

# Louis Sclavis

## Lost on the way (2009) ECM

“Lost on the Way” marks a new chapter in Louis Sclavis’s eventful journey through music’s borderlands. Regularly referenced as one of the pioneering exponents of a ‘European jazz’, the Lyon-born clarinetist, saxophonist and composer has investigated and explored a broad swathe of music - and other arts - in largely intuitive and non-dogmatic ways. His story is by no means all about jazz: on disc, he’s paid homage to Duke Ellington, but also to Baroque composer Jean-Philippe Rameau, to filmmaker Charles Vanel, to painter/collage artist Ernest Pignon-Ernest. At different times his spirit of inquiry has brought him into the orbit of free improvisers, folk musicians, interpreters of contemporary composition, and more. Sclavis stands out today as one of the players who has found his own clear voice – making international music from a European perspective, inside an ever-changing ensemble sound. Reinvention is a big part of his work, and with each release he redraws the map of his music.



With “Lost on the Way”, Sclavis turns to Homer for his titles, likening his voyage to Ulysses’ long journey home: “This new project was born out of the wish to continue the work begun with the preceding quintet on “L'imparfait des langues” [recorded 2005], and to invent new musics to play and to lose oneself in. Finding by chance, some fragments of memories, and chipping off the new ideas. Discovering like Ulysses new fears and new pleasures on the way. I wanted to travel somewhere unknown, without a plan and to formulate the journey into music, letting myself be blown from Scylla to Charybdis by mastering the winds and waves of return to re-voke a history”. On “L'imparfait des langues” Sclavis had been stimulated by the energy of a new team of young players who brought elements from noise-rock, funk, electronica and free ambient music into the group sound. Of those players, eruptive guitarist Maxime Delpierre has been retained for “Lost on the Way”, as has long-time associate François Merville, whose beats, in this context, are often hammeringly direct.

### Line Up

#### Quintett

Louis Sclavis (cl) | Matthieu Metzger (sax) | Maxime Delpierre (git) | Olivier Lete (b) | François Merville (dr)

#### Trio

Louis Sclavis (cl) | Olivier Lete (b) | Eric Groleau (dr)

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