

Nicolas Simion

saxophonist & composer

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Artistic career

June 15, 1959	Born in Transylvania, Romania
1970 - 1978	Brasov School of Music (clarinet and piano), Romania
1979 - 1983	Conservatory of Music in Bucharest, Romania (clarinet and piano)
from 1980	saxophone and flute (autodidactically)
1985 - 1988	Private conducting studies with Constantin Bugeanu, State Opera House Bucharest and private composing studies with Nicolae Coman, Conservatory of Music Bucharest
1985 - 1988	Freelance saxophonist and composer in Bucharest, Romania
1989 - 1997	Freelance saxophonist and composer in Vienna, Austria
1997 - now	Freelance saxophonist and composer in Cologne, Germany

Tours & Festivals

1985 - 1988	First own group Opus 4 is the most successful Jazz Band in Romania. Appearances in all clubs and festivals all over the Country
1987 - 1988	Appearance as soloist (saxophone) with orchestras in Brasov, Tirgu-Mures, Bacau and with the Radio Symphony Orchestra Bucharest (Glasunov, Debussy, Marcello, Niculescu)
1987 - 1988	Appearance as conductor with the Sibiu Philharmonics, the Ploiesti Philharmonics and dem Bacau Philharmonics (Schubert, Mozart, Mussorgski, Wagner, Beethoven, Haydn, Enescu)
1988	Jazzbühne Festival East-Berlin and Warsaw Jazz Jamboree with Opus 4
May 1990	With Christian Muthspiel's Octet Ost in Austria, Germany and Switzerland; CD Octet Ost (Amadeo)
1992	replaces Jim Pepper in the Mal Waldron Quartet : tour in Germany and Austria; CD live recording 1994 in Essen, Germany (Mal, Verve, Black & Blue)
April 1993	Tournee with Tomasz Stanko (tp), Ed Schuller (b), Peter Perfido (dr): Germany (Kemptner Frühlingsjazzfestival , a.o.), Austria
March 1994	Composer's Portrait in Vienna, Kulturspektakel Stadtinitiative : first performance of Kinderlied, Ciaconna (for bass clarinet, harp and tablas), Landscape (for solo alto flute)
May 1994	Transylvanian Dance-Tour with Tomasz Stanko (tp), Ed Schuller (b) und Victor Jones (dr): a. o. Jazz Ost-West '94 Nuernberg (live recording of Bavarian Broadcasting Company), Innviertler Internationales Pfingstjazzfestival Raab
May 1995	Miles Davis Jazz Festival in Krakau, Poland: Nicolas Simion Quintet
August 1995	Tour in Romania : Nicolas Simion Trio feat. Angus Thomas (b), Peter Perfido (dr) International Jazz Festival Varna (Bulgaria): Nicolas Simion Quartet feat. Alex Fischer (tp), Angus Thomas (b), Uli Soyka (dr); live broadcast of the Bulgarian TV
September 1995	Thessaloniki Jazz Festival (Greece): Mircea Tiberian Quartet
December 1995	The Art of the Duo : tour with Mal Waldron; live recording in Cologne
January 1996	Awarded with the " Theodor Körner Förderpreis " for hist composition The Unfinished Square, Performance for Music, Dance and Light
May 1996	Festival of Contemporary Music (Bucharest, Romania)
August 1996	First performance of The Unfinished Square with the Radio Symphony Orchestra Bratislava and Ensemble Mosaic in Langenwang , Styria
May 1997	Jazz Festival Cluj , Romania
June 1997	Patras Jazz Festival , Greece
August 1997	Varna Jazz Festival , Bulgaria
December 1997	Tour in Romania, commissioned by Austrian Foreign Ministry
February 1998	Canzoni per St. Ruprecht , Sacred Music (gospel, chorals, church songs), performance during re-opening of Vienna's oldest church, Ruprechtskirche

- March 1998 **Witchi-Tia-To – The Music of Jim Pepper** ; Soloist in a Concert with the WDR Radio Orchestra & The Remembrance Band conducted by Gunther Schuller
- April/June 1998 **The Big Rochade**: CD and tour with Mal Waldron
- October 1998 **Sibiu International Jazz Festival**, Romania, w/ Markus Burger (p), Ed Schuller (b), Peter Perfido (dr)
- February 1999 **ZeitTon Festival**, Vienna, Austria, First Performance of "Canzoniere Sacrale"
- March 1999 **Balkan Jazz**, live recording of Deutschen Welle at the Stadtgarten in Cologne, feat. Dusko Goykovich (tp)
- May 1999 **Festival of Contemporary Music**, Bucharest, Romania, solo-concert and live recording of the Romanian Broadcasting Corp.
- October 1999 **"Jazz & Wine Festival" in Cormons, Italy**
- December 1999 **Brasov International Jazz Festival** in Brasov (Kronstadt), RO: Nicolas Simion Quartet w/ Charlie Mariano; TV recording
- June 2000 **"Jazz across the borders: New East in the West" – Berlin**: "Tribute to Richard Oschanitzky", live broadcast Deutschlandfunk
- July 2000 **Eldenaer Jazz Evenings** w/ "European Jazz Ensemble"; with broadcast NDR Hamburg
- August 2000 **Jazzfestival « Image & Jazz », Rom** : w/ Johnny Raducanu Group
- September 2000 **Jazzfest Viersen**
- Oktober 2000 **„1st berlin east west jazzhouse”, Quasimodo, Berlin**
- Oktober 2000 **CD presentation "Nick at Night"**: Tour in Austria, Hungary and Romania
- Oktober 2000 **Festival „Liszt - Bartok & Jazz”, Budapest** Nicolas Simion "Balkan Jazz" w/ Zoltan Lantos – vln (hungary), Norbert Scholly – git (germany), Martin Gjakonovski – b (Macedonia), Kruno Levacic – dr (Croatia)
- November 2000 **5. WDR Festival, Subway, Cologne** (TV recording)
- December 2000 **Int. Jazzfestival Braşov**: „Canzoniere Sacrale" with George Dima Philharmonic Orchestra, cond. Nicolas Simion – First Performance in Romania, TV recording
- December 2000 **Archie Shepp / Nicolas Simion**: The Art of the Duo, TV recording
- March 2001 **Lullabies & Fairytales**: ORF Radiokulturhaus, live radio recording
- April 2001 **Tour in Japan** w/ Yuko Gulda (p): "The Art of the Duo"; Martha Argerich Music Festival in Beppu
- May 2001 **Richard Oschanitzky Festival**, Iasi, Romania
- June 2001 **American Music Festival Bad Ischl**, Austria
- June 2001 **Festival Cottbus**, Germany
- August 2001 **8. Internationales Jazz open air Glauchau**, Germany
- August 2001 **International Jazz Festival KRK**, Croatia
- October 2001 **Jazzfestival Bucharest** w/ Jancy Körössy (p), James Singleton (b), Peter Perfido (dr)
- October 2001 **Inntoene Festival**, Ried, Upper Austria
- November 2001 **Int. Jazzfestival Braşov**: feat. Lee Konitz (as) and Jancy Körössy (p)
- November 2001 **Live Recording** w/ Lee Konitz at the "Café Stockwerk" in Graz, Austria, by ORF (Austrian Broadcasting Comp.)
- January 2002 Winner of the **Jazzart Award** in the category "JazzArt Orchestra": "The Grain of the Truth"
- March 2002 Tour in Poland w/ Fewell Garrison Quartet, **Wroclav Int. Jazz Festival**
- May 2002 **Tour in Japan** w/ Isao Miyoshi (g), Nobuyoshi Ino (b), Masahiko Osaka (dr)
- May 2002 **Balkan Festival**, Polygiros (Thessaloniki, Greece)
- May 2002 **Tour in Austria**, w/ Fausto Beccalossi (accordeon), Antonis Anissegos (p), Martin Gjakonovski (b), Kruno Levacic (dr)
- July 2002 **Eldenaer Jazz Evenings** w/ Nicolas Simion Trio; with broadcast NDR Hamburg
- August 2002 **Mumyhua Festival**, Hofneukirchen, Austria
- October 2002 **International Jazz Festival Bucharest**, "Sax Summit"
- November 2002 **International Jazz Festival Vlotho** w/ David Hadley (b, USA), Norbert Scholly (g) & Josef Kirschgen (dr), Germany
- January 2003 **Dan Mandrila/Sile Dinicu Memorial Concert** w/ Mircea Tiberian/Nicolas Simion Group feat. Tom Smith (tb, USA), Bucharest, Radio & TV live recording
- February 2003 **Tour in Poland** w/ Piotr Wojtasik (tp), Paul Imm (b, USA), Marcin Jahr (dr)
- Feb/March 2003 **CD Presentation "Joe Jack"** w/ Nenad Vasilic Balkan Band in Austria & Germany
- March 2003 **Tour in Italy** w/ Piero Bassini (p, Italy)
- May 2003 **Concerto for Saxophone and Orchestra** w/ Romanian Radio Symphony Orchestra Bucharest, live recording; Comp. & Cond.: Sabin Pautza; Soloist: Nicolas Simion
- June 2003 **Tour in France, Germany, Switzerland & Austria** w/ James Singleton (b) and Peter Perfido (dr); ORF live recording "The Power of Balkan Jazz" in Vienna, Austria
- July 2003 **Tour in the Netherlands, Denmark & France** w/ "3now4" – James Singleton (b), Jeff Boudreaux (dr), Dave Easley (steel git)
- September 2003 **Tour in Japan** w/ Isao Miyoshi (git), Ino Nobuyoshi (b), Rikitake Makoto (dr)
- October 2003 **Tour in Romania** w/ Michel Marre Band (tp, FR) and w/ "The Wild Dogs Trio" feat. Dietmar Fuhr (b) & Phil Maturano (dr)

- November 2003 **International Jazzfestival Brasov (RO)** w/ Isao Miyoshi (g / JP), Rasul Siddik (tp / USA), Olivier Gatto (b / FR), Benjamin Henocq (dr / FR) following a tour in Romania
- January 2004 **Step across the border: ROMANIA at the Porgy & Bess, Vienna, Austria** w/ Piotr Wojtasik (tp / POL), Florian Weber (p / GER), Martin Gjakonovski (b / Macedonia), Phil Maturano (dr / USA)
- January 2004 **New CD: Oriental Gates – 'Live' in Vienna, Porgy & Bess** w/ Mircea Tiberian (p / RO), Ed Schuller (b / USA) and Victor Jones (dr / USA)
- February 2004 **Live duo recording w/ Florian Weber (p)** at the "Loft", Cologne (GER)
- February 2004 **Award: "Best romanian jazz musician living abroad"** accorded by Romanian National Broadcast Company
- Feb/March 2004 **Touring France, Romania & Greece** w/ Piotr Wojtasik(tp / POL), David Patrois(vib / FRA), Olivier Gatto (b / FRA), Benjamin Henocq (dr / FRA) and Kostas Maginas (g / GR), sponsored by the French Cultural Institute in Bucharest
- March 2004 **Studio recording session** for the French Cultural Institute (to be released in summer 2004 in France and Romania)
- March 2004 **Concerto for Saxophone & Orchestra (Sabin Pautza)** w/ the Banat Philharmonic Orchestra
- March 2004 **New CD: "Sweet Home"** on Muzica Jazz Records (RO) w/ Jancsy Körrössy (p / RO, James Singleton (b / USA) and Peter Perfido (dr / USA)
- April 2004 **Performing in the Netherlands** w/ Hilmar Backer(g / NL), Michael (b / NL) and Eugen Gondi (dr / RO)
- April 2004 **Touring Japan** w/ Isao Miyoshi (g), Ino Nobuyoshi (b) and Makoto Rikitake (dr)
- May 2004 **International Jazzfestival Sibiu (RO)** w/ Florian Weber(p / GER), Norbert Scholly (g / GER), Kruno Levacich (dr / Croatia) and Arthur Balogh (b / RO)

Selected discography

- 2004 Nicolas Simion Quartet: Oriental Gates – Live in Vienna, Porgy & Bess (TUTU, Germany)
- 2004 Jancsy Körrössy & Nicolas Simion Group: Sweet Home (Musica Jazz, Romania)
- 2003 Nicolas Simion Group feat. Lee Konitz & Jancy Körössy: Live at "Stockwerk" Graz (ORF, Austria)
- 2003 Nenad Vasilic Balkan Band: Joe Jack (Nabel, Germany)
- 2002 Simone Guiducci Gramelot Ensemble: Chorale (Felmay, Italy)
- 2002 Jancy Körössy & Nicolas Simion Duo: Live in Transylvania (Pannon Jazz, Hungary)
- 2002 The Music of Jim Pepper arranged and conducted by Gunther Schuller (TUTU, Germany)
- 2001 Nicolas Simion Group feat Dusko Goykovich: Balkan Jazz (Intuition Music, Germany)
- 2000 Nicolas Simion Trio: Nick at Night feat. Andy McKee (b) and Billy Kilson (dr) (PAO Records, Austria)
- 1999 Nicolas Simion Group: Viaggio Imaginario feat. Tomasz Stanko (TUTU, Germany)
- 1998 Mal Waldron/Nicolas Simion: The Big Rochade (TUTU, Germany)
- 1998 Nicolas Simion Trio: Luca's Dream (GM Records, Gunther Schuller, USA)
- 1997 Nicolas Simion Trio: Back to the Roots (TUTU, Germany)
- 1996 Mal Waldron Quartet: Mal, Verve, Black & Blue (TUTU, Germany)
- 1995 Nicolas Simion Quartet: Transylvanian Dance (TUTU, Germany)
- 1993 Nicolas Simion Quartet: Dinner for Don Carlos (TUTU, Germany)
- 1992 Nicolas Simion Group: Black Sea (TUTU, Germany)
- 1991 Christian Muthspiel: Octet Ost (Amadeo)