

JEAN-MICHEL PILC, JAZZ PIANIST AND COMPOSER

Self-taught pianist and composer Jean-Michel Pilc has performed with numerous jazz giants including **Roy Haynes, Billy Hart, Michael Brecker, Dave Liebman, Jean Toussaint, Rick Margitza, Kenny Werner, Martial Solal, Michel Portal, Daniel Humair, Marcus Miller, Kenny Garrett, Lenny White, Chris Potter, John Abercrombie, the Mingus Dynasty & Big Band, Lew Soloff** and **Richard Bona**, among others. He has also worked with **Harry Belafonte** as his musical director and pianist, and has performed a duet with the legendary opera singer **Jessye Norman**.

Jean-Michel's renowned trio featuring bassist **François Moutin** and drummer **Ari Hoenig** has released numerous standout recordings, including ***Together - Live at Sweet Basil*** and ***NYC - Vol. 1 & 2*** (2000), ***Welcome Home*** (2002), ***Cardinal Points*** (2004) and ***Live at Iridium, NYC*** (2004). The group later released ***Threedom*** in 2010 after reforming under the collective name **Pilc-Moutin-Hoenig**.

An active solo performer who's appeared in concert internationally, Jean-Michel has released three critically-acclaimed solo piano records: ***Follow Me*** (2004), ***Essential*** (2011) and ***What Is This Thing Called?*** (2015). A new solo album on Challenge Records is slated for a 2018 release.

In addition to extensive work as a sideman in a variety of ensembles, Jean-Michel's diverse other personal projects include ***Modern Lights***, a composition reflecting on Charlie Chaplin's work that was premiered at the Caramoor Jazz Festival in August 2009. The project was funded through a **New Works Grant from Chamber Music America**. Additionally, in 2013, Jean-Michel was granted a **Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation**, in the **Music Composition** category for the creation of ***Big One***, a project featuring all new original music for octet. He was also the subject of a 2009 documentary by filmmaker John McCormick, titled ***Jean-Michel Pilc - A Portrait***.

Jean-Michel has built a strong international reputation as a very unique educator. From 2006 to 2015, he was a **NYU Steinhardt** faculty member and gave private lessons (piano and other instruments), taught ensemble classes and held improvisation workshops. He also acted as **Co-Director of NYU Summer Jazz Workshop** in 2010. Jean-Michel also taught for **the New School** in New York City, as well as offering private lessons in his own studio.

Since September 2015, Jean-Michel has acted as **Associate Professor** at the **Schulich School of Music of McGill University** in Montreal. There, he teaches piano, jazz improvisation to all instruments and a ***Seminar on Improvisation in All Styles*** to 40 McGill jazz and classical students. He has acted as Schulich's **Jazz Area Chair** since December 2016. During this time, Jean-Michel has also founded the **Improvisation Workshop Project** with **Rémi Bolduc, Kevin Dean** and **Jean-Nicolas Trottier**, a research project funded by the ***Fonds de Recherche du Québec - Société et Culture (FRQSC)***.

Over the years, Jean-Michel has also released a book titled ***It's About Music - The Art and Heart of Improvisation*** (Glen Lyon) and educational videos such as ***True Jazz Improvisation*** (JazzHeaven), ***Transcending the Instrument*** (JazzHeaven), ***Improvisational Fluency*** (MyMusicMasterclass.com) and ***Anatomie d'un standard*** (iMusic School).