"Jean michel is an innovative and beyond brilliant pianist who as spurred a new breed of young adventurous pianist and is a hero to many young musicians. His impact on his students is profound."

Kenny Werner

"Besides being a brilliant pianist and a world class musician Jean-Michel is an outstanding music educator who has become a very important member of our NYU faculty. Many students have told me that he is a great teacher and that they have enjoyed their studies with him. I can highly recommend him for masterclasses and performances at your school."

David Pietro, Music Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at NYU

"For musician students, there is no shortage of inspiration from great performers. Jean-Michel is no exception. However, finding a performer of this level who equally has the ability to impart knowledge, as well as guide and support students is extremely rare. Jean-Michel is a unique exception to this rule. In the short amount of time I've studied with Pilc (3 Lessons, amounting to 4 hours; master-classes, piano workshops, and classes spanning a tremendous range of improvisational topics during a summer program for a few weeks), I have learnt more than in 3 and ½ years of undergraduate study in Australia.

He has an incredible ability to describe something musically which is almost impossible to put into spoken language. He can methodically unpack any musical scenario, whether a live student performance or famous recording, and articulate to students what makes it great, or what is missing; taking 'the guess work' or 'mystery' out of something that can seem so elusive.

Moreover, any instrumentalist can learn from something from Pilc because he teaches 'the musician'. One of his great assets is his ability to listen to any performer and, akin to a doctor, 'diagnose' the issues in their playing and prescribe practical and effective steps for a student to practice. Pilc's explanations are clear, direct, frank and honest – there is no bullshit (an even greater rarity) – and are grounded in logical reason. He dispels musical myths that students may believe when improvising (i.e. play the blues scale). He leaves students in no doubt as to not only what but why they need to work on certain things in order to succeed to the next level in their playing. People listen, because they know its immensely valuable.

The most important quality in any educator is that they respect and support the student. Pilc's humility and empathy helps students feel that he understands where they're coming from — all the trials, tribulations and frustrations that come with working to be an artist. He is nothing but caring and encouraging. He dedicates himself as best as he can to help problem solve with the student. He is a fountain of knowledge over a wealth of topics, and no matter which one he's talking about, its spoken about in a very humanistic way. He shows students how to emotionally engage with music. He shows you how to really get the nuances out of a recording

when transcribing – understand how Bud Powell's expression differs from Monk, or Evans. I've been able to learn so much from recordings, and play along with my idols; something I never believed I could do. He is passionate about helping musicians become informed, well-rounded, regardless of whatever path they ultimately choose to take. I've only spent time with Pilc on two occasions, and when I saw him a few months ago (after a year) it felt like there had been no gap.

In my most recent meeting with Pilc the crux of our lesson centered around this theme: "You don't need a 'teacher' any more. You need to discover who you are". This epitomizes Pilc: he plants the seeds for the artist to grow. He doesn't tell the plant how to grow, nor force it. Teachers can really only help students upto a point, and after that, it is really up to us. Pilc teaches students to teach themselves. His messages have an everlasting affect in students, which I've understood on a deeper level the more I inquire into it. He has completely changed the way I listen, emotionally engage, practice, think and inevitably, PLAY music. Thanks to Pilc, I'm working as hard as ever, I'm as inspired as I've ever, I have belief in myself to give this a real crack. I cannot wait to get back to NYC to see him again.

Nicholas Marks, Australia, private student (piano)

"Pianist Jean Michel PILC teaches music and improvisation with the same inspiration, depth, and energy as when he performs throughout the world. Jean Michel challenges his students to seek unexplored pathsand grow tremendously both as artists and as musicians. For anybody who wants to know more about jazz and improvisation, and who also wants to further develop his or her own musical voice, I highly recommend studying with this unique and inspirational musician."

Cedric Hanriot, private student, Berklee School of Music, Fulbright recipient www.cedrichanriotmusic.com"

"Studying with pianist Jean-Michel has been an incredible opportunity. He is an innovative and virtuosic player and he has an equal talent for teaching. He can instantly pinpoint weaknesses and devise ways to conquer them, all while keeping the environment fun and inspiring. He is a truly a master as a musician and he is also kind and compassionate as a human being; someone we can learn a lot from." - Andrew Freedman, New School student (piano)

I've been studying with a lot of teachers during the course of my jazz studies. Some of them were really good, but when I managed to choose Mr. Pilc as my private instructor, I realized what a real jazz mentor really is. After only few lessons with him, I felt like I was reborn musically. He opened my eyes, and somehow made me to fall in love with music again, after so many years of studying it and playing it. I started to realize all the hidden problems I had in my playing as he pointed them out and that was a true revelation for me. Not only that Mr. Pilc is a real grandmaster of jazz piano, but I'd say that he is one of few hugely gifted jazz educators who has a special talent for approaching each and every student individually and solve their musical issues in the most appropriate way in order to make them better musicians than they were before. Dimitrije Vasiljevic, Berklee School of Music, NYU student (piano)

""I was looking forward to studying with Jean-Michel from the moment I started at NYU, and my lessons with him were just as great as I imagined they would be. Working with him was an essential part of my development as a player, and I'm confident that I would be nowhere close to where I am today, if I had not been able to study with Jean-Michel. He is an inspiring teacher, musician and person." - Isamu McGregor, NYU student (piano)

"Jean-Michel brings with him so much experience and knowledge of jazz it is hard not to become a better musician with him as a your teacher. Jean-Michel Pilc was one of my all time greatest teachers, he was critical and honest yet extremely caring and passionate. There are many great players who teach but not many great players who are great teachers. Jean-Michel is both a world class artist and and a world class educator. He brings the best out of every student, he can do what very few teachers can do... inspire. Jean-Michel not only inspired me to work hard to be a better jazz musician but a better human being as well. I would not be where I am today if I did not have him as a teacher." - Joe Beaty, NYU student

"Studying with Jean-Michael Pilc was a wonderful and enriching experience on many levels. Jean- Michel pointed out in my playing things that I really needed to improve. As any great teacher should do Jean-Michel did not try to impose his method on me but reacted to my needs and to my personality to help me develop a method of my own. Jean-Michel really loves and understands music and passed his passion along to me with joy and conviction fostering and atmosphere of hard-work and mutual respect between the teacher and the student. Those lessons I had with him will stay in my mind for a long time. " - Michael Valeanu, New School student (guitar)

"The process of learning improvisation rapidly speeds up when studying with Jean Michel Pilc. His students succeed in overcoming their individual musical challenges." - Abe Ovadia, NYU student (guitar)

"Jean-Michel Pilc taught the whole of music to me...He expanded my musical horizons and allowed me to find my way..." - Steve Blanco, private student (piano)

"Jean-Michel's innovative approach to music is conveyed honestly and directly through his teaching, making him one of the most effective educators I've encountered." - Glenn Zaleski, NYU student (piano)

"Jean-Michel Pilc's lessons were truly an eye-opener for me; he made me approach the piano as an arranger and orchestrator, rather than a jazz piano student, which really opened up my playing, and above all, made me enjoy playing the instrument so much more." - Jorn Swart, private student from NL (piano)

"Jean-Michel Pilc is one of the most honest, passionate, and helpfull educators I've ever had the opportunity to work with." - Nathaniel Center, NYU student (trumpet)

"Studying with Jean-Michel was a watershed moment in my musical development. He

opened me up creatively, and helped me to rethink what I knew about harmony, melody, and working with other musicians. I now work as a composer and saxophonist in China. Jean-Michel gave me many of the creative tools I rely on every day." - Murray James Morrison, NYU student (saxophone)

"Mr Jean-Michel Pilc is the ultimate musician: a perfect balance between knowledge and intuition, wisdom and passion. Adding to that, he's a wonderful human being who always teaches and plays with the exact same commitment to honesty and truth. Because of all those amazing characteristics I can say that all music departments should have a Jean-Michel Pilc as a member of their faculty." - Renato Diz De Sousa, NYU student (piano)

"Jean Michel is one of the most unique teachers I've ever met. Whereas most teachers that I've encountered try to push "their thing" on me, telling me what is good and what is bad (not letting me decide on my own) Jean-Michel is a breath of fresh air from that. Besides teaching me, I've seen him interact with other students and I've noticed that with all of them Jean-Michel embraces that with which the student is already interested in and move forward from there. Instead of forcing "his thing" on us, it is apparent that "his thing" is indeed everything and he is comfortable and good at teaching it all. I once read a quote of Herbie Hancock that said, "A great teacher is one who realizes that he himself is also a student and whose goal is not dictate the answers, but to stimulate his students creativity enough so that they go out an find the answers themselves." In a nutshell, that is Jean-Michel." - Joe Alterman, NYU student (piano)

"Jean-Michel Pilc is one of the best educators I have ever been around for two simple reasons. Jean-Michel is the one of the premier musicians in the world and he is thoughtfully honest. A blend few musicians in the world will offer." - John Beaty, NYU student.

"The lessons of Jean Michel Pilc have been very inspiring and useful in my piano study over the last years. Not only he can explain very clearly and detailed what he wants to teach, he also looks very well at the student in order to see what he or she needs and in what way that can be taught in the most efficient way. That way the teaching is unlike many experiences I had during previous eduction, where the focus was mainly on the skill of piano playing. Jean-Michel really aims at the artistic and musical outcome and for me this approach has proven to be very valuable. I would highly recommend him as a teacher for all instrumentalists." - Tony Roe, private student from NL

"Jean-Michel was able to immediately pinpoint what was holding me back musically. He pointed me in the right direction with his teaching, and even after just an hour long lesson my playing had improved! He is friendly and open and clearly loves and has a deep respect for the art of music; it comes out in his playing and teaching. I'm already planning my next trip back to New York (from Australia!) to study further with Jean-Michel." - Sam Izzo, private student from Australia