

# **JEAN-MICHEL PILC**

## **Pianist, Composer**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Born in 1960 in Paris and now an American citizen, self-taught, Jean-Michel Pilc has played with: Roy Haynes, Michael Brecker, Dave Liebman, Jean Toussaint, Rick Margitza, Martial Solal, Michel Portal, Daniel Humair, Marcus Miller, Kenny Garrett, Lenny White, Chris Potter, John Abercrombie, Mingus Dynasty & Big Band, Lew Soloff and Richard Bona. He has also worked with Harry Belafonte, as his musical director and pianist.

Jean-Michel moved to New York City in 1995. There, he formed a trio with François Moutin (bass) and Ari Hoenig (drums). They recorded a one week engagement at Sweet Basil and, in 2000, released 2 CDs Jean-Michel Pilc Trio - Together - Live at Sweet Basil, NYC - Vol. 1 & 2 (A-Records).

Then Pilc signed a record deal with Dreyfus Jazz. Pilc's first album for Dreyfus, Welcome Home (featuring the same trio), was released in 2002.

Pilc's next album for Dreyfus, Cardinal Points was released the following year. It features Jean-Michel's extended work Trio Sonata, created with generous support from Chamber Music America's New Works: Creation and Presentation Program, funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

In 2004, Jean-Michel released his first solo album, Follow Me (Dreyfus).

Jean-Michel Pilc Trio recorded Live at Iridium, NYC, in 2004 and New Dreams in 2006, again for Dreyfus.

In the last decade, Jean-Michel has been intensively touring worldwide, performing trio, solo, and also teaching clinics and masterclasses.

In 2006, Jean-Michel has been appointed jazz teacher at NYU (New York University), where he is giving private lessons (piano and other instruments), ensemble classes and improvisation workshops. He's also teaching for the New School & Le Moyne College in Syracuse, NY, as well as privately.

## 2008 NEWS

In 2008-9, Jean-Michel will be performing with his new trio featuring Boris Kozlov (b) & Billy Hart (d), solo piano, and with the Hoenig Pilc Project, co-led by Jean-Michel & drummer Ari Hoenig.

Also in the works: "Jean-Michel Pilc - A Portrait", a film by John McCormick about Jean-Michel to be released on DVD & iTunes in 2008-09. (excerpts available on Home Page)

Jean-Michel is currently working on a pedagogical DVD.

Jean-Michel has received this year from Chamber Music America, for the second time, a New Works: Creation and Presentation Grant. The first time was for the "Trio Sonata" featured in "Cardinal Points".

The new project will be the writing and performance of a "Chaplin Suite", a piece reflecting Charles Chaplin's work and inspired by his movies (made possible with generous funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation).

## PRESS

"His densely harmonic reinventions of standards you thought you knew clearly shows a musical genius at work."

Eric Brace, The Washington Post

"One of the astounding jazz piano trios of the past decade."

Don Williamson, Jazz Review

"Mr Pilc seems to have dropped from the sky fully formed, with technique and his ideas in place. He is a physical and densely harmonic player, a splashy stunner who also has a Rubik's-cube mind for chord substitutions."

Ben Ratliff, New York Times

"...visual art references come to mind: Cubist renderings of melody in which the original is reshaped into a completely different visual perspective; the shimmering opaqueness of Impressionism in some of Pilc's lush harmonies..."

Don Heckman, Los Angeles Times

"'"Follow Me'" stands a major summation of Pilc's keyboard art, which has no counterparts. Pilc ranks among today's titans of the instrument... there's more to his art than the speed, precision and power of his 10 phenomenal fingers."

Howard Reich, Chicago Tribune (2004 10 best jazz CDs)

## SELECTIVE DISCOGRAPHY

As a leader:

- Jean-Michel Pilc: New Dreams  
(2006, Dreyfus Jazz)
- Jean-Michel Pilc: Live at Iridium  
(2005, Dreyfus Jazz)
- Jean-Michel Pilc: Follow Me  
(2004, Dreyfus Jazz)
- Jean-Michel Pilc: Cardinal Points  
(2003, Dreyfus Jazz)
- Jean-Michel Pilc Trio: Welcome Home  
(2002, Dreyfus Jazz)
- Jean-Michel Pilc Trio: Together  
Live at Sweet Basil, Volume 1 & 2  
(2000, A-Records)
- Jean-Michel Pilc: Big One  
for 13 Piece Band  
(1993, EMP/Harmonia Mundi)
- Jean-Michel Pilc Trio: Funambule  
(1989, Blue Line)

As a sideman or co-leader:

- Ari Hoenig: Inversations  
(2006, Dreyfus Jazz)
- Rosario Giuliani: More than ever  
(2004, Dreyfus Jazz)
- Elisabeth Kontomanou: Midnight Sun  
(2004, Nocturne Records)
- Rick Margitza: Rue des Voleurs  
(2004, Nocturne Records)
- Ari Hoenig: The Painter  
(2004, Smalls Records)
- Jean-Michel Pilc / Hein Van De Geyn Duo:  
The Long Journey  
(2001, A-Records)
- Sam Newsome and Global Unity  
(2001, Palmetto)
- Elisabeth Kontomanou: Hands and Incantation  
(Duo, 2000, Steeplechase)
- Richard Bona: Scenes from My Life  
(1999, Sony / Columbia)
- J.D. Walter: Sirens in the C-House  
(1997, Dreambox)
- Jean Toussaint: Life I Want  
(1995, World Circuit)