

ALEXANDRA GRIMAL

soprano & tenor saxophones
composer



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Alexandra Grimal, soloist prize in the “Tremplin L’Esprit Jazz 2008”, first prize in Avignon «Grand Prix du Tremplin Européen de Jazz 2007» with her band «Alexandra Grimal Quartet», third prize with the same band in the «Concours National de Jazz de La Défense, Paris 2007» and winner with congratulations of the judges in the International Jazz Contest for Young Jazz Soloists, Fribourg 2007 (Switzerland) under the presidency of Martial Solal- explores new areas and works with such artists as Nelson Veras, Édouard Ferlet, Dré Pallemmaerts, Manolo Cabras, Jean-Jacques Avenel, John Betsch...

Her musical research ranging from traditional to free jazz, including rock, experimental and original compositions was supported by grants awarded by the Paris Council after her recording of «Les 43 couchers de soleil» with the drummer Toma Gouband, as well as by the Socrates Exchange Programme which enabled her to study at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki (Finland 2003).

She is an artist in residence at the «Studio des Variétés» (Paris october 2007) for the creation of «Respire» co-produced by «Les Jeunesses Musicales de France». She was also an artist in residence at the jazz club «La Fontaine» in Paris (2005-2006) and at the Banff Center for the Arts (2006).

Born in Cairo in 1980, Alexandra Grimal started music at the age of 5 with classical piano. At 15, in Paris, she was introduced to the saxophone. She received her master’s degree at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague (the Netherlands) in 2005 under the direction of John Ruocco. She has also been a student in the «Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris» (CNSM) and in the Sibelius Academy of Helsinki (Finland), with the Socrates Exchange Programme. She attended the Banff Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music 2007 under the guidance of Dave Douglas.

In different bands, clubs and festivals Alexandra has played in Belgium, France, Italy (Sardinia), Portugal, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Finland. Accompanied by such players as pianists Jarmo Savolainen, Eric Vermeulen, Giovanni di Domenico, Jozef Dumoulin, Edouard Ferlet, Augusto Pirodda, Harmen Franje, Xavier Lopez, Yaron Herman, Matteo Carrus, organists Antonin Rayon, Rhoda Scott, bass players Manolo Cabras, Claus Kaasgaard, Uffe Krokfors, Uli Glaszmann, Jean-Jacques Avenel, Chris Jennings, Brice Soniano, Eric Surmenian, Jacques Greg, Sylvain Romano, Ruben Samama, Stéphane Kerecki, Guido Zorn, drummers Antonio Pisano, Andre Sumelius, Marek Patrman, Toma Gouband, Eric Thielemans, Dré Pallemmaerts, Simon Goubert, John Betsch, Steve Mc Craven, Patrick Goraguer, Joao Lobo, Anne Pacey, Emmanuel Scarpa, guitarists Nelson Veras, Pierre Perchaud, saxophonists Robin Verhayen, Amy Gamlen, singer Lynn Cassiers...

prizes and awards

Tremplin l'Esprit Jazz à St Germain des Prés 2008 (France), Soloist Prize
Grand Prix du Tremplin Européen de Jazz d'Avignon 2007 (France) with Alexandra Grimal Quartet, 1st prize
Concours National de Jazz de La Défense 2007 (France) with Alexandra Grimal Quartet, third group prize
International Contest for Young Jazz Soloists of Fribourg 2007 (Switzerland) winner with congratulations of the judges under the presidency of Martial Solal

selective discography

Alexandra Grimal trio "shape" Futura Marge (France), 2009
Fred Norel "dreamseekers" Melisse Music (France), 2009
Ruben Samama Quintet, « Hotaru », label Opa Records (Pays-Bas), 2007
Julio Resende Quartet, label Clean Feed (Portugal), 2008

Artist in residence

La Fontaine « Carte Blanche » November/December 2005
Banff Centre for the Arts, Canada, November/December 2006
Les 7 Lézards « Carte Blanche » March 2007
Studio des Variétés for the creation of « Respire » co-produced by « Les Jeunesses Musicales de France » 2007
Les Disquaires, Paris april, May/June 2008 "Carte Blanche"

Creations

— Contemporary Music

Alexandrophone (soprano saxophone & electronic) from the composer Ben Shemie (2006) creation at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada

— Visual Arts

Et nerf gît — Marie Preston (2002) short movie
Quand La main Dessine — Marie Preston (2005) documentary
Delusions — Antonia Fritche (2003) short movie
Respire commission of Jeunesses Musicales de France (JMF) 2008 with Pierre Perchaud & Marie Preston (sound installation)

— Contemporary Danse

Histoire d'un pantin (1998) duo with Yasmine Hugonnet
Improvisations (2000 à 2009) with Yasmine Hugonnet & Maxime Iannarelli

— Theater

Carmen (2009) adaptation Rhizlaine el Cohen from the short story of Prosper Mérimée, music by Bruno Girard

— Silent Movie

l'Auberge Rouge from Jean Epstein, music by Frederic Norel (creation) Festival d'Anères 2008
films of Charley Bowers with Magine Festival d'Anères 2009

grants

Aide à la création Paris Jeunes Talent/Mairie de Paris 2005 (France) for the band «Les 43 couchers de soleil» (duo with the drummer Toma Gouband)
Banff Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music, 2007 (Canada), scholarship
Banff Residency Program, 2006 (Canada), scholarship
Socrates Exchange Program, 2003 Sibelius Academy of Helsinki (Finlande), scholarship

www.alexandragrimal.com