



Franck Amsallem

Bio (short)

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Franck Amsallem was born in 1961 in Oran (Algeria), and grew up in Nice, France. He moved to the USA to hone his skills and learn at **Berklee College** in 1981. Moving to NY in 1986, he studied composition for jazz orchestra with Bob Brookmeyer at the **Manhattan School of Music**, and classical piano with Phil Kavin. He then won **2nd price at Jacksonville's Great American Jazz competition**.

In 1990, at 28 years of age with the help of the Fondation de la Vocation and of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, Franck records "**Out A Day**" a trio with Gary Peacock and Bill Stewart. Critics are laudatory; "There is every reason to expect excellence from this young pianist, still in his twenties, who prepared with such discipline for his first recording opportunity. The promise of good things to come is based on the considerable appeal of this recommended CD (Cadence)". "We are in danger of gushing and embarrassing ourselves. Sample this wonderful recording at all costs (Penguin guide to jazz on CDS)".

He then recorded "**Regards**" (****DownBeat), "**Is That So**", a duo with Tim Ries reinforced by Leon Parker, "**Years Gone By**", "**On Second Thought**" a live recording where everything comes together successfully without a hitch. In the fall of 2003, Franck returns to the trio format with "**Summer Times**". In 2005, Nocturne released "**A week in Paris**", a Billy Strayhorn tribute featuring Elisabeth Kontomanou and Stephane Belmondo.

Franck has performed in many of the big festivals, from Juan-les-Pins to Pori, Nice to Molde. He has also backed Gerry Mulligan, Charles Lloyd and Harry Belafonte, recorded with Bobby Watson, Roy Hargrove or Joshua Redman, and performed in the bands of Maria Schneider and Joe Chambers. He has composed numerous pieces for big band, and for string and chamber orchestra.

In 2002, Franck returned to France and settled in Paris. Recent tours include 23 concerts in South America, the Emirates, China, Algeria, Holland, Israel, Lithuania, Indonesia, Vietnam, etc... Franck was recently a featured performer at the JazzaVienne festival in a six-piano program composed by Martial Solal. In a departure to his usual setting, Franck recorded two vocal albums showcasing his talents as a pianist-singer, and featuring songs from the Great American Songbook. Franck's new opus « **Gotham Goodbye** » was released in September 2019 to universal critical acclaim. To date, Franck has recorded 10 cds under his name, as well as a collaboration on Blue Note records and a participation to « At Barloyd » a CD boxset featuring France's best jazz pianists.