

## Thomas Leleu – Tuba - Biography

Thomas Leleu is the first tuba player to have ever won the award “Revelation Instrumental Soloist of the Year” at the annual French Grammy awards, the Victoires de la musique classique.

At only 31 years of age, Thomas Leleu is considered as the “world star of the tuba” (Europe 1). This iconoclastic artist stands where genres mix: a classical soloist, passionate about world music, modern music and pop... « This absolute tuba genius (La Nouvelle République), acknowledged by his peers, already has an impressive career. In his hands the tuba reveals all its richness, fineness and complexity, a range that may seem endless, where it can finally find a new breath, a new youth. Thomas Leleu is a true prodigy and deploys a surprising musicality and agility, dusting off the traditional image of the tuba. He wants to bring down the barriers that exist between classical and contemporary music ».

He joined the Conservatoire de Paris (the CNSM) at age 17, having won the first prize of the open competition. After a three-year training course he obtained the first prize for tuba and a degree awarded with distinctions. In 2006, he went on an international exchange at the Hochschule für Musik in Detmold (Germany) with Hans Nickel.

Thomas Leleu earned awards in several competitions throughout the world such as in Markneukirchen – Germany, Jeju – South Korea, and Luxembourg. He has been principal tubist with the Marseille Philharmonic Opera since he turned 19. In 2012 Thomas put the tuba in the spotlight by winning the “Revelation Instrumental Soloist of the Year” at the annual French classical music award, the Victoires de la musique classique. In 2017, he is « Stars of tomorrow » on Arte channel in Berlin selected by Rolando Villazon.

Thomas is also regularly invited to perform at festivals and in Concerts Hall around the world with many orchestras such as: Konzerthaus Berlin, Festspiele Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany), Brandenburgische SommerKonzerte (Germany), Mito Festival (Italy), International Festival Kissinger Sommer (Germany), Junge Sinfonie Berlin, Radio France-Occitanie-Montpellier Festival, Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Orchestre National d’Île de France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Marseille, Jeju Symphonic Orchestra (South Korea), Orchestre d’Avignon Provence-OLRAP (France), Orquesta sinfonica de Larà (Venezuela), Sante Fe Symphonic Orchestra (Argentina), Orchestre de la Police Nationale (France), les Flâneries Musicales de Reims, salle Gaveau (Paris), Palais des Congrès of Paris, Eastman School University (USA), New England Conservatory (USA), International Festival of Campinas (Brazil), Linz International Brass Festival (Austria), Pristina International Festival (Kosovo), Grand Théâtre de Provence (Aix en Provence), Maison de Radio France, Théâtre du Châtelet (Paris), Brucknerhaus of Linz... In the following countries : China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, USA, Venezuela, Argentina, Germany, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Belgium, Egypt, Morocco, Kosovo...

Thomas is frequently invited to take part in various radio and tv shows, on France 2 and France 3 (national french TV), Europe 1, Arte Channel, Bayerische Rundfunk (Germany), Paris Première, Radio Classique, France Musique, Kosovo National TV, France Inter, Radio Nacional de Argentina...

In 2015, his album « In the mood for tuba » was released by the Fondamenta / Sony Music. It received a warm welcome by the public and the critics. In 2017, he recorded « Impressions for tuba » composed by André Waignein, with the Royal Orchestra of the Belgian Airforce. His last album « Stories... » was released in 2019 with the label ARS-Produktion with the TL Trio.

Drawn to contemporary music, several composers have dedicated their pieces to him, such as Richard Galliano (creation of the Fables of Tuba, which has received a “Victoire de la Musique Classique” in 2014), Vladimir Cosma, Claude Bolling, J. Ph. Vanbeselaere, André Waignein...

Thomas regularly gives master classes in the most prestigious universities of the world : Hochschule für Musik Hanss Heisler Berlin, Universität der Kunste (Berlin), Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris (CNSM), New England Conservatory in Boston, Tokyo Music College, Osaka Music College, Eastman School of Music of Rochester, Beijing Central Conservatory, Korea National University, El Sistema, and also in New York, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo...

Thomas has founded several unique and unprecedented ensembles with a tuba, such as the Thomas Leleu Sextet (tuba and string quintet) and tubaVScello (tuba and cello), TL Trio (tuba, piano, vibraphone) In 2017 he created the show The Tuba's Trip staged by Claude Tissier (ex Cirque du Soleil), and coproduced by the Opéra de Marseille.

He is since 2011 a “Melton Meinl/Weston Artist – Ambassador Buffet Crampon“. He has developed with the prestigious firm the 2250 TL “ French Touch ” tuba which he is currently playing.