

## **Stéphane Mercier – alto sax, flute**

Belgian jazz saxophonist/flutist heavyweight Stéphane Mercier grew up in a family surrounded by music and musicians. He studied different instruments early on, before focusing on saxophone and flute, as well as composition and arrangement.

After his studies at Jazzstudio in Antwerp and the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels, Stéphane Mercier moved to Boston where he enrolls in the Berklee College of Music in the 90's. Having completed his studies, he toured in Europe with Mark Turner, Seamus Blake, B.Connection, then moved to New-York (95-02), where he played and/or recorded with Aaron Goldberg, Chris Cheek, Avishai Cohen, Jeff Ballard, Ingrid Jensen, Matt Penman, ...

He recorded for several labels: Birdland Sessions, Fresh Sound/New Talent, Mogno Music, Igloo Records, Quetzal and Hypnote Records.

Mercier moved back to Europe in 2002 (Paris then Brussels, where he currently resides).

He currently leads the Jazz Station Big Band (with guests such as Grégoire Maret, Jason Rebello, Emil Vickliki,...), B.Connection (feat. Napoleon Da Legend), Damon Brown/Stéphane Mercier Quintet, Quantum Stereo (feat. Stella Angelika), and plays and composes for BZ Sounds (feat. Benny Benack).

Meanwhile, he is also active in other genres, for instance he is featured on Bai Kamara, Jr's new CD ('The Mystical Survivors and Some Rare Earthlings') for which he has written the arrangements.

Stéphane Mercier published a series of original interviews he conducted with masters such as Quincy Jones, Toots Thielemans, Ivan Lins, Kenny Garrett,...

*"...kind of like Lee Konitz with an edge of Dolfy...good time, great sound, wonderful melodic sense and really knows how to listen".* **Mike Zwerin (International Herald Tribune)**

*"Lately, he gained even more maturity and explores a very personal sound in filiation with Coltrane"*  
**Charles Loos (pianist, composer)**