

THIERRY ELIEZ

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Arcachon, Thierry Eliez has been fascinated by music since his youngest age. Starting by transferring melodies on his toy piano, he begins a regular practice of the instrument by the age of 4. Since then, with his fingers hung to the keys, Thierry has developed his own language through improvisation, composition, switching from Hammond organ to piano.

He writes his first pieces, based on free improvisation, and starts composing at 7 years old. Alternating pieces for piano and instrumental suites influenced by prog music, the young prodigy cannot conceive anymore songs without a part of free improvisation. At 12, Thierry is already considered as a brilliant player and improviser.

The young musician turns professional at 17 years old, and creates various jazz formations before being noticed by the violinist Didier Lockwood. Together, they record the album "1234", and on tour, Thierry Eliez shares the stage with André Ceccarelli and Jean Marc Jafet. They will then decide to join up and create the "Ceccarelli Trio". The 3 musicians record three major albums in the history of French jazz: "Dansez sur moi" featuring Claude Nougaro and Toots Thielemans, and also "3 around the 4", a tribute to the Beatles. They win the "Victoires de la musique" in 1992, for the "best jazz album" and the Golden Django prize with "Hat snatcher". Thierry Eliez becomes one of the most important icons in the French jazz scene and collaborates with various international artists, particularly Dee Dee Bridgewater, with whom he worked as an artistic director and pianist. They record 4 albums and play on the most prestigious scenes in the world, from the Carnegie Hall in New York, to the Blue Note in Tokyo.

His international career was marked by other several encounters and collaborations with various musicians, such as Horace Silver, Jaco Pastorius, Jimmy Smith, Aretha Franklin, David Sanchez, James Moody, Ron Carter, and the composers Michel Legrand, Eric Serra et Lalo Schifrin.

Composer, arranger, musical director, interpreter or improviser, he takes part in numerous projects in different musical styles : jazz, classical and contemporary music, movie soundtracks, traditional music and progressive rock. Thierry Eliez is driven by an insatiable creativity, a boundless energy, and a growing desire of sharing and transmission.

With around 50 albums and more than 3000 concerts worldwide, Thierry Eliez is the French Jazz impressionist. In the beginning of 2017, he announces the release of his new album "Improvise", his first solo album (October 20 , 2017, Dood / L'autre Distribution). This improvised and surrealist dialog with the piano, becomes, on stage, a thrilling conversation with the mythic André Ceccarelli on drums, and the young and inspired Ivan Gélugne on upright bass. Thierry also collaborates with the singer Ceilin Poggi to record an initiatory and soothing CD book, " Berceuses et Balladines Jazz", adapting jazz standards as lullabies for the youngest ones (release August 30 2017, Didier Jeunesse / Pias).

By the course of 2016, Thierry develops his most recent project, "Keith Enigma", an acoustic tribute to the composer Keith Emerson.