

Robin Fincker

saxophone, clarinet, composition

Selected Press

"Excellent tenorist...a sax world somewhere between Wayne Shorter and Evan Parker"

John Fordham, The Guardian (UK)

« Robin Fincker is so clearly inhabited by his music that it grabs us physically. One has the impression of hearing his actual voice as opposed to the sound of his instrument. »

Jean François Picaut, Citizen Jazz

"Saxophoniste ultra-virtuose [...] Chaque vague suivante inocule l'impression de création. Magnifique."

Bruno Pfeiffer, Liberation

Biography

French saxophonist and clarinetist Robin Fincker (7/7/1980) lived in London for over 10 years and now divides his time between the French and the British music scenes. He has studied at the Guildhall School of Music (London) and the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique de Paris (CNSMDParis).

An insatiable project instigator and an in-demand sideman, Robin's work reflects his taste for new experiences as well as his desire to draw from a musical spectrum that is freed from stylistic concerns, where Jazz cohabits with improvised music, contemporary composition, rock or electronic music.

During his London years he co-leads *Outhouse*, which became one of the leading groups of the young London contemporary-Jazz scene and with whom he made three albums on the prestigious label "Babel" and multiplied collaborations (Jeanne Added, Ruhabi (sabar group from the Gambia) Hilmar Jensson..). He was also noticed through his other projects such as *Blink* - a trio with Pianist Alcyona Mick - or *Splice*, a "post free-jazz" quartet co-lead with Pierre Alexandre Tremblay investigating the possibilities of real-time electronic processing in improvisation.

Upon his return in France in 2009 cellist Vincent Courtois asks him to take part in the creation of the trio *Mediums* which will tour extensively in Europe. To this date, the trio has released four records unanimously praised by critics and this creative encounter will spark many fruitful collaborations in the future.

In 2011, he founded the septet *Tweedle-dee* including members of the Coax Collective in Paris and Loop in the UK.

Commissioned by the festival "Jazz a Luz", he creates in 2012 the trio *Whahay* with bassist Paul Rogers and drummer Fabien Duscombs. Working on the appropriation of various repertoires through improvised music, the trio toured extensively until 2016 with its project "On Mingus".

In 2016, Robin starts two new projects. *Bedmakers*, a quartet of improvised music based on an Anglo-Saxon Folk repertoire (co-produced by Banlieues Bleues and Jazzdor festivals) and the trio *Deep Ford* with drummer Sylvain Darrifourcq and pianist Benoit Delbecq. Both projects are hosted by the Toulouse-based collective Freddy Morezon, of which he is an active member since 2012.

In 2017 he co-leads the group Primitive London with trumpet player Antoine Berjeaut. Free homage to the golden age of Library Music the group associates with UK rap artist Juice Aleem and releases their first opus on the Spanish label Fresh Sound new talent.

In 2018 he joins the ONJ (Orchestre National de Jazz) under the artistic direction of Olivier Benoit for a one year mandate, forms a new duo with flautist Sylvaine Helary. Bedmakers releases its first album « Tribute to an Imaginary Folk Band » on Babel Label (UK).

Robin is also a long term collaborator of the group Aquaserge and continues to multiply new encounters combining an insatiable appetite for improvisation with a resolutely contemporary composing language.

In the past years Robin has been performing extensively on the European contemporary Jazz scene and in many festivals including London Jazz Festival, Jazzdor Festival (FR), Banlieues Bleues (FR), Koktebel Jazz Festival (UA), Cheltenham Jazz Festival (UK), Bray Jazz Festival (IE), Jazz Sous les Pommiers (FR), Traumzeit (D), Ljubljana Jazz Festival (SL), Umea (SE) Jazz à Luz (FR), DBale electronic music festival (Sw), Saalfelden (Au), Jazztopad (PI), Copenhagen Jazz Festival etc... He has also performed in several international festivals in Mexico, USA, Canada and West Africa.

His discography holds over 30 recordings including 11 as a leader/co-leader and his music was recorded several times for radio programs on BBC, Radio France or WDR.

In parallel to his activities as an instrumentalist and a composer, Robin is a founding-member of the Loop Collective in London, considered in its time as a major force on the British Jazz scene. In 2009 he was selected to take part in the Jerwood/PRSF Take V initiative, a career development scheme for young composers of outstanding potential. He has also been a guest teacher at the Guildhall School of Music, Birmingham Conservatoire, Aldeburgh Young Musician, and the Conservatoire National of Strasbourg, teaching on the themes of the relationship between composition and improvisation, the practice of the saxophone and Jazz in its various forms.

Selective Discography

- Courtois / Erdmann / Fincker – Love of Life (La Buissonne 2020)
- Deep Ford – You May Cross Here (BMC 2020)
- Brun / Fincker / Courtois - Les Demons de Tosca (BMC 2019)
- Bedmakers - Tribute to an Imaginary Folk Band (Mr Morezon 2018)
- Aquaserge - Déjà vous? - (Crammed 2018)
- Primitive London - Planet Savage (Fresh Sound 2017)
- Courtois / Erdmann / Fincker - Bandes Originales (La Buissonne 2017)
- Surnatural Orchestra - Ronde (Collectif Surnatural 2016)
- Omun - Omun (Nai No 2016)
- Vincent Courtois - West (La Buissonne 2015)
- Whahay - Whahay (Freddy Morezon / Babel 2014)
- Splice - Silent Spoke (Loop 2014)
- Tweedle Dee - Tweedle Dee (COAX 2013)☐
- Blink - Twice (Babel 2012)
- Vincent Courtois - Mediums (La Buissonne 2012)☐
- Splice - Lab (Loop 2011)☐
- Outhouse - Straw, Sticks & Bricks (Babel 2010)
- Hans Koller Ensemble w/ Bill Frisell - Cry, Want (PSI 2010)☐
- Outhouse - Ruhabi (Loop 2009)
- ☐Blink - Blink (Loop 2008)
- ☐Outhouse - Outhouse (Babel 2008)
- Mike Garrick Orchestra w/ Norma Winstone - Yet another Spring (JazzAc 2006)