

ETIENNE MBAPPE

Those who have heard **Etienne Mbappé** live remember three things: one, his amazing technique, two, his rhythmic sense and three, the fact that he plays his bass wearing black silk gloves!



He's considered one of the world's best electric bass players, and he's been called in for both live and studio gigs by artists like **Ray Charles**, who used him on his very last recording in 2001. He played with **Joe Zawinul** from 2000 to 2003 and can be heard on **Faces And Places**.

Etienne has worked a lot with Ray Lema's trio and Nguyễn Lê, toured with **Steps Ahead** from 2007 to 2008 and with **Mayra Andrade** since 2008. And, he is the new bass player of **John McLaughlin's** group **The 4th Dimension** with a new CD and two European tours. Etienne also toured with **Bill Evans** and **Robben Ford** in July 2010.

Just like several other outstanding bass players, Etienne hails from **Cameroon**. He has created a great musical genre of his own, transcending the frontiers between African music and other styles such as funk, fusion, jazz, rock and even classical music. Etienne Mbappé has a long track record behind him since the '80s, where his years with **Salif Keita**, **Manu Dibango** and with **Orchestre National de Jazz (ONJ)** in France under the direction of **Antoine Hervé** are especially worth mentioning. He also formed the two fusion bands of his own, **Ultramarine** and **Chic Hot**. His unique bass playing can be heard on countless CDs.

Etienne's own music constitutes a unique fusion between traditional Cameroonian rhythms such as Makossa, Bolobo, and Sékéle and more modern music. He also sings in the Cameroonian language Douala (all of his own music is vocal) and his voice is smooth and deep. His arrangements as well as solos are on a very high level and this music appeals to both jazz and world music audiences of all ages.