

CLOVIS NICOLAS - BIO

Hailing from Provence in the South of France, bassist and composer Clovis Nicolas quickly established himself as a first-call musician in Paris in the late 90ies (performances with Brad Mehldau, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Michel Legrand, Ernie Watts..). He moved to New York in the new millennium, continuing his freelance activities on the American scene. He joined the Juilliard School of Arts Program in 2009 and graduated three years later with both a Bachelor and a Master of Music, having studied under bassist Ron Carter and classical composer Kendall Briggs.

During his career, Clovis has performed and recorded in numerous venues with some of today's most prominent jazz musicians, such as Branford Marsalis, Curtis Fuller, Herbie Hancock, Hubert Laws, Grant Stewart, Harry Allen, Russell Malone, Mulgrew Miller, Lewis Nash, Benny Powell, James Williams, Peter Bernstein, Joe Magnarelli, Sacha Perry, Sachal Vasandani, Simon Shaheen, Carl Allen, Jane Monheit, Dan Nimmer, Bruce Harris, Freddie Redd, Benny Golson, Marcus Gilmore, Rodney Green, Walt Weiskopf and others.

Clovis is featured on over thirty critically acclaimed recordings, including Belmondo's "*Hymne au Soleil*" which won three Grammy Awards in 2004; Laurent Courthaliac's "*All my Life*" selected "Album of the Year 2016" by the French Jazz Academy; Samora Pinderhughes's interdisciplinary project "*The Transformations Suite*"; Bruce Harris' "*Beginnings*"; Behn Gillette's "*Walk of Fire*"....

In addition to those, Clovis' band released two recordings for Sunnyside Records. His debut album "*Nine Stories*" received great reviews in the international press including a selection in the "Best Albums of the Year" by DownBeat Magazine in 2014. His sophomore album "*Freedom Suite Ensuite*", released in 2018 and featuring drummer Kenny Washington, was awarded a CHOC (equivalent of 5 stars) in Jazz Magazine, France's top Jazz publication.

"A formidable walker with a big, resonant sound" - DownBeat Magazine

"One of only a handful of bassists cutting any worthwhile ground in modern jazz. Clovis Nicolas joins the ranks of those innovative and inspired artists that keep one foot in the past but both eyes on the future." - Bop-N-Jazz

"One of our actual bass heroes." - Telerama

"You will hear, from Mr. Nicolas, well thought out bass lines that spur the band in the direction that he wants them to go [...] A very, very good bass sound." -Ron Carter - Bassist

"He is among these musicians that know how to reveal a leader's qualities by bringing him the treasures of swing and musicality within himself." - Jazz Magazine