

## VIRGINIE CÔTE - BIOGRAPHY

*Virginie's world is one filled with a rich cultural and musical mix of Jazz, Blues, Latin, Brazilian, African as well as Soul. She has been marked by Broadway musicals, modern jazz, tap dancing, and the legacies of Sarah Vaughan, Duke Ellington, Tom Jobim and Donny Hathaway. She has also been trained by renowned professors in various singing styles and techniques, including classical, jazz, soul, gospel and pop, giving her a solid and well-rounded technique base. This singer is in the prime of her art with her exceptional vocal capabilities and great mastery of improvisation. She has taken part in numerous recordings as soloist, arranger, and chorus singer. Passionate about different cultures, she also sings in several languages, including French, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Soussou (a Guinean dialect).*

### **TO KNOW MORE...**

Cradled throughout her childhood by the sounds of Ella, Duke Ellington, Sarah, Bessie Smith, Oscar Peterson, Nat King Cole, the Nicolas Brothers, Fred Astaire, Judy Garland, Tom Jobim, Joan Gilberto and with a mother who is a painter and musician, there was always dancing, singing and music in the house: jazz, blues, Broadway musicals and the captivating world of Bossa Nova. It is then that Virginie discovers all the standards of jazz and Brazilian music while taking classical, rhythmic and jazz dance. She graduates from high school and then for several years, goes on to study and practice music very seriously, singing, modern jazz and tap dancing, and stage work. She then premieres in numerous dance and musical shows and this is where she really feels at home and learns rhythm and swing! She later joins the Sylvie KAY company which tours with its dance, theatre, song and live music performances (Hervé SELLIN): throughout France : « Les Contes de Banlieues » (Tales From the Inner Cities) (Jérôme SAVARY), "Alice au Pays des Claquettes" (Alice in TapLand), "La Fleur de l'âge » (The Prime of Life) in Sarajevo, Festival d'Avignon, Maison de la Danse, Transbordeur, Biennale de la Danse, Opéra de Lyon. At this same period, she performs in concerts with a French Jazz recital, composed by Isabelle KAUFFMANN and tours in Lyon and Paris in the Dejazet Theatre.

Virginie has been trained by renowned professors in various singing styles and techniques including classical, jazz, and pop, giving her a solid and well-rounded technique base. Dominique RICA (Classical), Marie-Lys LANGLOIS (Pop), Viviane GINAPE (Group work on musicals), Michelle HENDRICKS (Individual workshops on Vocal Jazz and Improvisation). At the same time, she studied scat vocal improvisation, jazz and classical harmony, music theory and choir harmonisation (Conservatory of Lyon, School of Musicology Lyon II, Jean-Louis Billoud (Berklee College of Music), ACV/ENM School of Music Villeurbanne) In the evenings, she performed in the region's prestigious venues like the Hot Club in Lyon with some of the biggest names on the regional scene (Hervé DUCLOS, Philippe DUMAS, Jean-Louis BILLOUD, Christian LIGNAIS, Christian GENTIL, Franck BOUTIN-ALBRAND...) It is her peers who completed her training in the art of harmonies, rhythm and scat. She also joined gospel and classical choirs and spent a great deal of time in the Lyon capoeira and hip-hop circles which exposed her to new sounds and new horizons. She has always approached life through a multi-cultural and diverse perspective, meeting new people and seeking out other cultures. And it is African culture, most particularly, that makes her soul beat in time... Meeting people and human interaction are her greatest journeys and those that are the most enriching. As a citizen of the world, she likes to inspire her singing and repertoires with the fragrances and colours from far-away lands... Tribal, ancestral and soulful is how she defines music.... The soul of the people. To accompany her along the way, her faithful travel companions are: Stevie, Petrucciani, Sarah Vaughan, Nougarró, Brel, Rachelle Ferrell, Sinatra, Benson, India Arie, Take 6, Tonex, Kirk Franklin, Aretha, Donny Hathaway, Lokua Kanza...

At the age of 27, she comes to Paris for castings, jam sessions, concerts... Her friend, Sangoma Everett, welcomes her, introduces her to the Parisian jazz clubs and invites her to jam (notably with Kirk Lightsey, Ella Fitzgerald's pianist!). Then she meets Franck MONBAYLET, a great pianist, violinist and composer, who sets her on the road to writing. This proves to be a magical encounter along her path, a turning point from an artistic and human perspective. They create an original repertoire with which they tour Paris and all of France: theatres, festivals, jazz clubs, and particularly the "Baiser Salé" where Maria RODRIQUEZ opens her door and her trust and supports Virginie's project. A mix of jazz and ethnic influences in French, English, African dialects, Spanish, Portuguese... "I love singing in other languages. It's like a good wine, it has a good taste in your mouth, it tells stories of far-away lands." Another decisive encounter is with Foxy CAMARA, guitar genius in France and Guinea. They travelled the French and

International stages together as their profound and heart-felt collaboration developed. Virginie participated in recording the album "L'Incontournable" where she sang several leads and choruses (some of which she arranged) made up of a subtle mix of traditional Guinean melodies, "sousou" and "mainque" dialects, and jazz, funk and soul music. Foxy's next album will be coming out shortly.

Virginie is continually learning : Vocal techniques with Sophie LAIR, MIROSLAVA (« Speech Level Singing » SETH RIGGS), BLACK MUSIC SCHOOL (Harmony + Soul Improvisation + Chorus + Stage Work + Master Class with Laurence APITHY and Melvin CLAIRAULT), School of Soul, Blues and Gospel, passing on the heritage of African-American culture whose life lessons offer an inestimable richness and speak to the soul. She participates in numerous recordings as soloist and back-up vocalist-arranger. She teaches individual vocal technique (interpretation, improvisation, posture, anatomy, and breathing techniques) as well as groups in a Master Class (Black Music School of Paris). With all these experiences and teachings, she has always been committed to one goal : guaranteeing rare and sincere musical quality! From duo to sextet, she is known today throughout the French and International jazz scene, accompanied by the best musicians, with repertoires as rich as they are varied. She is currently coming out with her new album, "E Ala", and she sings in the musical show "De Paris à Broadway" (From Paris To Broadway).

### **SHE PLAYS WITH**

Franck MONBAYLET - Christian MARTINEZ - Benoit de MESMAY - Dominique BERTRAM - Loïc PONTIEUX - Philippe RENAULT - Nicolas VICCARO - Foxy CAMARA – Frédéric KAKON - Thierry FARRUGIA - Philippe CHAYEB - François LAIZEAU - Claude PIRONNEAU - Raphaël CHASSIN - Thierry CHAUVET – Mike DE LUCA - François CONSTANTIN - Romain BERRODIER – Francesco ROUSSO - Stéphano COLASANTE – Jean René LOURTET - Vincent BOURGEYX – Marc THOMAS - Laurent KATZ - Lars GÜHLCK - Bruno ROUSSELET – Michel JULLIEN – Daniel ROCA – Jean-Louis CARLOTTI - Duylinh NGUYEN – Gilles NICOLAS – Yves NAHON – Hervé SELLIN – Jean-Louis BILLOUD - Hervé DUCLOS - Philippe DUMAS - Christian LIGNAIS - Christian GENTIL - Franck BOUTIN-ALBRAND

### **NATIONAL TOURS**

#### **Paris:**

Théâtre Le Temple - Gibus - Espace Carpeaux - Le TAC - Hôtel de Banville - Cépège Montmartrois - Baiser Salé - 7 Lézards - Duc Des Lombards - Petit Journal Montparnasse – Réservoir - Franc Pinot - Café Universel – Cinéaqua - Charlie Birdy - Théâtre Chaillot - Hôtel Westin Défilé Haute Couture « Eymeric François » - Théâtre de Montmorency - Lutetia - Royal Monceau - Méridien Montparnasse - Concorde Lafayette - Sofitel Dockan's - Georges V - Hôtel du Louvre - Sofitel Massy Palaiseaux - Yachts de Paris - Pullman Bercy - Normandy Hôtel - St James, Cavern' - Bateaux Parisiens - Auditorium Lây Les Roses – Sputnik - Flag Café - Mère Catherine Montmartre - Musée des arts forains – Pavillon d'Armenonville - Théâtre DEJAZET - Carroussel du Louvre – St James - Relais châteaux – Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature – Mama Shelter – Six' Hôtel – Disney – Heineken – Bistrot du Fort Sucey en Brie – Barjot – Hilton Courcelles

#### **Lyon:**

Opéra - Auditorium - Palais des Congrès – 115 - Palais de La Bière - James Grill - Maison de la Danse - Théâtre de Firminy – Transbordeur - Biennale de la Danse – INSA - Hot Club - Palais de la Mutualité – Prisca - Espace Magenta – Baryton - Café Francotte - Caro de Lyon - Brasserie Georges- Rendez-Vous des Gastronomes - Pavés de viande - Abbaye de Collonges – Péniche La Marquise, Jazz Club de la Tour Rose - Théâtre de la Renaissance Oullins – Monplaisir - Chassieu - Meyzieu - Chavanoz

#### **Others:**

St-Tropez L'Octave – Annemasse – Meylan – Vittel – Bellegarde - Centre Culturel Sidney Bechet Grigny – Lyon/Marseille /St Etienne Coupe du monde de football 98 - St Claude – Roanne – Besançon – Viviers Ardèche – Serre Chevalier – Chamonix

#### **Festivals:**

Eaubonne Jazz - St Germain des Près - Jazz en Boucle Sucey en Brie – Valenciennes - Casal - Crest Jazz Vocal - Beauvais - Festival d'Avignon - Festival des Voix de Donzère

## **INTERNATIONAL TOURS**

Dubai – Sarajevo - Arabie Saoudite – Suisse - Tunisie

## **TV-RADIO-PRESS**

Local TV (Paris) - TLM « Air du Temps » - Fréquence Jazz - RCT (Lyon) – Jazzman – Jazz Notes – Figaro – Démocrate Journal Guinéen – Progrès - Annuaire des groupes lyonnais – IRMA - SACEM

## **DISCOGRAPHY**

« E Ala » Virginie Côte  
« Love Impressions » Virginie Côte Jazz Group'  
« Life support machine » Capture  
« Entre Nous » Marianne Moreau  
« L'incontournable » Foxy Camara  
« On oublie vite » Stil' K  
« Mélodies Cosmopolitaines » Bianco Bretin Quartet

## **CREATIONS-RECITALS**

Tribute to Antonio Carlos Jobim, Franck Sinatra  
Cotton Club evening  
Gospel Recital  
Soul & New Soul concerts  
French songs  
International pop  
Blues  
Jazz Standards  
Music of the world  
Guinean music

## **TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

High School Degree in Economics  
University Degrees in Musicology and Art History  
National Conservatory: Vocal Jazz Section  
Musicology University Choir  
Gospel Choir  
Song Workshops of Villeurbanne: Vocal Jazz Technique, Polyphony Jazz, Music Theory, Harmony  
Piano and Saxophone studies  
Dance studies: Modern Jazz, Tap, Classical, Rhythmic  
Scenic and Theatrical work: Sylvie Kay, Alice Kay, Udo Staff  
Vocal Technique: Dominique RICA (Classical), Marie-Lys LANGLOIS (Pop), Viviane GINAPE (Work in groups for musicals), Michelle HENDRICKS (Individual workshops for vocal jazz and improvisation), Sophie LAIR, MIROSLAVA (« Speech Level Singing » SETH RIGGS)  
Jazz Harmony: Jean-Louis Billoud (Berklee School)  
« Scat » Improvisation Technique: Christian Lignais  
Vocal Technique, Harmony, Soul Improvisation, Choir, Theatrical Work: BLACK MUSIC SCHOOL with Laurence APITHY and Melvin CLAIRAULT