



## PASCAL CONTET

### accordion and performer

For over 20 years, Pascal Contet has been a leader for the creation of contemporary music, and a pioneer of the genre in France. With the creation of around 300 new works to his name, he has collaborated with many composers, including Claude Ballif, Franck Bedrossian, Luciano Berio, Edith Canat de Chizy, Bernard Cavanna, Jean-Pierre Drouet, Ivan Fedele, Joshua Fineberg (USA), Jean Françaix, Ivar Frounberg (Denmark), Philippe Hurel, Pierre Jodlowsky, Klaus Ib Jorgensen (Denmark), Philippe Leroux, Bruno Mantovani, Javier-Torres Maldonado, Martin Matalon, Marc Monnet, Yann Robin, Oscar Strasnoy, Claire-Mélanie Sinnhuber, and Johannes Schoellhorn (Germany).

In 2012, Contet was nominated to the *Victoires de la musique classique* music awards in the categories of “Instrumental Soloist of The Year” and “Recording of The Year.” In 2007, he was named “Artist of The Year” at the *Victoires du Jazz* music awards for his album “NU” in collaboration with Bruno Chevillon and François Corneloup.

Following his private study in France, Contet continued his musical studies in Fribourg (CHE), the Hanover Academy of Music with Elisabeth Moser, the Copenhagen Royal Conservatory (DNK), and the Graz Academy of the Arts (AUT) with Mogens Ellegaard.

Contet is the laureate of multiple foundations and prizes including the Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet Vocational Foundation (awarded and bestowed by French President, François Mitterrand), the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation, the Gyorgy Cziffra Foundation, the Lavoisier Foundation, the Gus Viseur Prize, and the Samfundet Prize (awarded by the Danish government).

As a soloist, Contet has performed under the direction of conductors such as Pierre Boulez, François Xavier Roth, Pascal Rophé, Jean-François Heisser, Jean –François Verdier, Esa Pekka Salonen, Jean-Claude Casadesus, Diego Masson, Daniel Kawka, James Wood, Susanna Mäkkli, Denis Comtet, Arie Van Beek, Laurent Petitgirard, and Daniel Tosi, among others.

Pascal Contet has performed and been the dedicatee of (\*) many concertos by a wide range of composers, including Bernard Cavanna\*, Benjamin Ellin\*, Jean Françaix\*, Christophe Julien\*, Arne Nordheim, Sofia Gubaidulina, Astor Piazzolla, and Peter Eötvös. He has appeared in performance with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the Philharmonisches Orchester Freiburg (DEU), the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, the Orchestre de Bratislava, the Orchestre Les Siècles, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the Orchestre National de Lille, the Orchestre National de Lorraine, the Orchestre Victor Hugo - Franche-Comté, the Orchestre d’Auvergne, the Orchestre de Perpignan-Méditerranée, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg, the Orchestre de Picardie, the Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne, the Alma Chamber Orchestra, and the Orchestre de l’Opéra National de Paris where he premiered Mantovani’s opera, *Ahkmato*.

Contet enjoys improvising with the contrabassist, Joëlle Léandre. Their CD, *3*, which debuted in March of 2014, received the “Choc” award from Jazz Magazine, the “Coup de Coeur” from the Académie Charles Cros, and was elected to be on the Citizen Jazz website in 2014. He has also improvised with musicians such as Pauline Oliveros, Carlos Zingaro, Carol Robinson, Tom Mays, Nosfell, famous mouth-organist Wu Wei, and French singer, Camille.

Contet is also a member and soloist of the 2e2m and Ars Nova ensembles.

In 2014, he premiered a new trio for the Europa Jazz festival in Le Mans, titled *The White Concert*, with London artist, Scanner, the international masters of electronic music Björk and Christian Rizzo, and London singer and guitarist Joel Cadbury (of the group Unkle, along with Gavin Clark), in a mix of electro, rock, and contemporary music.

Contet works frequently on the connection between music and image, accompanying many cinema concerts and compositions for TV and cinema in this capacity, including the film *Port-Au-Prince Dimanche 4 janvier* by François Marthouret (screenplay by Marc Guilbert and Peter Kassovitz), based on the book *Bicentenaire* by Lyonel Trouillot.

In the realm of the visual arts, Pascal Contet's joint pursuit of research with the artist Miguel Chevalier culminated in an interactive visual music performance, *L'Origine du monde*, which was premiered on September 19, 2013 at the Enghien Center for the Arts to critical and public acclaim. It was later performed at the Tons Voisins d'Albi Festival, the World Samsung Conference at the IFA salon in Berlin (2014), the Festival des Nuits de Nacre in Tulle, France (2014), the Arsenal de Metz, and will be next presented in Istanbul and Lyon, France.

Contet's most notable collaborators in chamber music include Paul Meyer (their latest album "Fantaisies Lyriques," produced by Sony Classical, was praised by the media), Ophélie Gaillard, Marianne Piketty, Louis Rodde, Marion Tassou, Fanny Robillard, Raphaël Simon, Amélie Stillitano and the Debussy Quartet, Diotima Quartet, Danel Quartet, and the Travelling Quartet.

In the field of theater and speech, Contet has worked alongside Marie-Christine Barrault, François Marthouret, Fabrice Melquiot, Anne Alvaro, Charles Gonzalès, Roland Auzet, Christian Rizzo, Didier Galas, and the Congolese playwright, director, and actor, Dieudonné Niangouna (their duo, *Les Inepties Volantes*, was received with great interest and enthusiasm at the *Festival of Avignon* in 2009).

In addition to being an improviser and performer, Pascal Contet has received many commissions for his compositions as well. Among the commissioners of these works are the French Minister of Culture and Communication, the Festival des Nuits de Nacre, Odile Duboc for CCN de Belfort, Tage der Utopie (AUT), the Festival d'Avignon (2009), and Skertzo (video company).

Some notable works of Contet's compositions for dance and the theater include:

- *Trio 03* for the Centre Chorégraphique National de Belfort (Odile Duboc); performed also at the Agora Festival at Ircam (2003)
- *Actes I à III* of *Mié Coquempot* (supported by funding from Sacem) (2008-2010)
- *No Way Out* (2004) for his duo with Jin Xing (performed and broadcast by the Shanghai Opera, France 2, TF1, Casino de Paris, and the Halle Tony Garnier in Lyon)
- *Des souffles de vie de Fattoumi- Lamoureux* (commissioned by the French government in 2001)
- *La Madeleine Proust- Haut Débit de Lola Sémonin* – in production since 2008
- *Musique des Inepties Volantes* by Dieudonné Niangouna; Festival d'Avignon (2009)
- In 2012, Contet composed a part of *Beauvais, Cathédrale Infinie* for Skertzo (a work with video projections onto historical monuments, available to view until 2022), and the entire visual creation of *Jamais deux fois le même fleuve* for the facade of the capital building of Toulouse.

During the 2015-2016 season, in association with the violinist Anne Gravoine and the Travelling Quartet, Pascal Contet will premier *Influences Latines* (followed by *Le Toboggan à Décines* on tour), a sonic journey based on traditional tangos arranged by composers Tomas Bordalejo and Fernando Fiszbein.

In June of 2015, Pascal Contet created his own label, PLEIN JEU, distributed by Socadisc, and released *UTOPIAN WIND*, a compilation of 13 "comprovisé" titles that combine improvisational and compositional techniques.

His 50-work discography has been recorded by the labels Sony Classic (with Paul Meyer in 2015), Naïve (which produced a recording of Mantovani with the group Accentus), Radio France, Actes Sud, Harmonia Mundi, and Solstice.

Visit Contet's website, [www.pascalcontet.com](http://www.pascalcontet.com), for a comprehensive look into the things that inspire and propel him toward new and revolutionary artistry.