

## **Masterclass - Thomas Delor Trio**

### **THELONIOUS MONK**

His music and its applications in improvisation and composition

For a long time the music of Thelonious Monk was underestimated, misunderstood, and even criticized by his peers. In 1954 in "The Man I Love", as we especially remember, Miles Davis asked Monk not to accompany his solo.

Today, 100 years after his birth in 1917, it is evident that his work takes a key place in the history of jazz. His compositions, as well as his piano playing, stay and will always stay a source of inspiration for musicians, the most striking example was John Coltrane, who revolutionized his playing around 1958 after he had played in the quartet of Monk.

His style, having roots in Fats Waller and James P. Johnson, includes many rhythmic, harmonic and melodic features. His compositions, which mostly became standards, are often taken as a challenge for students.

That is this music content that the trio of Thomas Delor applies to its own music, and from where the musicians of the trio have developed playing concepts and tools for improvisation and composition. An important arrangement work had been done to adapt the music of Monk for this atypical trio pianoless and led by a drummer.

Thomas Delor – Drums  
Simon Martineau – Guitar  
Georges Correia - Bass

Project context:

Masterclass 1-2h (number of participants not limited)  
can be finished by a concert of the trio

Audience:

1) Students of jazz courses (all instruments, all levels)

Teachers can select a small group of students to apply practically the concepts discussed during the masterclass.

2) Open to the public (all ages, all levels)

The masterclass is also suitable for the musicians of contemporary and classical music, or music enthusiasts who want to participate as listeners.

Objectives:

To have keys to listen to a jazz concert

To appropriate a repertoire

To understand the construction of a theme

To build an improvisation on rhythmic and melodic elements taken from a theme

To develop your perception of cycles (8 measures, 12 measures) and rhythmic throughput

To broach simple arrangement and composition concepts

To broaden your musical culture by listening to targeted musicians and musical extracts

The masterclass is based on the compositions of Thelonious Monk's repertoire. A list of some pieces can be suggested in advance.

Technical means:

Drums (preferably of jazz type), guitar amplifier, bass amplifier

Instruments of the students

Sound system to connect a music player

Board (with staves if it's possible)