

FELICE CLEMENTE

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Felice Clemente – saxophonist, clarinetist, composer, conductor, band-leader and teacher – was called “the best young Italian saxophonist” by Enzo Siciliano (la Repubblica) and “a talent destined to make jazz history” by Cadence Magazine (USA). Born in Milan in 1974, he grew up with music under the guidance of his grandfather, a clarinet teacher.

Voted among the best saxophonists by Musica Jazz and Jazzit magazines, he is involved in many projects to spread jazz culture. He has made 18 records as leader and co-leader and 16 as sideman. His albums “Nuvole di Carta” and “6:35 AM” received 4 stars from the American magazine DownBeat (November 2011 and June 2015); “Solo” was named among the 10 best jazz records of 2020 by the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik, alongside releases by Kenny Barron, Dave Holland, Wynton Marsalis’s Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and Charlie Porter. In May 2023 he published the book “Clemente, una vita per la musica” (Blonk).

He performs widely in Italy and abroad with musicians such as Gregory Hutchinson, Xavier Davis, Eliot Zigmund, Danny Grissett, Ugonna Okegwo, Jimmy Greene, Quincy Davis, Asaf Sirkis, Yuri Goloubev, Ken Field, Mike Westbrook, Cyro Baptista, Stjepko Gut, Adam Rudolph, Michel Godard, Flavio Boltro, Paolino Dalla Porta, Marco Tamburini, Massimo Moriconi, Paolo Birro, Tino Tracanna, Massimo Colombo, Massimo Manzi, Sandro Gibellini, Bebo Ferra, Stefano Di Battista, Andrea Dulbecco, Ares Tivolazzi, Stefano Bagnoli, Achille Succi, Riccardo Fioravanti, Rudy Migliardi, Massimo Morganti, Antonio Faraò, Ellade Bandini, Roberto Cecchetto, Claudio Fasoli, Tullio De Piscopo, Karima, Sergio Orlandi, Bruno De Filippi, Daniele di Gregorio, Carlo Uboldi, Javier Pérez Forte, Francesco D’Auria, the Montecarlo Night Orchestra and Nick The Nightfly conducted by Gabriele Comelio. He has played 40 times at the Blue Note in Milan, and he has never forgotten his first steps in music, guided by his grandfather and inspired by his uncle, Mino Reitano.

Teaching plays a central role in his work, which has seen him teaching at the CPM Institute in Milan, teaching and conducting Orchestra Felice in Villasanta, and serving as artistic director and conductor of the Unity Music Project in Milan and of OJBM, the jazz orchestra of the province of Monza and Brianza; he founded and led Milan’s Mixiland Jazz Band. He sat on the board of the national association “Il jazz va a scuola”, founded by the Italian Jazz Federation chaired by Paolo Fresu, and has taught in several state schools.