

## **Jere Laukkanen (b. 1963, Helsinki, Finland)**

Composer, Arranger, Conductor, Music Instructor, Bass



### **BIOGRAPHY**

Although **Jere Laukkanen** is probably best known for his work in combining modern jazz and Afro-Cuban rhythms, he has a long history of various musical activities. As a youth he played flute and alto sax, studied drums, recorded as a singer, guitar player and bandleader, and then commenced professional studies on the bass at the **Helsinki Pop & Jazz Conservatory**. Laukkanen later concentrated on composing and arranging, with **Henrik Otto Donner** ao. as his teacher, and studied conducting with **Maria Schneider**. Laukkanen continued his studies at the **Sibelius Academy**, where he earned a Master of Music degree in Jazz Composition. He is also a graduate of **The Haaga-Helia School of Vocational Teacher Education**, Helsinki, Finland.

Jere Laukkanen is currently working as Chair of Music Writing and Production and Senior Lecturer at the **Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland**. He is a much sought-after arranger, composer and conductor, and has written music for all major Finnish television channels and numerous orchestras, including **European Jazz Orchestra**, **UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra**, **Vantaa Pops Orchestra**, and **Lahti Symphony Orchestra**. Besides his own band, **Jere Laukkanen Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra**, for which he is the sole composer and arranger, he has conducted jazz and symphony orchestras like the **European Jazz Orchestra** (multinational), **UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra** (FIN), **Berklee Jazz Composers' Big Band** (USA), **Oulu Symphony Orchestra** (FIN), **Liceu Big Band** (ESP), **Radio Romania Big Band**, and **Estonian Dream Big Band**.

Jere Laukkanen on the web: [www.jerelaukkanen.com](http://www.jerelaukkanen.com)

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