

Nicolas Masson



Born in Geneva in 1972, Nicolas Masson meets Cecil Taylor and Fred Hopkins, studies with Frank Lowe and Makanda Ken McIntyre in New York in 1992.

Back home in Geneva, he graduates from the Conservatoire Populaire de Musique de Genève in 2000 with a Jazz performance and teaching degree. During this period, Lee Konitz, Dave Douglas and Misha Mengelberg are his masterclass teachers and inspirations.

From 1999-2001, Nicolas Masson studies with Rich Perry and Chris Potter and lives in New York for one year, regularly playing with Ohad Talmor, Russ Johnson, Eivind Opsvik, Mark Ferber.

Awake, released in 2002 on the label Altri Suoni, is Nicolas Masson's debut album recorded with his New York band featuring Russ Johnson (tp), Eivind Opsvik (b) and Mark Ferber (dms), and featured in a European tour (Switzerland, Italy) in January 2003.

In 2003, Nicolas Masson is awarded the « Bourse d'Aide à la Création pour Jeunes Artistes de la Ville de Genève » grant, leading to a Switzerland tour and studio recording in 2004 with his Quartet (with Gerald Cleaver on drums).

The second album, called *Yellow (A Little Orange)* was released in 2006 on the Fresh Sound/New Talent label and featured in the quartet's second Italy tour in Spring 2004 with Ted Poor on drums.

In 2005 and 2006, the Quartet tours Italy again, taking part in an itinerant Swiss festival organized by Rome's Swiss Cultural Centre, sharing the evening with Irène Schweizer, Lucas Niggli and Malcolm Braff. Concerts are held in some of Italy's most prestigious venues and festivals such as the Casa dell'Jazz and Alexanderplatz Jazz Club in Rome, TAM, Ubi Jazz Festival and Crossroads Jazz Festival in Emilia Romagna. In 2007, the Quartet performs in New York and Nicolas Masson tours Europe with pianist Kris Davis (Switzerland, Italy, France and Germany).

In 2009 releases *Thirty Six Ghosts* on Clean Feed Records with his band Parallels , featuring Colin Vallon on Rhodes electric piano, Patrice Moret on acoustic bass and Lionel Friedli on drums.

In 2010 Nicolas Masson was commissioned by AMR in Geneva to compose music for a new band. He joined forces with guitarist Ben Monder, bassist Patrice Moret and drummer Ted Poor to tour Switzerland and France. A new album called *Departures* was recorded during that tour and was released in 2011 on Fresh Sound/New Talent Records.

Nicolas' busy schedule allows him to play all over Europe with musicians such as: Ben Monder, Kenny Wheeler, Josh Roseman, Otomo Yoshihide, Kris Davis, Thomas Morgan, Russ Lossing, Ted Poor, Scott DuBois, Gerald Cleaver, Colin Vallon, Tom Arthurs, Samuel Blaser, Manuel Mengis, Susanne Abbuehl, Harald Haerter, etc.