

JEAN-MICHEL PILC

'No jazz pianist today offers anything like his melange of monster chops, wildly impulsive imagination...' -Thomas Conrad, *JazzTimes*

'Mr. Pilc seems to have dropped from the sky fully formed with technique and his ideas in place. He is a physical and densely harmonic player, a splashy stunner...'

-Ben Ratliff, *The New York Times*

'...visual art references come to mind: Cubist renderings of melody in which the original is reshaped into a completely different visual perspective; the shimmering opaqueness of Impressionism in some of Pilc's lush harmonies...Pilc is a player with a future, one whose impressive work deserves far wider exposure.'

-Don Heckman, *The Los Angeles Times*

Born in Paris in 1960, Pilc worked as a rocket scientist with the French Space Agency before becoming a full-time musician. Largely self-taught, he was a jazz devotee by age 8 which is when he first heard Bix Biederbecke.

After building a respectable musical career in Europe, Pilc arrived in the U. S. in 1995 and soon signed on as musical director for Harry Belafonte (who wrote the liner notes for Pilc's 2002 Dreyfus debut, *Welcome Home*). To date, Pilc has played with such greats as Roy Hanes, Michael Brecker, Dave Liebman, John Abercrombie, Jean Toussaint, Martial Solal, Michel Portal, Marcus Miller and Lenny White and made recent sideman appearances with his esteemed peers Ari Hoenig, Sam Newsome, Rosario Giuliani, Richard Bona and more.

But Pilc's accomplishments as a leader have garnered the widest praise. The legendary critic Dan Morgenstern chose Pilc's masterful *Cardinal Points* as a top-ten album of 2003. *JazzTimes* enthused that it 'should be studied in every music school in the galaxy...' Pilc's follow-up, the solo piano tour de force *Follow Me*, was one of Howard Reich's top 2004 picks in the *Chicago Tribune*. Andrew Durkin of *All About Jazz* wrote: 'Pilc leans toward a comprehensive pianism, ably expressing-on a single instrument, no less-so much of what has made jazz fascinating, problematic, or inspiring over the last hundred years.'

'Beyond all that can be said about his masterful technique and his beauty of touch, it is the unpredictability that is central to his remarkable talent.'

As one listens to each selection, be they vintage or newborn, one is taken into his world of improvisation where the unexpected is constant.' -Harry Belafonte