



Claude Diallo

JAZZ PIANIST / COMPOSER



www.claudediallo.com

BIOGRAPHY

Passion. Joy. Love. Life. These words only begin to describe Claude Diallo's musical universe. With nine self-produced CDs and a live DVD, Claude Diallo continues to aim at his goal: to present his unique compositions and singular style of playing to loyal audiences all over the world. His latest CD project, *Live at No Black Tie*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was released on the label NBT Records in 2011.

Claude Diallo was born to a Swiss mother and a French father in St. Gallen, Switzerland, in 1981. He was destined to become a musician as both parents played violin in the symphony orchestra. Inspired by Oscar Peterson's fiery music, the young pianist was turned on to his true love- Jazz!



Between 2004 and 2006, Claude Diallo completed his Bachelor Degree in Performance, under the guiding hands of Danilo Perez, Raymond Santisi, and Frank Carlberg, at the renowned Berklee College of Music. During his studies in Boston, he had the extraordinary privilege of learning from the late Charlie Banacos- truly one of the best jazz educators of our time! Acclaimed musicians Joe Lovano, Andy McGhee, Kenwood Dennard, and Bob Moses further helped Claude Diallo find his own voice.

In 2007 Claude Diallo followed his dream; to live and play jazz in New York City! He earned his Master's Degree from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queen's College in 2008. While there, he studied with David Berkman (piano), Michael Mossman (arrangement and composition), Antonio Hart (improvisation), and Dr. Howard Brofsky (jazz history).

Claude Diallo's many accolades include: finalist in 2009 at the Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition and the 2008 and 2011 recipient of the Cultural Achievement Award from his hometown of St. Gallen.

His performances range from solo piano to small bands as a leader and sideman, in locales including: New York, Boston, Washington D.C, Montreux Jazz Festival, Lucerne Festival, Zurich, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Tel Aviv, Sao Paulo, Tirana, Luxembourg, Berlin, Hannover, Munich, Stuttgart, Vienna, Paris, Madrid, the Dominican Republic and even the Islands of the Maldives.

Claude Diallo organized his ASIA TOUR- 2010 through Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong, taking his trio, Claude Diallo Situation, with him. The trio was founded in April 2007 with Swiss drummer Massimo Buonanno and French electric bassist Laurent Salzard. Some of the tour's highlights were a performance at the Taipei International Jazz Festival, and a VIP gala dinner performance for the Swiss President, Doris Leuthard, in Singapore.

Claude Diallo has been privileged to accompany and record with such jazz greats as Andy McGhee, Denzal Sinclair, Luques Curtis, James Williams, Louis Cato, Daniel Schnyder, Julian Chan, Brad Leali, Bruna Caram, Jennifer Holliday, Beat Kaestli, Angelita Li and Kenwood Dennard.

In 2012, 30 year old, New York-based Claude Diallo continues to use his international network by reaching out to new destinations in Europe and exploring the Asian Jazz Market.

Join Claude Diallo's world of music and be part of his musical journey!

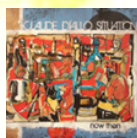
DISCOGRAPHY



Claude Diallo Situation, **LIVE AT NO BLACK TIE, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA 2011**



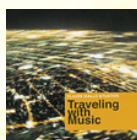
DVD: Claude Diallo Situation **Live at Tonhalle St. Gallen 2010**



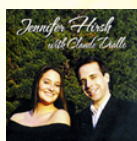
Claude Diallo Situation **NOW THEN, 2010**



Claude Diallo Situation **WITH ANDY MC GHEE, 2010**



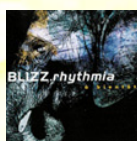
Claude Diallo Situation **TRAVELING WITH MUSIC, 2009**



Jennifer Hirsh with Claude Diallo, **2007**



Claude Diallo Trio **LIVE IN SWITZERLAND, 2006**



Bizz Rhythmia **A BIENTÔT, 2005**



Bizz Rhythmia **SEX-
PERIENCE, 2004**



Bizz Rhythmia **SHY
APPEARANCE, 2001**

SELECTED AWARDS

Finalist at the 2009 Montreux Jazz Festival Solo Piano Competition, Switzerland. Cultural Achievement Award from the city of St. Gallen, Switzerland in 2008 and 2011. **KIND OF JAZZ AWARD 2012:** Out of 12 Swiss jazz bands, Claude Diallo Situation won the highly acclaimed Kaufleuten Kind of Jazz Series Award in Zurich, on May 29 2012.

SELECTED PRESS

.....He's a world class composer.....
QUEENS BUZZ, New York City

.....St. Gallens most famous pianist, Claude Diallo, stuns his audience.....
ST. GALLER TAGBLATT, Switzerland

.....without any exaggeration, musically the most precious, what young Jazz musicians from Eastern Switzerland created since the last five to ten years. **ST. GALLER TAGBLATT**, Switzerland

Finest Jazz! Nonchalant trio with overflowing creativity, Claude Diallo Situation thrilled at the Kunsthau **JUNGFRAU ZEITUNG**, Switzerland

MUSICIAN QUOTES

Claude Diallo brings inovative concepts to the accepted styles of piano / composition. He has more than enough background to prove it.
Ray Santisi (pianist and mentor of Keith Jarrett, Diana Krall, Joe Zawinul)

Claude Diallo is a very talented and professional young jazz pianist, which has a bright future to come. Andy McGhee (tenor sax player with Lionel Hampton, Woody Hermann)

Claude Diallo is a wonderful artist and his musical talent is unusual. No one quite does it the way he does it. Kenwood Dennard (drummer of Herbie Hancock, Sting, Miles Davis)

Claude Diallo demonstrates a thorough understanding of the jazz piano tradition, but is also strikingly original - clearly, someone with a unique voice and sensibility. David Berkman (pianist and composer)

CONTACT

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CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

Festivals:

Montreux Jazz Festival, Switzerland
Taipei International Jazz Festival, Taiwan
Lucerne Festival, Switzerland
L.I.C. Jazz Festival, New York, USA

Private Events:

Swiss President Dinner, Singapore
August 1 Swiss National Day Party, Hong Kong
Swiss Embassy Reception, Washington D.C, USA
Swiss Embassy Reception, Madrid, Spain

Clubs and larger concert venues:

Smalls Jazz Club, New York, USA
Blues Alley, Washington D.C., USA
No Black Tie, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Skylark Lounge, Hong Kong
Marsalis Bar, Taipei and Kaoshiung, Taiwan
Toddis Bar, Shanghai, China
Duc des Lombards, Paris, France
Moods Jazz Club, Zurich, Switzerland
Tonhalle St. Gallen, St. Gallen, Switzerland
Kaufleuten, Zurich, Switzerland
Blem Blem, Sao Paulo, Brazil
Shablul Jazz Club, Tel Aviv, Israel
Jazzclub Hannover, Germany
Jazzbar Vogler, Munich, Germany
Kiste, Stuttgart, Germany
Inoui Jazz Club, Luxembourg
Reigen, Vienna, Austria

CD REVIEW NOW THEN

by Terrell Holmes (THE NEW YORK CITY JAZZ RECORD, March 2011 issue)

Pianist and composer Claude Diallo displays a striking array of talents on his new release, *Now Then*. His trio, the Situation, plays with a refreshing cohesiveness and dynamism and Diallo leads the way with his robust technique, cleverness and palpable sense of joy.

Accompanied by the pleasant grousing of Laurent Salzard's electric bass and the steady timekeeping of drummer Massimo Buonanno, Diallo shows that he's a master of embroidery, imaginatively balancing coy and dynamic single notes, sustained trills, gospel-inflected and dramatic block chords, cascading flourishes, playful splinters of atonality and barrelhouse rumbles at the deep end of the keyboard. Diallo can be as playful as a sprite and his lively interpretations of «I Feel Good Today», «Glad That I've Found You», «Dee Song» and «La Danse des Colibris» give the piano the character of a singing group, with each member soloing in a distinct voice.

Another element of Diallo's splendor is the balance of strength and tenderness he brings to ballads like the soft waltz «Broken Wing» and «Une Larme Pour», his touching solo tribute to teacher and co-composer Charlie Banacos. The pianist steps aside for «On the Way to Valencia», a vibrant flamenco bassdrums duet composed by Salzard. Buonanno's abundant percussion is a hand-in-glove complement to Salzard's fiery riffs, which land in the center of Andalucía at the intersection of Pastorius and Segovia.

The arresting and ambitious «Water Against Fire» is a surprising tour de force. This song, which has the character of a suite and is spiked with electronic effects, works around a series of spiraling figures that branch off into luminous solos encompassing Diallo's urgency, Buonanno's frenetic drumming and the affecting melancholy of Salzard's bass.

Perhaps the Situation is at its best, though, on a live version of Dizzy Gillespie's «Birks' Works». The band really stretches out, playing with its greatest fluidity and opulence and the keys jump to life beneath Diallo's deft fingers as he hammers out bodacious blues chords. Everything the band has shown on the disc is synthesized on this cut and it ends *Now Then* with an impressive flourish.