



1986

Thierry performed with various jazz groups in Switzerland playing alongside numerous local and foreign musicians from different musical backgrounds. He gained further experience as a professional through accompanying musicians of diverse styles including Blues, BeBop and Mainstream.

1987

Creation of his first trio through which he was able to share the extent of his brilliant technique and strong sense of melody with a wider public, who began to recognize the characteristic features of his musical signature.

1988

The trio, already famous at a national level, was invited to accompany the world famous harmonica player Toots Thielemans. From this collaboration, a great friendship was born between the two musicians resulting in some musical gems engraved for all time.

1990

To celebrate the release of the trio's first album "Child's Memories", the trumpeter Matthieu Michel was invited as special guest to accompany the trio, marking the start of many fruitful collaborations thereafter.

THIERRY LANG

The Swiss pianist and composer, Thierry Lang, was born on the 16th December 1956 in the small town of Romont in the canton of Fribourg. He started learning piano at the age of 5 and by 7 years old he had decided to make piano his life and his career. He excelled in classical piano studies until the age of 21 while at the same time developing a passion for jazz.

At 15 years old, he first heard the pianist who would become and remain his guiding influence for many years to come : Bill Evans. Inspired by his music, Thierry Lang discovered the perfect link between classical and piano jazz which rapidly became the characteristic of his own musical expression. As a talented composer with a great sense of melody, he rapidly established himself as a master in this domain.

1991

The trio continued with a series of concerts and released a new album "Between a Smile and Tears", a title inspired by Thierry's friend Toots Thielemans.

1995

Release of his album "Private Garden", nominated "best album of the year" in Japan.

1996

During a US tour, he met Jim Beach (manager of Queen) who subsequently became his own manager. Thanks to this collaboration, Thierry Lang became the first Swiss musician to sign an artist's contract with the famous label Blue Note. At this time, the cellist Heiri Kanzig joined the trio resulting in a new series of concerts, tours, and recordings which rapidly gained worldwide reputation. Very quickly they released their first album "Thierry Lang" under the prestigious label "Blue Note" and obtained international acclaim.

1998

For his second Blue Note album, the pianist experienced an unexpected opportunity to play together with the saxophonist Hugo Read and the cellist Daniel Pezzotti. The mix of styles was quite unique for the time although it did not meet with unanimous approval.

2000

Following the advice of his manager, he made a solo recording of certain compositions of Freddie Mercury, the famous singer from the group Queen. His version of the title "Guide me Home" (also the title of the album) became a must for the whole world. The music recorded for this album was subsequently used for the film "The Untold Story of Freddie Mercury" and appears in the last album of the singer.

2003

He wrote, arranged and recorded 25 original compositions which formed the basis of a collection of 3 CDs entitled "Reflections vol 1, 2, 3" featuring guest artists Didier Lockwood, Olivier Ker Ourio, Paulo Fresu and Andi Schärer.

2004

Thierry Lang won the prestigious "Grand Prize of the Vaudoise Foundation for Promotion of Artistic Creation" and thanks to this prize he could, at long last, treat himself to the piano of his dreams.

2007

He decided to pay tribute to the best known composers of his canton of origin, Fribourg, notably Joseph Bovet and Pierre Kaelin. To do this he created a septet "LYOBA" with which he toured Europe. Three CDs were recorded telling the story of these great folk music composers.

2012

He recorded his first album "Night Wind" for Universal (owner of Blue Note), enriching his trio with the magnificent sounds of the American trombonist Glenn Ferris and the bugelist Matthieu Michel.

- The same year he presented his creation "Colours of Time" at the Fribourg theatre, Équilibre. This ambitious original creation required more than a year's work to compose and bring together the Fribourg choir "Accroche-Cœur" of 54 singers, the Fribourg Chamber Orchestra and the top class soloists such as the singer David Linx, the trumpeter Matthieu Michel, the drummer Andre Ceccarelli and the cellist Heiri Kanzig. Thierry Lang collaborated with the Belge Michel Herr to arrange his 13 compositions. In order to record the music, he dedicated another 3 months to studio work. In February 2013, this remarkable album was released to the public.

- In Autumn 2012 he composed and recorded the music for the latest film of Francis Reusser "Ma nouvelle Héloïse".

2013

He created a new trio with which he recorded his album "Serenity" (Universal) in which he changed the colour of his habitual jazz trio by exchanging the bass for percussion. In this way Andi Pupato became the third member of this new trio - which has already gained a wide international recognition and multiplies its tours in Europe, Russia, Japan and S Korea.

2015

The same trio released the album "Moments in Time" (Universal), which topped the charts in Japan.

2016

During the year of his 60th birthday, Thierry Lang was busy on all fronts:

- Concert tours in Japan and Europe.
- Composition of a new creation "Emotions", ten original compositions for Jazz quartet and Sine Nominé, the famous classical string quartet (creation, 24th November, Reflet theatre, Vevey).

2017

Creation of his new "Heritage Trio" with the American double bassist Darryl Hall and the Austrian drummer Mario Gonzi with whom he makes the most beautiful pages of historical jazz standards come alive again.

2018

Composition of his new creation "One Note One Word" which was performed as a world premiere on the 22nd February 2019 at the theater "L'Équilibre", Fribourg.

2019

Following the great success of his creation, the pianist decided to continue the adventure by recording this music together with some brand new compositions. The recording is foreseen for 2021 and the release of the album for the beginning of 2022.

- To celebrate their 25 years of collaboration, the duo Thierry Lang and double bassist Heiri Kanzig recorded a new album "Celebration" which was released in December by Universal.
- His biography "Between a smile and a tear", written by Pierre-Dominique Chardonnens, was also published in December (Editions Attinger.).

2020

A black year for culture with the passage of COVID 19, confining artists to a heavy silence. Nevertheless, the pianist has taken advantage of the time to write new compositions which will come to light in the near future.

2021

« Heritage Project »

It is with this oxymoron that the pianist combines the music of the past and the future in the present. From now on, all these projects will come together under this banner.

2022

Now that he has retired from teaching, the pianist can devote himself primarily to his projects.

He has always been fascinated by the three-beat rhythm, so he decided to devote an entire album to it, released in December 2022 under the evocative title 'Waltz' Heritage Project vol.1. Nine of his own compositions recorded with trumpeter Matthieu Michel, saxophonist Sylvain Beuf and guitarist Claude Schneider.

2023

He recorded the album «Walk With Me» Heritage Project vol.2, in the company of 2 first-rate soloists, trombonist Denis Leloup and harmonica player Olivier Ker Ourio.

On 16 September, he presents his new work «The Art Of Melody» at the Théâtre Equilibre in Fribourg. Eleven of the pianist's compositions have been arranged for chamber orchestra and soloists by his former student Emmanuel Fratianni. Having come specially from the USA, where he has lived for thirty years, the conductor and arranger led the Fribourg orchestra with masterly hands. This magical concert was recorded by Rolf Staufacher.

2024

Together with sound engineer Gonzague Ruffieux, he began mixing the big concert in Fribourg. A month's work produced a splendid result that will live long in the memory. The release and vernissage of this new opus are scheduled for autumn 2025.

AWARDS

1994: Winner "Panache d'Or",
Canton of Fribourg

1995: Prize "Album of the year"
(Private Garden), Japan

1999: Pianist of the year (Jazz'N More)

2000: Pianist of the year (Jazz'N More)

2004: Winner of the Grand Prize
of the Vaudoise Foundation for
promotion of artistic creation

2007: Honorary Burgess of Romont

2008: Doctor Honoris Causa of the
European Union University

2008: Title of "Chevalier des Arts et
des Lettres" in France

**Thierry Lang has played and recorded with
the most prestigious musicians including:**

Franco Ambrosetti, Ray Anderson,
André Ceccarelli, Billy Cobham, Paolo Fresu,
Johnny Griffin, George Gruntz,
Reggie Johnson, Heiri Känzig,
Olivier Ker Ourio, David Linx, Didier Lockwood,
Andy McGhee, Matthieu Michel,
Charlie Mariano, Bob Mintzr,
Adam Nussbaum, Andy Pupato, Alvin Queen,
Andy Scherrer, Jimmy Heath, Peter Schmiedlin,
Toots Thielemans, Richard Galliano,
Tina Turner, Marcel Papaux, Dino Saluzzi,
Andreas Vollenweider, Furio di Castri,
Pierre Favre, Art Farmer, Daniel Pezzotti,
Marvin Stamm, Glenn Ferris and many more.

