

Alain Mion & the new Cortex

“Alain Mion is really a formidable JAZZ pianist”

(Jazz Classique)

Talented composer internationally recognized, singer and arranger, *he is certainly one of a kind in the “soul jazz funk” style*, in the same vein as Les McCann or Ramsey Lewis.

Fine melodist, radio hits maker (Pheno-Men, Devil's Dance, The Tap Tap), *gifted with a virtuoso pianist technique and a rare infectious energy*, Alain Mion (born 1947) has performed on many radio and TV shows as well as at international festivals and prestigious venues, performing and recording *from USA to China, from Sweden to Morocco, Poland, Belgium, Switzerland, France...*

Alain's discography includes more than *35 records*, re issues and compilations *internationally distributed on French and European, Japanese, English and US labels.*

His new combo very funky, includes 2 famous musicians with impressive credits: the Swedish bassist **Patrik Boman** and the German drummer **Michael Kersting** (*a real “groove machine”*) and a **sax section** playing *soulful* arrangements .

Memory recall: CORTEX, the greatest group of French jazz funk, founded and directed by Alain during the seventies, is admired today by the “funk addicts” all around the world, sampled and compiled by the new Rap and DJ'stars as Madlib, MF Doom, Rick Ross, Wiz Khalifa in the USA, Wise, Prisma in Japan, Bob Sinclar in France etc.

In the medias, Cortex is often compared with Chick Corea's Return To Forever and with Herbie Hancock's Headhunters.

Still to know:

Cortex is one of the « **70 Groove's Pearls** » selected by *Jazz Magazine* in its *Anthology of Funky Jazz* and is also one of the very rares french artists selected in « *Jazz Covers, 650 jazz records from 1940 to 1990* » (*Taschen*).

So... let's groove !



VIDEOS:

www.myspace.com/alainmion/videos/alain-mion-and-his-fun-key-combo-live/107324109

www.myspace.com/alainmion/videos/alain-mion-sings-not-bad-it-is/107323659

www.myspace.com/alainmion/videos/video/107319812 (*solo on Rhodes keyboard*)

www.myspace.com/alainmion/videos/alain-mion-trio/107324166

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RojQYLZ1R1Q

Alain Mion biography

Pianist, singer, composer, arranger, bandleader, Alain is based in Paris,

He was born in Casablanca in 1947. He raised in Paris.

At 19 he performed at the **Blue Note** and then at various festivals gigging with Hank Mobley or Philly Joe Jones.



1974: he was at the cutting edge of French jazz funk as leader with his mythical highly regarded band CORTEX.

1984: Alain Mion recorded the LP : "**Pheno-Men**". The tune Pheno-Men has been a hit.

1992: found him in NEW YORK recording "**Alain Mion in New York**", with **Marc Johnson** , **Tom Rainey** and **David Binney**.

In **1999:** Alain Mion performed at the **Friburg International Festival** with his new churchy style trio, sharing the bill with Mike Stern, Ahmad Jamal and Gilbert Bécaud.

2001: He recorded in Stockholm the album: "**Some Soul Food**", with drummer **Ronnie Gardiner** and bassist **Patrik Boman** (album acclaimed by the media) and performed at the **1st Casablanca International Jazz Festival**.

Tour of China: concerts in **Beijing, Dalian** and **Shenyang**.

2002-2003: the Alain Mion Trio was the leading act at the **International Festival "Jazz w Lesie**, performed at the **Gdynia Summer Jazz Days** (amongst other artists, such as: Dave Holland, Bill Frisell, Uri Caine) and on the **Polish National Radio** in Warsaw, before touring in France. Successful re-issues of "**Cortex recordings**" in Japan and Europe.

2004-2007: concerts and recordings solo and **release of one track by Alain** on **DIW Records (Japan)**. Release of the album «**INEDIT '79**», by **Cortex** (CD and LP "Japanese edition").

- Release of the CD "**Alain Mion trio, live on tour in Europe**".

- Release of the CD "**Timeless, Park Hyatt Paris Vendome**" which includes "*The Tap Tap*" by Alain's Trio.

- Re-issue of the CD "**Some Soul Food**" (Ward Records Japan).

Alain re-forms his "churchy trio" with the very well known Swedish bassist **Patrik Boman** and German drummer **Michael Kersting**.

2008, Alain performs and records with a 6 pieces band during 10 concerts at the famous Jazz Club Lionel Hampton in Paris.

(the trio is from now on accompanied by a sax section: alto, tenor and baryton. Arrangements by Alain).

2^{nde} re-issue of the cult album Troupeau Bleu by Cortex

2009, Alain re-forms his mythic band CORTEX.

The new Cortex band has performed at different venues and notably was very successful at **New Morning** in Paris. This first concert has been a large success (sold out).

The band is filmed in concert for European TV **MEZZO**.

2010, issue of a **single « unreleased versions »** by **Cortex**, recorded at **Switzerland Television (TSR)** in 1978 (Trade Vibe Records)

Numerous broadcastings of the band concert's film on Mezzo TV,

Reissue of the **3rd original album by Cortex** (1978 LP and CD) by Trad Vibe Records

A title by Alain Mion trio is heard on the film "Birth of Cool" on **Arte TV**.

New concert at **New Morning** in Paris in October...

The new Cortex rhythmic

Michael Kersting drums

Born in 1954 in Rottenburg, Germany, based in Berlin.

Winner of "Jazz Prize of Baden-Württemberg"

On Tour, TV shows and recording with:

JACO PASTORIUS, Kenny Wheeler, **BIRELI LAGRENE**, Carrie Smith, Richie Beirach, **BENNY GOLSON**, Albert Mangelsdorff, **CHICO FREEMAN**, Wolfgang Dauner, **MICHEL HERR**, Mal Waldron, Steve Lacy, Buster Williams, **CHET BAKER**, Jimmy Woody, Ernie Watts, Ben Allison, Tim Sund, **RANDY BRECKER**, the **Stuttgart Symphonic Orchestra**, Human Spirit, **CHARLIE MARIANO**, **ALAIN MION FUNKEY COMBO**, **ALAIN MION & CORTEX**, and many more.

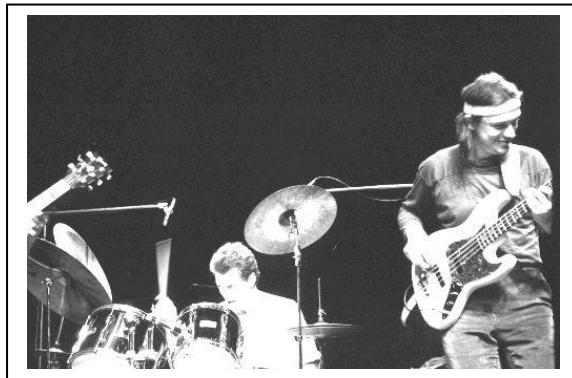
International events:

Exotic Showcase de Yokohama, Olympic games in Barcelona, World Athletic Championship in Stuttgart, Yak Jazz in Jakarta, NAFSA Convention in Chicago and in San Diego, Jazzopen Festival in Stuttgart, Budapest Concert Tour, Gitte Hanning in Jazz Asia Tour 2003, Carlo Morena Portugal Tour 2003 etc.

Musical Shows:

"Bye Bye Show Bizz" by **JEROME SAVARY**, "Linie 1" and "Rent", **MARIO ADORF's** "Al Dente" and "Ciao" show.

*Michael here with
Jaco Pastorius*



Patrik Boman upright bass and bass

Born in 1964 and based in Stockholm

"Artist of the Year 2000", Swedish Radios special jazz prize

"Golden Record", Patrik Boman Seven Piece Machine

Producer, arranger & bass player with Swedish singer **Lisa Ekdahl**

Recordings made in Sweden : more than 35 albums

Numerous television shows & radio broadcasts made in Sweden

On Tour all over the world with:

BENNY GOLSON, **LISA EKDAHL**,
STACEY KENT, **CLARK TERRY**,
TOOTS THIELEMANS,
STEVE GROSSMAN,
MOSE ALLISON,
JAMES MOODY, **LARS SJÖSTEN**, **BERNT ROSENGREN**,
ALAIN MION, **CORTEX**,
PETER NORDHAL, **PB SEVEN PIECE MACHINE** etc.



Alain Mion discography

Phéno-Men, T.Bones Square (*Caravage/Carrere*) single



Phéno-Men, All Along (*Caravage/Carrere*) single

Phéno-Men (*Caravage/Carrere*) LP

No'Mad, Un autre Be Bop (*Olivi/Media7*) Single

No'Mad (*Olivi/Media7*) LP

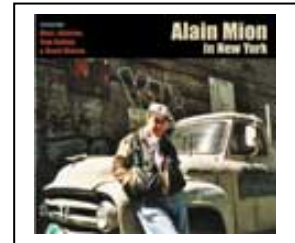
Alain Mion in New York (*Elabeth/DAM*)

Some Soul Food (*Caravage/Jazz'in/Next Music*)

Alain Mion Trio live on tour in Europe (*Underdog Rec*)

Alain Mion & His FunKey Combo, Groovin' in Paris (*Caravage/Believe*) digital album

Alain Mion : let's groove !' (*Trad Vibe*) LP+ CD **coming soon**



With Cortex / Leader Alain Mion

Troupeau Bleu (*Sonodisc*) LP

Mary & Jeff (*Sonodisc*) Single



Les Oiseaux Morts (*Sonodisc*) Single

Vol.2 (*Sonodisc*) LP

Caribou (*Arabella/Wea*) Single

Pourquoi (*Crypto/RCA*) LP

Meddley : Mary & Jeff-Devil's Dance (*Sonodisc*) maxi

Cuvée Spéciale (*Compilation Crypto/RCA*) LP

Best of Cortex (*Jazz'in/Next Music*) CD

Cortex Inédit '79 (*Underdog Records*) CD + digital album

Cortex Inédit '79 "Japanese limited edition" + bonus track (*Underdog Records*) LP

Cortex feat. Alain Mion: "The Unreleased Versions" (*Trad Vibe*) Vinyl Single



Reissues

Cortex Troupeau Bleu (*Pulp Flavor*) CD et Vinyle

Cortex Volume 2 (*Follow Me Records*), CD, Vinyle

Alain Mion in New York (*Jazz'in/Next Music*)

Some Soul Food (*Ward Records Japan*)

Phéno-Men (*Caravage/Believe*) digital album

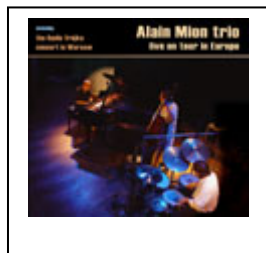
Some Soul Food (*Caravage/Believe*) digital album

Alain Mion in New York (*Caravage/Believe*) digital album

Cortex Troupeau Bleu nouvelle réédition (*Underdog Rec*)

Cortex Pourquoi (*Trad Vibe*) CD, Vinyle

Cortex Huit Octobre/Devil's Dance (*Trad Vibe*) EP single



Other tunes by Alain reissued on compilation

La Guêpe, Vol.1 (Pulp Flavor) CD et Vinyle

Savoir Faire (Plein Gaz Productions) CD et Vinyle

Opération Heritage (Hutch Productions) Vinyle

Sound of Music (Galaxy Music) CD

Compilation Park Hyatt Tokyo Airflow (Milan Music/Universal) CD, Vinyle

Nightmares on Wax "Late Night Tales" (Azuli Records), in the company of Quincy Jones, and Tom Scott

Sensations Louisiane (Warner Music) CD

Jazz Bar 2005 (Disk Union TOKYO) CD –

French Groovy Jazz (Caravage/Believe) digital album

French Cool Jazz (Caravage/Believe) digital album

French Latin Jazz (Caravage/Believe) digital album

Coffret "5 CD Gospel"(Warner Music) CD

French Piano Jazz (Caravage/Believe) digital album

French Organ Jazz (Caravage/Believe) digital album

French Blue Jazz (Caravage/Believe) digital album

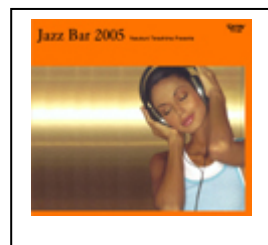
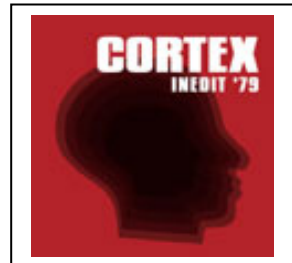
Timeless, Park Hyatt Paris Vendôme (Discograph)CD

Music for silent movies, vol. 2 (Caravage/Believe) digital album

Modern Gospel & Negro spirituals (Caravage/Believe) digital album

Sampled and compiled by numerous artists

Madlib, MF Doom, Rick Ross, Wiz Khalifa in USA, Wise, Park Hyatt Tokyo Airflow in Japan, Nightmares on Wax in UK, Partners in Crime en Italy, Bob Sinclair in France and a lot of other illegally, all over the world...!)



■ Fausse note. Christophe le Friant, alias **BOB SINCLAR**, a dernièrement été condamné pour le plagiat d'un morceau du pianiste de jazz Alain Mion.

(GALA août 2003)

International press selection



Soul Brother.

"Some soul food" (Jazz'In/Next JICD6), by pianist Alain Mion, is another CD with such a beautiful cover photograph that it is a shame to put it away on some shelf... I'm ready to bet that it will be down the shelf pretty often anyway. Inside, you will find this kind of soulful, bluesy, straightforward jazz that flows so smoothly that you may believe that playing this way is no big deal... well you just try, and we'll see whether your CD is voted "CD of the week" on FIP! There's definitely a lot to enjoy here; personally, I have a weakness for "The tap tap", "Some soul food" and "Black cap man", which are strongly reminiscent of Les McCann's early 1960s recordings, and where bassist Patrik Boman and drummer Ronnie Gardiner are truly taking care of business. Here's another CD that many a jazz fan might be glad to find amongst his Christmas presents... [Lady D](#).



Credo si possa affermare che attualmente le più prolifiche nazioni in ambito jazzistico siano Italia e Francia. Alain Mion, nato a Casablanca nel 1947 e residente a Parigi, è un musicista, un cantante, un compositore, ma soprattutto un ottimo pianista. Il disco Alain Mion in New York è stato registrato per celebrare una serie di concerti tenuti nel 1992. Lo accompagnano in questa session Marc Johnson al contrabbasso, Tom Rainey alla batteria e David Binney al sax alto. Davvero una piacevole scoperta questo non più giovanissimo pianista, in grado di dosare abilmente nel suo mood, soul, be-bop e swing, il tutto connotato da una vigorosa energia e da un groove tra blues e jazz. Colpisce l'ascoltatore l'energia del suo pianismo, allo stesso tempo ne sfiora delicatamente la sensibilità, con il suo tocco caldo e convincente, con la sua voce accattivante e a tratti emozionante, attraverso melodie e temi decisamente originali non solo dal punto di vista compositivo. Alain Mion sembra narrare, nelle 11 tracks del disco (da lui stesso scritte ed arrangiate), un rassicurante ed armonioso percorso sonoro in un climax espressivo di gran gusto, senza rigori estremi, muovendosi abilmente nel terreno jazzistico più suggestivo e gradevole possibile. Chi lo accompagna non è certo da meno, Marc Johnson – valgano per lui due sole collaborazioni: Bill Evans e Enrico Pieranunzi (l'accostamento tra i due pianisti non è casuale!) - Tom Rainey, batterista dal tocco delicato ma con grande senso dello swing, il sax alto di David Binney, in grado di conferire omogeneità al trio, con le sue incursioni, con le sue digressioni melodiche sempre di buon gusto, duttili e suadenti, contribuendo ad imprimere un walking narrativo intriso di sapori moderni a tutti i brani in cui è presente. Il pezzo d'apertura è Montse: notevole il lavoro "di batteria" di Rainey con l'utilizzo del sintetizzatore da parte di Mion, quale "voce d' appoggio" nel chorus. Nella traccia successiva, Levallois, ottimo è il dialogo tra il Mion, vocalist in francese, ed il sax alto di Binney. Poi A Dolphin Game, una brillante bossa nova. Di pregevole fattura Jean, una delicata ballad, inizialmente esplorata con garbato swing, crescendo poi nel finale in un tempo veloce e trascinate. E' funky straripante quello di Un Gospel pour Dexter; preziosi anche in questa track il sax di Binney e la voce di Mion: catturano l'attenzione con una sequenza armonica che culmina in un coinvolgente finale Gospel. Stand Away, ancora uno swing arioso e deciso. In corposa evidenza, Marc Johnson prende le redini del gruppo muovendo l'incipit del brano, tessendo scale che ben s'intrecciano con il mood pianistico di Mion: un feeling sbalorditivo considerando che non avevano mai suonato insieme. Ritmica di gran classe, swing, amore per il jazz ed il blues, composizioni originali, un interplay attento e sensibile, definiscono un'opera il cui risultato finale appare davvero piacevole, tanto da consigliarne senz'altro l'ascolto. Con piacere si segnala un'altra godibile e convincente incisione del pianista transalpino "Some Soul Food". [Franco Giustino per Jazzitalia](#)



This CD [*Alain Mion in New York*] commemorates a visit to New York in 1992, when the music was recorded. All eleven titles are original compositions and Alain also wrote the arrangements. Joining Alain in the trio are Marc Johnson, the highly respected bassist who played in the Bill Evans trio and a sympathetic drummer, Tom Rainey, restrained, but always swinging. Mion also uses synthesiser on a couple of tracks and sings (in French) on *Levallois* and *Un Gospel pour Dexter* (a funky affair this !). Alto saxist David Binney joins the trio for this two, contributing some tasty fill-ins and backing.

There is plenty to enjoy on every track - *A Dolphin Game*, is a sprightly bossa nova. *Jean*, a pretty little melody is explored initially out of tempo, before breaking into quick three fourtime. Like *Gospel*, *Tivoli* has a catchy funky sound with a harmonic sequence best described in racing parlance - *King Porter Stomp/The Golden Striker* out of *Yarbird Suite*! Fine bass solo from Johnson here. *Yellow Cab Nite Blues* is dedicated to one of New York City's best loved institutions- the trio struts some jaunty blues in it's honour - Marc Johnson solos - splendid backing from Tom Rainey throughout this one.

Recommended to anyone who enjoys straight-ahead, modern jazz piano playing, expertly performed and recorded in warm digital stereo. A pleasurable listening experience. [Pat Hawes](#).



I don't know if the participants on "Alain Mion in New York" had played together before this date, but they click beautifully. [Larry Nai](#).

Press review in French



"...La musique toujours aussi dansante et chaleureuse se déroule sur des tempos moyens, "ni trop-ni trop" qui rappellent la grande période de Les McCann et son trio d'anthologie Plays The Shampoo, etc.) ou de Monty Alexander (avec Clayton et Hamilton à Montreux) et aussi le souffle du Ray Bryant de Little Susie auquel me fait penser irrésistiblement Some Soul Food, morceau dans lequel la tension monte parfois de façon terrifiante... Mais ça swingue et ça balance en permanence avec des crescendos comme seuls les grands et les vrais "savent-y-faire" comme on dit dans le Berry, le tout avec un beau son de trio et une belle mise en place pour les passages arrangés.

Alain Mion est réellement un formidable pianiste de JAZZ qui s'inscrit dans un style finalement peu fréquenté mais dont il est certainement l'un des meilleurs représentants. [Jean-Marc Berlière](#).



★★★★ On connaît ce pianiste au parcours exigeant, né à Casablanca en 1947. Se produisant sur les scènes américaines et européennes, initiateur du groupe de jazz-rock Cortex, il enregistra en 1992 avec Marc Johnson, Tom Rainey, David Binney « Alain Mion in New York ». Ce nouveau disque enregistré à Stockholm avec le batteur Ronnie Gardiner (que l'on entendit aux côtés de Ben Webster, Johnny Griffin, ou encore Dizzy Gillespie...) et le contrebassiste Patrik Boman (vu en compagnie de Lisa Ekdahl) est un univers à lui seul. Les mélodies joyeuses prennent leur source dans le *blues* (Black Cap Man), le *Gospel* (The Saint Engrace Gospel Song), la *soul* (Some Soul Food). Swing au *drive* impeccable, jeu à l'unisson dans les basses (basse/piano), mises en place fines et légères (basse-batterie), *walking bass* bien au fond. Tous les ingrédients sont là pour faire de ce disque un moment de pur plaisir. La marque d'un vrai trio. [Benjamin Halay](#).



★★★★ Le nouveau trio de cet échappé du jazz rock dégage une énergie rare, généreuse et bien communicative. Si vous ne saviez pas ce qu'est le piano soul jazz, voici le disque qu'il vous faut. Tour à tour jazz, blues, gospel, rythm' n' blues, le piano d'Alain Mion vous emmène dans tous ces paysages. Très plein, avec de beaux voicings, des basses profondes, des soli brillants, un groove redoutable, son jeu est un modèle du genre, fluide et délié, avec de belles nuances de dynamique - on pensera sans doute parfois au défunt Richard Tee ou à Joe Sample. Accompagné de

deux peintures du jazz, Mion délivre sans doute son meilleur album. Avec cette nourriture de l'âme, on est loin du fast-food musical. [Olivier Cauvin](#)

JAZZ HOT: "Pianiste nourri aux sources du meilleur bop, Alain Mion est aussi, ce qui ne gâche rien, un chanteur sensible et convaincant, ainsi qu'un compositeur prolifique et respectueux de la tradition. In New York est, de bout en bout, un superbe album. Mais s'il ne fallait en retenir qu'un titre, ce serait à coup sûr l'un des deux morceaux chantés, ce "Gospel pour Dexter" tendre et ironique où, cerise sur le gâteau, David Binney (as), présent sur quelques plages seulement, prend un solo véhément. La rythmique, où la solidité de Marc Johnson (b) se conjugue à merveille avec les cymbales soyeuses de Tom Rainey (dm), tourne rond, les solistes sont excellents. Une heure de bonheur vous tend les bras, laissez-vous tenter. [Domi Truffandier](#).



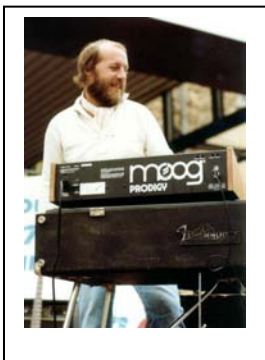
“A l'inverse de ces nouveaux OS du clavier diplômés de Berkeley qui commercialisent trois CD par semaine, Alain Mion, né à Casablanca en 1947, enregistre peu. Le dernier témoignage du séjour en studio de ce globe-trotter impénitent (il revient d'une tournée en Chine et Mandchourie) remontant à 1992 et à la confection de l'excellent *Alain Mion in New York*, gravé avec le concours du bassiste Marc Johnson, du batteur Tom Rainey et du saxophoniste David Binney, pour le label Elabeth. L'ancien leader de Cortex, groupe pionnier du jazz rock français, aura donc attendu neuf ans de plus pour fignoler à Stockholm, ce *Some Soul Food* qui, une fois encore, souligne la passion de son signataire pour la musique *churchy*, jadis popularisée par les productions Blue Note. Instrumentiste confortable, Alain Mion est avant tout un fin mélodiste, ainsi qu'en attesta en 1984, le succès de son thème *Phéno Men*, hit sur FIP et NRJ, indicatif pour France Inter... *Some Soul Food* est de la même veine. Le petit cousin éloigné du sautillant Horace Silver s'y livrant à une convaincante démonstration soul-funk, accompagné par un rookie et un expert : le bassiste Patrik Boman et le batteur Ronnie Gardiner. [Serge Loupien](#).

CHARLIE HEBDO Alain Mion est un copain, un lecteur de « Charlie » et un excellent pianiste de style « funky »...trois bonnes raisons pour acheter son dernier disque « SOME SOUL FOOD » paru chez NEXT et dans lequel il n'interprète que ses propres compositions : 9 morceaux, 9 réussites ! Très bien accompagné à la basse par Patrik Boman et à la batterie par Ronnie Gardiner, il se défonce et swingue sur son clavier avec un plaisir tellement évident qu'il n'a aucun mal à nous le faire partager. On est vachement déçu (mais pas triste) quand le disque est fini. On aimerait qu'il ne s'arrête jamais... alors on le remet ! [Siné](#)

La Montagne Pianiste, chanteur, compositeur, Alain Mion nous offre là un bel enregistrement aux multiples couleurs. Entre jazz et blues, auxquels se mêlent des rythmes brésiliens, le swing est toujours là, direct et fin à la fois. Alain Mion met son toucher percutant et chaud au service de thèmes originaux, mélodiques et simplement beaux. [Daniel Desthomas](#).



Alain Mion concert references



During his **40 years of musical career**, Alain Mion has performed in numerous countries under his name or with his first band, **Cortex**.

He played and recorded :

In the US, in China, Sweden, Switzerland, Belgium, Italia, Poland, Morocco and France, at TV and radio shows as at festivals and clubs.



- Concert at Mezzo TV
- Concert at the National Polish Radio (Warsaw)

- French Natl. and Major TVs
- Concert at National Swiss TV
- Concerts at National French Radio
- Concert at the Dalian University (China)
- Concert at the Jinglun, Beijing (China)
- Concert at the Shenyang Music Conservatory (China)
- International Gdynia Summer Jazz Days (Poland)
- International Festival Jazz w Lesie (Poland)
- Casablanca International Jazz Festival (Morocco)
- Friburg International Festival (Switzerland)
- St Gallen International Festival (Switzerland)
- Evening party of the HSG School, St Gallen (CH)
- Passage 44, Brussels (Belgium)
- Foundation of Germany, Paris City University (France)
- French National Chaillot Theater (Paris, France)



- Massy International Jazz Festival (France)
- Paris Museum of Modern Art (France)
- Caen Theater (France) etc.

- New Morning, Jazz Club Lionel Hampton (Hotel Méridien Etoile), Duc des Lombards, Sunset, Club St Germain, Petit Journal Montparnasse, Blue Note, Gill's Club, Cameleon, Caveau de la Montagne, Gibus, Newport (Paris), Hot Brass (Aix & Paris), CD Jazz Club (Beijing), New Orleans Cafe (Roma), Jazz Cafe Scena (Gdynia) etc.

Alain & his new Cortex band (© Pacary 2010)

