



YAMAHA Artist

Dot Time Records recording artist

Finalist, Montreux Jazz Festival Bösendorfer Solo Piano Competition

BIOGRAPHY

For more than three decades, Swiss jazz pianist, composer, and bandleader Claude Diallo has been building bridges through music. His artistic voice combines contemporary jazz with lyrical storytelling, expressive improvisation, and a deep appreciation for cultural exchange, creating performances that resonate with audiences around the world.

As the leader of **Claude Diallo Situation**, he has developed a distinctive contemporary jazz sound built on spontaneous interaction, melodic clarity, and musical storytelling. His original compositions invite listeners into richly textured soundscapes where melody, rhythm, and improvisation merge into compelling narratives.

An early career highlight came with recognition at the **Montreux Jazz Festival Bösendorfer Solo Piano Competition**, establishing him as one of the promising voices of his generation. Today, Claude Diallo is a recording artist with **Dot Time Records** and an official **Yamaha Artist**.

Claude's musical journey began in Switzerland and led him to **Boston**, where he earned his Bachelor of Music from **Berklee College of Music**, while studying with legendary jazz educator **Ray Santisi** (teacher of artists including Keith Jarrett, Diana Krall, and Joe Zawinul) and acclaimed pianist **Danilo Pérez**, longtime collaborator of Wayne Shorter. During his years in Boston, Diallo also spent two years studying privately with the influential jazz educator **Charlie Banacos**. He later continued his education in New York under pianist and composer **David Berkman**, completing a Master of Music at the **Aaron Copland School of Music**. These formative years in two of the world's great music capitals shaped his distinctive musical language that blends European sensibility with the creative spirit of the American jazz tradition.

Following his studies, Diallo spent a decade living, performing, and touring in **New York**. During this time, he collaborated with jazz legend **Andy McGhee**, renowned for his work with Lionel Hampton and Woody Herman, as well as **Eliot Zigmund**, the celebrated drummer best known for his years with Bill Evans.

His time at Berklee also led to lifelong friendships and remarkable musical collaborations with multiple **Grammy Award winners** and internationally acclaimed artists, including bassist **Luques Curtis** (Eddie Palmieri), drummer and musical director **Louis Cato** (The Late Show with Stephen Colbert) and drummers **Andy Bauer** (Twin Shadow), **James Williams** (Leon Bridges), **Túpac Mantilla** (Zakir Hussain), and many others.

Back in **Switzerland**, Claude Diallo has maintained a musical partnership of more than 25 years with drummer **Massimo Buonanno**, known for his work on the Swiss television production Sing mein Song. Since 2021, he has also recorded several albums for Dot Time Records with pioneering electronic music innovator and saxophonist **Bruno Spoerri**.

TRAVELING WITH MUSIC

Guided by his personal philosophy, “Traveling with Music”, Claude sees music as a universal language that transcends borders. Every journey, collaboration, and cultural encounter enriches his artistic vision and inspires new compositions, making each performance a unique and authentic musical experience.

Throughout his international career, Claude Diallo has **toured** extensively across **Europe, America, Asia, and Africa**, performing at festivals, concert halls, jazz clubs, and cultural venues. His performances are celebrated for their musical depth, spontaneity, and genuine connection with audiences.

His growing **discography** reflects a constant artistic evolution, documenting an ongoing search for new sounds while remaining rooted in melody, expression, and creative freedom. Each album represents another chapter in his musical journey.

For Claude Diallo, music is more than performance, it is a celebration of life, curiosity, and human connection. Through every composition and every concert, he invites audiences to travel with him, sharing stories, emotions, and the universal joy of music.

Claude Diallo	claudediallojazz@gmail.com
+41 77 506 68 27	www.claudediallo.com

