

LOUIS SCLAVIS Biography

Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Soprano Saxophone

Louis Sclavis, born in Lyon, France, on February 2nd 1953.

1962 Began learning the clarinet in a small district school, then studied at the Lyon Conservatoire.

1975 to 1988 Began a long association with the **Workshop de Lyon** and the **Marvelous Band**. Sclavis has recorded and toured with both groups.

1976 Joined **La Marmite Infernale**. In this period and over the next several years, Sclavis also worked with Didier Levallet, Michel Portal, Bernard Lubat and Henri Texier and was a member of Chris McGregor's Afro-European big band the Brotherhood of Breath.

1982 Formed his own group **Le Tour de France**, whose members, appropriately, originated from different French regions. The band featured Benat Achiary, Yves Robert, Michel Doneda, Philippe Deschepper, Alain Gibert and Gérard Siracusa. Sclavis also played and recorded with improvisers from England, Germany and America – including saxophonists Evan Parker, Peter Brötzmann and Loi Coxhill, trombonist Connie Bauer, Bassist John Lindberg and drummer Tony Oxley – on the French Nato Label and Berlin's FMP. This was the beginning of a continuing and productive association with the international improvising community.

1984 Recorded «**Clarinets**», his first album as a leader, on Ida Records, and established a quartet with Bruno Chevillon (bass) François Raulin (keyboards) and Christian Ville (drums). The four musicians played majors festivals in France and elsewhere in Europe, and collaborated on many projects.

1987 Sclavis formed a **septet** for a performance at the Banlieues Bleues Festival. The group comprised of quartet regulars Chevillon and Raulin, plus old friends Yves Robert and Philippe Deschepper, together with Michel Godard (tuba) and virtuoso violinist Dominique Pifarély. This constellation recorded the Chamber Music CD, and Pifarély also appeared as special guest with the Sclavis Quartet on the highly successful "**Chine**" album.

1988 He was awarded the Prix Django Reinhardt, a prize given annually to the best jazz musician in France. With Jacques di Donato and Armand Angster he formed the **Trio de Clarinettes**, a group unique in its espousal of both free improvisation and the

contemporary « straight » repertoire (they play, for example, dauntingly complex pieces by Pierre Boulez and Brian Ferneyhough). Sclavis met dancer/choreographer **Mathilde Monnier** and worked with her on several performances:

« A la renverse », « Chinoiserie », « Face Nord », « Ainsi de suite ».

He also performed and recorded as a member of Cecil's Taylor European Orchestra.

1989 The Sclavis Quartet won first prize as European Band of the year at the Barcelona Biennial

1990 Louis Sclavis received the British Jazz Award 1990/91 – sponsored by England's Wire magazine – as International Artist of the year. He performed with the sextet at the Paris Jazz Festival playing his tribute to Duke Ellington, "**ELLINGTON ON THE AIR**", subsequently recorded on Ida Records.

Additionally, Sclavis underlined his ties to French folk resources by working on several projects that combine traditional music with jazz improvising.

He co-led a recording project with singer André Ricros from the Auvergne region (Le Partage des eaux - the sharing of waters), and appeared on albums with hurdy gurdy player Valentin Clastrier (Hérésie), and with a quintet of traditional and contemporary clarinet players (Musique têtue). The clarinetists and Clastrier were retained for Sclavis' folk-inspired big band « Création indigène ».

1991 The Trio de clarinettes recorded "**Live in Berlin**" on FMP. Création "**Indigène**" toured the European festivals. Sclavis recorded his first album on ECM with the Quartet and Dominique Pifarély: "**Rouge**".

1992 The Louis Sclavis-Dominique Pifarély **Acoustic Quartet** was formed; Bruno Chevillon and the unorthodox guitarist Marc Ducret joined the clarinetist and violinist in this ensemble.

1993 The Acoustic Quartet recorded on ECM. Sclavis appeared at the Banlieues Bleues Festival with a **Double Trio** comprising the Trio de Clarinettes together with the Arcado String Trio (with violinist Mark Feldman, Cellist Ernst Reijseger and Bassist Mark Dresser). The double Trio was subsequently invited to appear at several other European festivals. Recording on Enja Records of "**Green Dolphy Suite**".

Since 1980, Louis Sclavis has composed regularly for the theatre company of Christiane Vericel, "Image Aigüe", has also worked with theatre producer Jean-Louis Martinelli and with film director Jean-Louis Comolli. And since 1982, he has frequently worked with photographer Guy Le Quérec in performances including « De l'eau dans le jazz », « Œil de Breizh » and « Jazz comme une image ». A CD and book set is currently in preparation. Louis Sclavis continues to work with other bandleaders including Joachim Kühn, Michel Portal and Ernst Reijseger and plays in a cooperative trio with Aldo Romano and Henri Texier "**Sclavis Romano Texier**". His rapidly expanding discography includes sessions with Trilok Gurtu, Klaus Koenig, Andreas Willers and many others.

1994

Release of the album "**Carnets de Route**" with Aldo Romano and Henry Texier.

First album by the **Acoustic Quartet** was released on ECM with Dominique Pifarely, Marc Ducret and Bruno Chevillon.

Sclavis formed a new trio with Bruno Chevillon and drummer François Merville and release on Label Bleu of the Trio Album "**Ceux qui veillent la nuit**".

The Sclavis Sextet was scheduled to perform « **Les violences de Rameau** », a co-production with the Theatre de la Renaissance.

Creation of a trio with Tim Berne (sax) and Noel Akchote (guitare) for Saalfelden and Mulhouse Festivals.

1995

Release of the album "**Et on ne parle pas du temps**" on FMP with Ernst Reijseger.

1996

Release of the album "**Les Violences de Rameau**" on ECM.

Musical encounter with the Ravel Quatuor (Théâtre de la Renaissance).

Special project for the Jazz Festival of La Villette (Paris), the 25th anniversary of Moers Festival and the Jazz Festival of Parthenay with his trio + Jean Louis Martinier (acc), Ray Anderson (tb).

Tour in Norway, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Slovenia and Netherlands in duet with the argentinian bandoneon player Dino Saluzzi.

Release of the album "**Danses et autres scènes**" on Label Bleu.

Received in december 96 the National Music Award by the French Ministry of Culture.

1997

Creation of a Trio for the Sons d'Hiver Festival with **Fred Frith and Jean Pierre Drouet**.

Tour in South and East Africa with Aldo Romano and Henry Texier.

Presentation of a new quintet for the SWF and Donaueschingen Festival with Pierre Favre, Ernst Reijseger, Bruno Chevillon and Arcady Shilkoper.

1998

Tours in Asia with Michel Portal, Daniel Humair and Bruno Chevillon.

Release of the album "**Le Phare**" with Bernard Struber on Enja.

1999

Tours in Canada, South America, Asia and Japon with his trio.

Creation of a wind instrument quintette "Five easy pieces" for the Hamburg Radio with Yves Robert, François Corneloup, Michel Godard and Laurent Dehors.

Release of the album "Suite Africaine" on Label Bleu with Aldo Romano and Henry Texier.

Composition of the movie music of "**Ca commence aujourd'hui**" by Bertrand Tavernier, recorded on Sony Music.

2000

Contributed with Jean Pierre Drouet and Catherine Jauniaux to the new show "Fin et Début" by the choreographer François Verret.

Composed the music of the new show of Jean Louis Martinelli "Le deuil sied à Electre".

Recorded on ECM of his quintette "**L'affrontement des prétendants**" with Bruno Chevillon, François Merville, Vincent Courtois and Jean Luc Cappozzo.

Composed, on the request of the Lumière Institute and Bertrand Tavernier, the music of the silent movie "**Dans la nuit**" of Charles Vanel.

2001

Release of the album "**I dream of you jumping**" with Fred Frith and Jean Pierre Drouet.

2002

Release of the album "**Dans la nuit**" on ECM.

Creation of a new quartet **Napoli's Walls** with Vincent Courtois, Mederic Collignon and Hasse Poulsen, inspired by the photographic work of Ernest Pignon Ernest of the walls of Napoli, in february during the Sons d'Hiver Festival.

Tour in Central America and The Caribbean with Vincent Courtois and Dominique Pifarely.

Tour in Oceania and Asia with the quintette.

2003

Received the First Audience Prize in the Festival "Strade del Cinema" in Aoste (Italia) for "Dans la nuit".

His last album "**Napoli's Walls**" released on ECM in november received a warm reception by the french and international critics.

Release of "**A l'improviste**" with Jean Pierre Drouet.

2004

Creation of a new quintette with Michel Portal, Bernard Lubat, Eric Echampard and Bruno Chevillon.

2005

Creation in january of a septet **Big Napoli** with Mederic Collignon, Vincent Courtois, Paul Brousseau, Dgiz, Hasse Poulsen and François Merville co produced by the Sons d'Hiver Festival and the Royaumont Foundation;

Creation in march of "**Des mots dans la musique**" with Bernard Lubat, François Marthouret and Jacques Bonnaffé in the Banlieues Bleues Festival.

Creation in april of a new quintette "**L'imparfait des langues**" with Marc Baron, Maxime Delpierre, Paul Brousseau and François Merville for the Printemps des Arts of Monaco.

2006

Creation in july of "**L'oeil de l'éléphant**" with Michel Portal, Henri Texier and Jean Pierre Drouet, musical performance with the pictures of Guy Le Querrec, during the Rencontres Internationales de la Photographie in Arles.

2008

September 2008 recording of his new quintet "**Lost on the way**" with Maxime Delpierre, Mathieu Metzger, Olivier Lété and François Merville, released on ECM records.

Creation of "**Signes extérieurs**" with the choreographer Mathilde Monnier, during the festival Jazz in la Villette, Paris.

He received the "Grand Prix Sacem" for his whole work.

2009

He plays in trio with Tom Rainey and Craig Taborn.

Louis Sclavis, invited in Phnom Pehn, Cambodgia, creates **Courts Voyages** a "ciné concert" with 10 cambodgians musicians on Georges Melies and Charley Bowers movies.

Recording of "Yokohama" with Aki Takase which received the price of the german critic.

