

SYLVIE COURVOISIER

Winner of the “Grand Prix de la Fondation Vaudoise pour la culture en 2010 “ and of the NYFA (New York Foundation For the Art) Music/sound in 2013.

| Sylvie Courvoisier is a pianist , composer and improviser. Born in Lausanne, Switzerland , Courvoisier moved to New York in 1998 and has lived in Brooklyn since that time. Courvoisier has led several groups over the years and has recorded over 30 records as a leader or co-leader for different labels, notably ECM , Tzadik and Intakt Records and about 30 cds as a sideperson.

She has performed and recorded with John Zorn, Mark Feldman, Yusef Lateef, Ikue Mori, Tony Oxley, Tim Berne, Joey Baron, Joëlle Léandre, Herb Robertson, Butch Morris, Evan Parker, Mark Dresser, Ellery Eskelin, Lotte Anker, Fred Frith, Michel Godard, Tomazs Stanko among others. \

She has been commissioned to write music for concerts, radio, dance and theater. Her works include:” Concerto for electric guitar and chamber orchestra”; "Balbutiements" for vocal quartet and soprano. Commissions include the Vidy Theater of Lausanne, Pro Helvetia and Germany's Donaueschingen Musiktage Festival.

Since 1996, she has been touring widely with her own groups and as a side person in USA, Canada, Japan, Australia and Europe.

Currently, Courvoisier is the leader of her TRIO with Kenny Wollesen and Drew Gress; She co-leads the Sylvie Courvoisier/Mark Feldman Quartet with Scott Colley and Billy Mintz.

She performs regularly Solo and since 1997, in Duo with violinist Mark Feldman. Since 2000, she is a member of Mephista, an improvising collective trio with Ikue Mori and Susie Ibarra .

She plays and tours in different projects of John Zorn including Cobra, Masada Marathon, Femina, Dictée.

She is also playing in Erik Friedlander's Trio, Herb Robertson's Quintet and Nate Wooley's Quartet. .

Since 2010, she has been working as a pianist and composer with the project of the flamenco dancer Israel Galvan "la Curva » and is working on a transcription for solo piano of the Rite of Spring for a new duo show « Primavera de Sangre » with Galvan .

| **Awards include**

Switzerland's 1996 Prix des jeunes créateurs , \
Zonta Club's 2000 Prix de la Création,
Switzerland's 2010 Grand Prix de la Fondation Vaudoise de la Culture and
2013's NYFA (New York Foundation For the Art)

| **Selected Discography:**

DOUBLE WINDSOR Sylvie Courvoisier TRIO with Kenny Wollesen and Drew Gress (Tzadik 2014)
BIRDIES FOR LULU Sylvie Courvoisier-Mark Feldman Quartet (Intakt 2014)
EITHER OR AND Sylvie Courvoisier-Evan Parker Duo (Relative Pitch 2014)
LIVE AT THEATRE VIDY-LAUSANNE - Sylvie Courvoisier - Mark Feldman Duo (Intakt 2013)
CLAWS & WINGS - Erik Friedlander - Ikue Mori - Sylvie Courvoisier (2013)
HOTEL DU NORD -Sylvie Courvoisier Mark Feldman Quartet (Intakt 2011)
TO FLY TO STEAL- Sylvie Courvoisier Mark Feldman Quartet (Intakt 2010)
OBLIVIA -Mark Feldman & Sylvie Courvoisier- (Tzadik 2010)
DICTEE/LIBER NOVUS- John Zorn(Tzadik 2010)
FEMINA- John Zorn (Tzadik 2009)
LONELYVILLE- Sylvie Courvoisier Quintet with Mori, Feldman, Courtois, Cleaver (Intakt 2008)
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE- Courtois, Courvoisier & Eskelin (Cam Jazz 2008)
EVERY SO OFTEN - Ellery Eskelin & Sylvie Courvoisier (Prime Source 2008)
SIGNS AND EPIGRAMS-Sylvie Courvoisier solo (Tzadik2007)
REAL ABERATION-Herb Robertson -NY Downtown Allstars-(clean Feed 2007)
MALPHAS - Mark Feldman Sylvie Courvoisier, music of John Zorn-Book of Angels-(Tzadik 2006)
MASADA RECITAL -Sylvie Courvoisier & Mark Feldman , music of John Zorn (Tzadik 2004)
ABATON – Sylvie Courvoisier TRIO feat. Feldman, Friedlander (ECM Records, 2cd 2004)
ENTOMOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS - Mephista (Courvoisier, Mori, Ibarra) (Tzadik 2004)
BLACK NARCISSUS- Mephista (Courvoisier, Mori, Ibarra) (Tzadik 2002)
COBRA- John Zorn (Tzadik, 2002)
DEUX PIANOS- Sylvie Courvoisier , Jacques Demierre (Intakt, 2000)
Y2K - Sylvie Courvoisier Ocre (Enja Records, 2000)
MUSIC FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO - Sylvie Courvoisier, Mark Feldman (Avan Records, 1999)
MUSIC FOR BARREL ORGAN, PIANO, TUBA, BASS AND PERCUSSION - Sylvie Courvoisier Ocre (Enja, 1997)

Depuis le tournant des années 90 et son installation à Brooklyn, la pianiste suisse Sylvie Courvoisier trace, avec un sens aigu de l'orientation, un chemin aussi singulier que cohérent dans la jungle efflorescente des nouvelles musiques expérimentales, en inventant des formes mutantes et inédites aux confins de l'improvisation libre radicale, du post-jazz avant-gardiste et de la musique de chambre improvisée. Adeptes d'un piano tout à la fois pulsionnel, gestuel et cérébral (où se décèle l'influence décisive du geste révolutionnaire de Cecil Taylor mais aussi la liberté lyrique d'un Paul Bley et dans un autre registre la prégnance d'un certain romantisme allemand...). A la fois poétique, mystérieuse et d'une grande intensité physique cette musique inspirée reflète de façon magistrale l'univers musical décidément pas comme les autres de Sylvie Courvoisier.

Stephane Ollivier, JazzMagazine/Jazzman 2014

"Galvan n'est pas seul sur le plateau, même si sa folle solitude y explose. Il est encadré par une table et un piano. D'un côté, une famille recomposée prend place avec la chanteuse flamenca Inès Bacan et son "écuyer du rythme", Bobote, auxquels vient se joindre Galvan en fils spirituel attentif. De l'autre, une femme jeune et aventureuse, la pianiste Sylvie Courvoisier, s'arrime à son instrument pour en faire crépiter les touches, claquer les cordes dans une partition sauvage et sophistiquée. ..."

Le Monde, 17.01.2012

« ...That her music is as aesthetically beautiful as it is strange and mysterious is only further testament to her prowess as a composer. That this trio plays her music as if it has been creating it from the air is nothing short of remarkable. Abaton is Courvoisier's crowning achievement thus far, and this group points her firmly forward in a direction where everything is still possible, demonstrating that there is something new under the sun in classical music and improvisation. Perhaps Abaton is the great moment of 2003 for new classical music. »

Thom Jurek, All Music Guide

« Courvoisier's playing is jaw-dropping at times, and there's an extended passage that features her working both inside and on the keyboard of the piano interacting with Rainey and the others in subtle combinations, and working up to a terrifying free jazz piano freakout that could make a person faint! »

Michael Anton Parker, 2005

« This highly original and new music has it all: razor-sharp edges, sounds of a thousand dancing needles, thundering power arising from deeply yawning chasms, mystic fluorescence throughout, calmness combined with a mysterious kind of moving »

Henning Bolte, 5/2007

« ...Dans un autre pays que la Suisse, elle serait adulée comme une des plus importantes plumes musicales de son temps. Elle recevrait tous les prix envisageables, n'aurait plus à se faire du souci pour les trente années à venir. Mais elle a décidé de vivre outre-Atlantique. Elle est notre ambassade, mieux que quiconque.... »

Arnaud Robert, Le Temps, 2005