

Sylvie Courvoisier

Composer/pianist , Sylvie Courvoisier was born and raised in Lausanne, Switzerland. She moved to Brooklyn, New York in 1998, where she currently resides

She has played and recorded with John Zorn, Ikue Mori, Tim Berne, Joey Baron, Mark Feldman, Tony Oxley, Yusef Lateef Dave Douglas, Joëlle Léandre, Herb Robertson, Butch Morris, Tom Rainey, Mark Dresser, Ellery Eskelin, Lotte Anker, Fred Frith, Michel Godard, Mark Nauseef 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.

Her latest releases as a leader are: "ABATON" with Mark Feldman and Erik Friedlander on ECM Records (2004), "LONELYVILLE" with her new quintet on Intakt Records (2007) and a solo piano album ,SIGNS AND EPIGRAMS ,on Tzadik Records (2007).

Sylvie is currently the leader of her own quintet "Lonelyville" and the Trio Abaton. She is a member of "Mephista", an improvising trio with Ikue Mori and Susie Ibarra;" Herb Robertson Quintet" with Tim Berne, Tom Rainey and Mark Dresser; "Vincent Courtois Trio "along with Ellery Eskelin and "John Zorn's Cobra".

Since 1997, she also performs regularly in Duo with violonist Mark Feldman.

Awards include Switzerland's 1996 Prix des jeunes créateurs and Zonta Club's 2000 Prix de la Création .

| Selected Discography:

SIGNS AND EPIGRAMS-Sylvie Courvoisier solo (Tzadik2007)

LONELYVILLE- Sylvie Courvoisier Quintet with Mori, Feldman, Courtois, Cleaver (Intakt 2007)

MALPHAS - Mark Feldman & Sylvie Courvoisier, music of John Zorn-Book of Angels- (Tzadik 2006)

ABATON – Sylvie Courvoisier Trio feat. Feldman, Friedlander (ECM Records, 2cd 2004)

MASADA RECITAL -Sylvie Courvoisier & Mark Feldman , music of John Zorn (Tzadik 2004)

ENTOMOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS - Mephista (Courvoisier, Mori, Ibarra) (Tzadik 2004)

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)

« ...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

MARK FELDMAN

VIOLONIST-COMPOSER

Mark Feldman is an active performer in the worlds of jazz, Improvised Music and 20th Century Contemporary Music.

He has performed and/or recorded with Paul Bley, John Abercrombie, John Zorn, Michael Brecker, Muhal Richard Abrams, Joe Lovano, Dider Lockwood, Billy Hart, Jimmy Raney, Dave Douglas, Uri Caine, Don Byron, Louis Sclavis, Richard Galliano, Sylvie Courvoisier, Lee Konitz, Tim Berne, Sean Lennon, Jonny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Ray Anderson and Kenny Warner among others.

He has appeared as a soloist with The Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, WDR Radio Orchestra, WDR Jazz Orchestra, Basel Sinfonetta

In Chamber music he has performed and recorded the Complete String Quartets of John Zorn (Tzadik Records) and his own works for String Quartet Book of Tells (Enja Records) With the Trio "Abaton" he performs the works of composer Sylvie Courvoisier resulting in the CD Abaton on ECM Records.

He is currently a member of the John Abercrombie Quartet. In addition to international concert tours the resulting Recordings "Open Land" "Cat n' Mouse" and "Class Trip" all on ECM Records.

Composer John Zorn has included him in many concert and recording projects over the past 10 year including Masada String Trio, Bar Kophfa, film scores, chamber music and Performances of the Game Piece "Cobra"

Mr. Feldman is found on over 100 jazz recordings as a soloist including his own releases "What Exit" (Ecm), "Music for Violin Alone" (Tzadik), "Music for Violin and Piano" (avant) ,"Book of Tells" (enja) ,"Malphas" (Tzadik), "Masada Recital' (Tzadik),"Masada String Trio, 50th Vol 1 " (tzadik) ...

As a composer he has been commissioned and performed by the Kronos Quartet and the WDR Radio Orchestra. In commercial music he has appeared as a Studio Musician with Such Groups as Cheryl Crow, The Manhattan Transfer, Diana Ross and Carol King among others.

Before moving to New York City in 1986 Mr. Feldman lived in Nashville Tennessee where he was member of the ensembles that traveled and accompanied country western singers Loretta Lynn and Ray Price. In Nashville as a studio musician he appeared on over 200 Recordings including albums by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and George Jones, Jerry Lee Lewis and Television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart.

Selected Discography:

WHAT EXIT- Mark Feldman quartet (ECM Records)
MUSIC FOR VIOLIN ALONE - Mark Feldman (Tzadik)
BOOK OF TELLS - Mark Feldman-string quartet (Enja)
CLASS TRIP -John Abercrombie quartet (ECM)
CAT 'N MOUSE - John Abercrombie Quartet (ECM)
OPEN LAND - John Abercrombie Quartet (ECM)
ABATON- Sylvie Courvoisier Trio (ECM Records)
MALPHAS - Sylvie Courvoisier and mark Feldman Play Zorn)
THE STRING QUARTETS - Work of John Zorn (Tzadik)
MASADA STRING TRIO-Zorn 50th birthday series (Tzadik)

"Feldman appears to have it all-superlative chops, perfect pitch and a depth of imagination that is all too rare" C Baugher Cadence Magazine

"A persuasive voice in contemporary improvised music, one that blends the instrument's Heritage with his own singular personality and a presence on a recording or band is always a sign of music worth hearing" Bob Blumenthal Boston Globe

"The most exciting thing about his cliché-free playing is that Feldman uses just about every possible sound that can be extracted from a violin to make this music-and it swings intensely" D Anger Strings Magazine.

"His Execution has about it the kind of I-sold-my-soul-to-the-devil skill one hears in open mouth wonder,a top flight performance and recording" M Silverton Audio Review Magazine

"Feldman's Violin attack is quirky and punctuated with irascible humor: he might shift from heart stoppingromantic lyricism to hard-driving texas swing ala Bob Wills or post punk Shrieks at the drop of a bow" Gene Santoro New York Daily News

"Technically flawless and full of wise-cracking exuberance" "Highly Creative" "Book of Tells is a remarkableAchievement" Philp Clark Strad Magazine