

Samuel
BLASER



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BIOGRAPHY

Samuel Blaser is a 21st century trombonist. Born in 1981 in the town of La-Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, he emerged professionally after graduating from conservatory in 2002. During the next five years he developed associations with the Vienna Art Orchestra and the European Radio Big Band, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, pursued graduate studies at the Purchase College Conservatory of Music, State University of New York, and recorded his first album as a leader, **the Samuel Blaser Quartet's 7th Heaven** (Between The Lines). In 2021 Blaser left Berlin for Switzerland where he currently teaches trombone at the University of the Arts in Bern.

The foundations of Blaser's art are the breadth of his influences, his technical fluency, and the clarity with which he applies these assets. He grew up learning classical and Swiss folk music as well as jazz, and his projects include jazz-informed investigations of operatic, rock, and blues music. He understands that growth is relational, and has sought out and sustained relationships with veteran and senior musicians, such as **Pierre Favre, John Hollenbeck, Gerry Hemingway, Marc Ducret, Paul Motian, Oliver Lake, and Daniel Humair**, all of whom have helped him to develop his own sense of who he is. He exercises the full range of the trombone's possibilities, including fluid melodic statements, emphatic rhythmic punctuations, earthy interjections, and abstract sound effects, with a clear sense of purpose. He approaches each endeavor as a leader and collaborator with a clear sense of purpose, knowing what he wants to accomplish and what each musical situation requires from him. Blaser's responsiveness is never more evident than in his solo performances, which use his bold sound to draw out the qualities of both architectural and environmental settings.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced all musicians to suspend touring. But Blaser's response illustrated another aspect of his resourcefulness. While he was off the road, he set up an internet label, **Blaser Music**, which issued its first four releases during the spring and summer. And as soon as Europe began to reopen, he returned to the stage, playing concerts with **Samuel Blaser Quartet, Humair Blaser Känzig**, and as a sideman for **Michel Portal** and **Marc Ducret**.



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SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY

Routes
Samuel Blaser, Enja, 2023

Same Place, Another Time
Pierre Favre & Samuel Blaser, Blaser Music 2022

Voyageurs
Samuel Blaser & Marc Ducret, Jazzdor Series, 2021

18 monologues élastiques
OutNote, 2020

1291, Humair Blaser Känzig
OutNote, 2020

Moods
Samuel Blaser Quartet, Blaser Music, 2020

Live at Cornelia Street Café
Samuel Blaser ft. Paul Motian, Blaser Music, 2020

ABC vol. 2
Samuel Blaser, Marc Ducret, Peter Bruun, Blaser Music, 2020

ABC vol. 1
Samuel Blaser, Marc Ducret, Peter Bruun, Blaser Music, 2020

Audio Rebel
Samuel Blaser & Marc Ducret, Blaser Music, 2020

Early in the Morning
Samuel Blaser Quartet, Out Note, 2018

Spring Rain
Blaser Music, 2015

A Mirror to Machaut
Blaser Music, 2013

As The Sea
Hat Hut, 2012

Boundless
Hat Hut, 2011

Consort in Motion
Kind of Blue Records, 2011

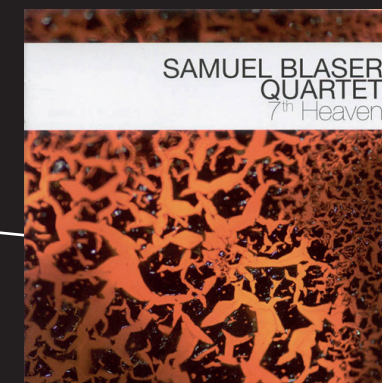
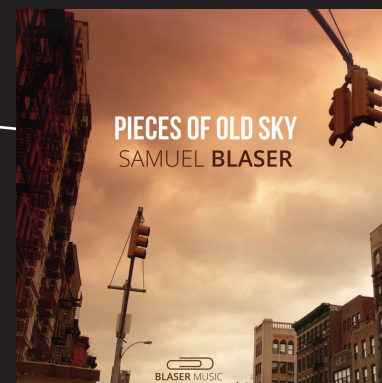
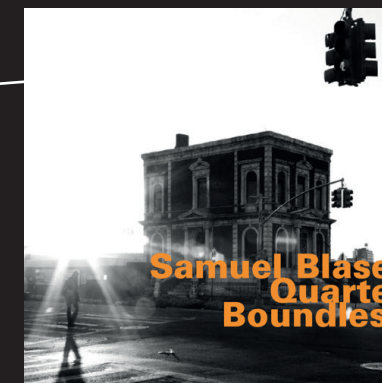
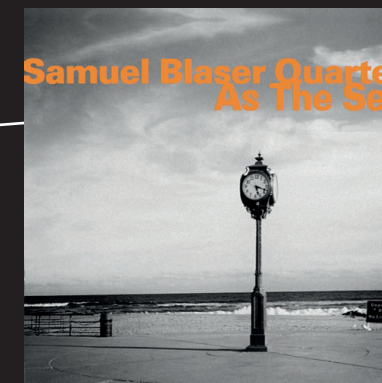
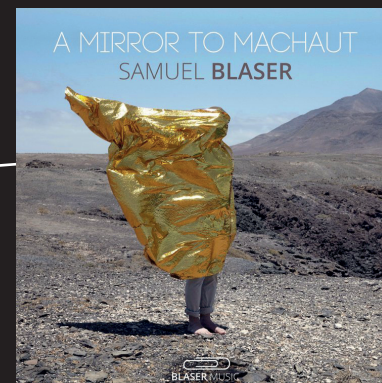
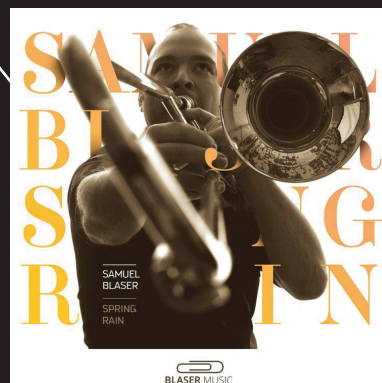
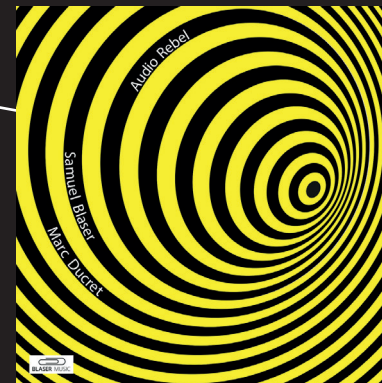
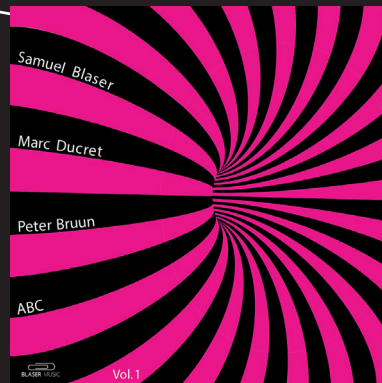
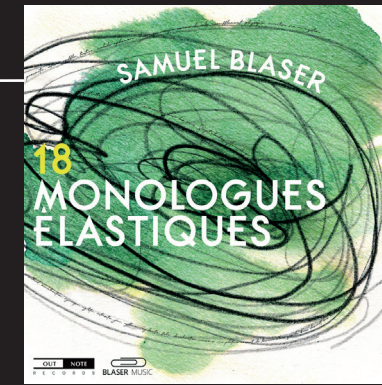
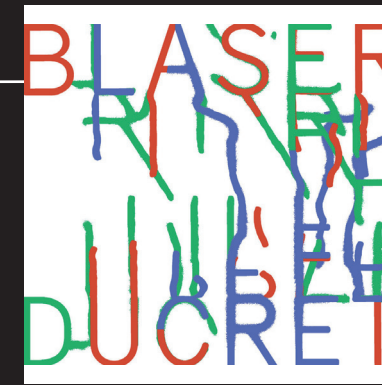
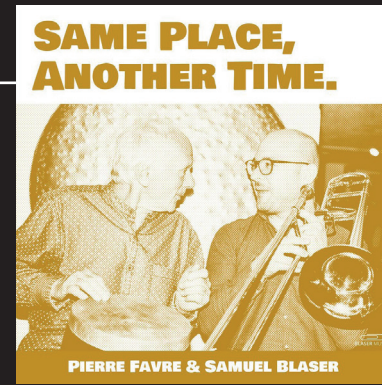
Pieces of Old Sky
Blaser Music, 2009

Solo Bone
Slam Productions, 2009

7th Heaven
Between The Lines, 2008

PUBLICATIONS
18 monologues élastiques
OutNote, 2020

Big Mama Trombone
Little Village/Harmonia Mundi, 2016



PRINCIPAL COMMISSIONED WORKS



Cakewalk (2022)
for trombone, guitar, DJ
Commissioned by the Ensemble Songs
Duration: 30min.
Premiere: June 12th 2022,
La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland

Worksongs (2019)
for female voice and 10 instruments
Commissioned by the KNM Berlin
Duration: 18 min
Premiere: June 1st 2019,
La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland

Nothing Twice (2015-2016)
for 12 instruments
Commissioned by the NEC Ensemble, Switzerland
Duration: 12 min
Premiere: January 30th 2016, Le Locle, Switzerland,
Pierre-Alain Monot (conductor)

Homage (2015)
for trombone
Duration: 2min
Premiere: April 1st 2015, Berlin, Germany

Max & Moritz (2015)
for two singers (soprano, bass),
cello and percussion
Duration: 2min

Dwa (2015)
for two violins
Duration: 5 min

Hommage à Schumann (2014)
for piano
Duration: 5 min
Premiere: August 2014, La Chaux-de-Fonds,
Switzerland

String Quartet in three movements (2014)
for two violins, alto and cello
Duration: 10 min

Glissandino (2013)
for trombone
Duration: 5min
Premiere: April 13th 2013, Berlin, Germany

Cantus Planus (2013)
for piano
Duration: 4 min
Premiere: February 19th 2013, Meudon, FR

L'Océan Primordial (2010-2011)
for eleven instruments and narrator
commissioned by La Conspiration du Syphon,
Switzerland
Duration: 15 min.
Premiere: May 20th 2011, St-Imier, Switzerland,
Philippe Krüttli (conductor)

AWARDS AND HONORS

DOWNBEAT CRITICS POLL, USA
Rising star trombonist, 2021

ACADÉMIE DU JAZZ, FRANCE
Prix du musicien européen, 2019

NEW YORK CITY JAZZ RECORD, USA
Musician of the Year, 2014

JAZZPARADE, SWITZERLAND
"Prix du public" et "coup de Coeur du Jury" awarded by Bob Mintzer, 2006

JAY JAY JOHNSON PRIZE, USA
Honorable mention, 2006

FULBRIGHT GRANT, USA
One-year Study Grant, 2005

ROBERT FALLER PRIZE, SWITZERLAND
Award aimed at encouraging and rewarding a professional student who has convincingly demonstrated and established his own musical style in the course of his studies", 2002

BENNY GOLSON PRIZE, SWITZERLAND
Awarded to the six best Master Class students out of "Generation", 2000.

QUOTES

"An Intrepid"
New York Times

"robust tone and wide-swinging improvisations"
All Music Guide

*"a fantastic musician who's one of the freshest trombone talents
we've heard in years!"*
Dusty Groove

"One of the more deliberate and focused musicians in jazz"
Chicago Reader

*"From Mangelsdorff, Thelin to Rutherford, the European free music scene
has produced some of the most extraordinary trombonists in jazz and
improvised music. Samuel Blaser seems destined to join that line."*
Jazz Journal, UK

"A significant presence in the international jazz scene"
All About Jazz

"Impressive expression and sound"
Jazz Tokyo

ALBUM
AVAILABLE
MAY 12TH
2023

SAMUEL BLASER

ROOTES

SKA, REGGAE, JAZZ

Inspired by the legacy of Don Drummond, trombonist **Samuel Blaser** gathered a gang of greats to create the ultimate Jamaican repertoire. **ROOTES** is the result of their musical camaraderie, anchored in the musical tradition of the island and firmly rooted in jazz.

FEATURING

Samuel Blaser
trombone

Alex Wilson
keys

Ira Coleman
bass

Dion Parson
drums

Carroll Thompson
featured guest
vocals

Soweto Kinch
featured guest
alto sax

LISTEN



"A set that channels the joyous rhythm and haunting melancholy of Jamaican music without pastiche.

Both listeners and dancers are not left wanting."

Jazzwise,
Kevin Le Gendre

Winner of the coveted 2019 European Jazz Award, and the 2021 Downbeat Magazine Critics Poll "Rising Star Trombone", **Samuel Blaser** is Europe's hidden gem.

Whether he's playing Indian Tihi, a Wagnerian opera or been boning for jazz greats like Michel Portal, Pierre Favre, Daniel Humair, Wallace Roney, Gerald Cleaver or Marc Ducret, **Samuel Blaser** with his instrumental mastery and inimitable grace and humor is one of this century's most gifted jazz entertainers.

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