

PARALLELS

nicolas masson ≠ tenor saxophone/composition
colin vallon ≠ rhodes electric piano
patrice moret ≠ acoustic bass
lionel friedli ≠ drums



Following two acclaimed recordings of his New York based quartet featuring Russ Johnson, Eivind Opsvik and Gerald Cleaver, Nicolas Masson presents this studio debut of Parallels which was released in November 2009 on Clean Feed Records, casting some of the most talented and sought after musicians on the young Swiss jazz and improvised music scene.

Never too far from the jazz idiom, Parallels draws inspiration from alternative rock, pop and other unexpected sources in a surprising and coherent way.

Coming from of a rich musical environment and a desire from its members to humbly define their own vision of contemporary music, Parallels is proposing music at the same time remotely familiar and completely unclassifiable.

Nicolas Masson



Born in Geneva in 1972, Nicolas Masson meets Cecil Taylor, Fred Hopkins, Frank Lowe and Makanda Ken McIntyre in New York in 1992. It's the start of a long path.

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 Chris Potter and Rich Perry 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)* is 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 (Barbès, Tea Lounge) and Nicolas Masson tours Europe with Kris Davis (Switzerland, Italy, France and Germany).

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, Scott DuBois, Gerald Cleaver, Tom Arthurs, Samuel Blaser, Manuel Mengis, Susanne Abbuehl, Harald Haerter, etc.

Colin Vallon



Born in Lausanne November 17th 1980.

Begins studying piano with Marc Ueter and then with Silvano Bazan, William Evans and Bert Joris at the Swiss Jazz School in Berne.

In 1999, he starts the Colin Vallon Trio and releases « Les Ombres » (Unit Records) in 2004.

Colin Vallon wins several contests and awards: the Nescafé Let's Jazz Together competition, the Fridl-Wald Stiftung and take 3rd place in the Montreux Piano Solo Competition.

In 2005, he opens the Swiss Diagonales Festival with his trio with guitarist Kurt Rosenwinkel as a guest star. The same year, Pro Helvetia commissions him a composition for a band called Colin Vallon Cinq with French trumpet player Erik Truffaz.

Colin Vallon played at the Montreux, Cully, Schaffhouse, Bern, Bâle, Strasbourg, Cannes and Dubai Jazz Festivals. Tours with numerous bands including: Nils Wogram « Lush », Elina Duni, Lisette Spinnler « Siawaloma », Fabian Gisler Quartet, « The Elevators », « Swiss-South African project », ...

Colin played with among others: Sandy Patton, Alice Day, Cyrille Bugnon, « Lole », Andy Scherrer, Dré Pallemmaerts, John Schröder, ...

Patrice Moret



Born in 1972, Patrice Moret grows up in an environment where Gospel music is omnipresent. He first starts playing electric bass and discovers the acoustic bass at age 21. Since his teenage years, he plays in various funk, rock and jazz bands.

In 1997, he's hired by trumpet player Matthieu Michel for a tour in Switzerland. The next year, he's hired by Malcolm Braff and plays many concerts with Braff's Combo. Since then, Patrice Moret has been much in demand and plays with Grégoire Maret, Frank Amsalem, Olivier Clerc, Cyrille Bugnon, Eric Legnini, Laurent Coq, Philippe Soirat...

Involved in numerous bands, Patrice travels to Algeria, Russia and most European countries. In 2001 Pat Moret was hired by Erik Truffaz and went on tour with his band in France, USA, Canada and Japan.

At the present, Patrice is a regular member of the Cyrille Bugnon Quartet, Patrick Müller Trio, Les Vautours, Lucas Stoll Quartet, Mat's Up, Harald Haerter, Stiefel Trio, Colin Valon Trio, Laurent De Wilde Group (Montréal, Avignon, Paris,)

His latest encounters include: Grégoire Maret, Lionel Loueke, Rich Perry, Ellery Eskelin, Ben Perowsky, Uri Caine and Kurt Rosenwinkel.

Lionel Friedli



Born 1975 in Moutier.

Starts playing drums at age 11 and studies with Norbert Pfammatter in Bienne during eight years.

Graduates from Luzern's Jazz School (HES) de Lucerne in 2005. His teachers in Luzern include: Norbert Pfammatter, Fabian Kuratli and Pierre Favre.

Lionel Friedli has been a professional musician since 1999.

Known for his versatility, Lionel Friedli is mainly concerned with creative music. However, he can be heard playing occasionally in big bands or renowned Swiss singers such as: Sarco, Simon Gerber, Thierry Romanens, or Pascal Rinaldi.

Main active projects:

- Lucien Dubuis Trio et Trio+ (with Marc Ribot)
- Manuel Mengis Gruppe 6
- Hans-Peter Pfammatter Scope
- Weber, Sauter, Friedli
- Vera Kappeler Trio
- Nicolas Masson Parallels
- Yves Reichmuth Quartet
- Matthias Spillman Mat's Down
- Cognak music : duo with Vincent Membrez

Plays or has played with:

Marc Ribot, Ellery Eskelin, Malcolm Braff, Harald Haerter, Martin Schütz, Hans Koch, Daniel Erdmann, Kale Kalima, Linda Sharrock, Colin Vallon, Donat Fisch, Philipp Schaufelberger, Bänz Oester, Francois Lindemann, Michel Wintsch, Chris Wiesendanger, Christian Weber, Jacques Demierre, Ahmad Mansour, Pierre Favre Drummers Ensemble, La compagnie des Musiques à ouïr, Christy Doran, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Heiri Kanzig, Daniel Perrin, Joke Lanz, ...

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