

Vincent Courtois biography

Born in 1968, Vincent Courtois started studying the violoncello at age 6. After graduating from Ecole Normale de Musique (Paris) in 1988 (earning a "diplôme supérieur d'exécution"), he played with such artists as Christian Escoudé and pianist Martial Solal and was a member of the European Jazz Orchestra of Young Talents directed by James Newton. A versatile virtuoso on his instrument, Vincent feels as much at home in new classical music and experimental jazz as in ethnic and popular concepts. Among the celebrities he worked with are Juliette Greco, Michel Petrucciani, Les Rita Mitsouko and Khaled. Vincent Courtois and his cello - an instrument rarely heard (and still to be discovered) in jazz contexts - have been a strong force on the European scene all through the nineties.

As a sideman, Vincent has already taken part in more than 30 recordings. Especially fond of adventurous playing in duo and trio settings, he recently also cooperated with Marc Ducret, Louis Sclavis, Ellery Eskelin, Sylvie Courvoisier, Yves Robert, Régis Huby, Dave Douglas, Pierre Favre, Mark Feldman, Dominique Pifarély, Rabih Abou-Khalil, Steve Swallow and other wonderful colleagues.

Vincent is a featured player in the current bands of Louis Sclavis (Napoli's Walls, Dans la nuit, etc.).

With his new quartet "What do you mean by silence" created in 2006, he plays with François Merville (drums), Jeanne Added (voice and cello) and the young saxophonist Mark Baron.