko** - bass guitar, **Peter Preložník** - keyboard, **Peter Szapu** - drums, and together they have toured in clubs and festivals.

In 2008, they recorded their debut **CD Journey Home**, in the music fund Hudobný Fond.

The band **Aftertee** has played at the festivals: **Bratislava jazz days 2003**, **Český Těšín 2010 festival**, **Kulturama Jazz festival Bardejov 2010**, **JAZZYK Trnava 2011**, **Bohemia jazzfest Brno 2016**, and others.

In the years 2007-2012 he played on cruise ships as well, where he met the Norwegian singer and composer **Caroline Hitland**. He created an author team with her and, in different formations, they played dozens of concerts. In 2009 they have toured in the **Czech Republic**, supported by HF. They played other concerts in **Norway**, at festivals **BJD Slovenská sporiteľňa**, **LODENICA**. They

cooperated on their album with **Paul Wertico** (US), **Martin Valihora**, **Robert Balzar** (CZ), **Stanislav Macha** (CZ), **Marcel Buntaj**, **Michal Šimko** and others.

In 2014, he did a tour with the British acoustic guitar master, **Chris Woods**.

He opened the tour with a public concert recording in the **Slovak Radio**. One of the stops was at a Jazz Festival in **Liptovský Mikuláš**.

His solo program was featured at high profile events such as:

**International Guitar Night Buxton** (GB),

**Dublin Guitar Night** (IR),

**London Guitar Night** at the legendary **Troubadour Club** in London,

in the **Slovak Embassy** in **Hague** in the Netherlands,

**Budapest Finger style Night** and **Vienna Finger style Night**.

He has worked with groups and artists: **Szidi Tobias**, **Exfónia**, **Romanika**, **Silvia Josifoska**, **Peter Adamov**, **Michal Horáček** and others.

Stanislav is currently the host and organizer of **Bratislava Guitar Night**, leader of **AFTERTEE**, plays and sings with his wife in a project called **PayaAya**, and works with Slovak musicians like **Juraj Schweigert**, **Marcel Vén** (Project Wenai), **Kristína Prablesková** and Milusion, **Michal Šelep** and **Juraj Dávid Raši**, as well as with musicians of the European music scene like **Chris Woods** (GB), **Tom Lumen** (H), **Markus Schlesinger** (A), **Salomon Jakobsson** (S), **Geordie Little** (AU) and others.

