



benfay's biography

written by benjamin fay

benjamin fay grew up in the swiss town of olten, where he received an education in itself from listening to the freejazz records that his father owned. aged 19, he decided to study the double bass at the college of music in berne. in 1999 he met various artists who introduced him to a large variety of electronic music. the realisation that, through electronic means, he could bend and shape music in any way he chose, had him fascinated. particularly as a live act, benjamin has attained a very good reputation and has performed in switzerland's largest clubs, such as the "rohstofflager" and the "tonimolkerei" in zürich, as well as the "reithalle" in bern where he was resident dj and the creative mind behind the popular "future sounds of jazz" series. as a live act, benjamin releases a shine in the sparse light of the clubs and makes use of minimalism or surprise-infused electro influences. benfay also turns his hand to dj-ing as one of the pioneers in the field and is a native instruments beta tester; he mixes on the fly with the use of the mp3 mixer "traktor" and "final scratch" and amongst a broad range of his personal favourite club tunes, he also plays his own productions. as a dj, benfay plays not only minimal sets designed to make one dance, but also challenging ambient music. after a very intense electronic-orientated phase, at present, benfay increasingly works with sounds via his acoustic double bass. in his music, a central role is played out via the merging of electronic, live performance and literary elements. he works regularly with the writer jürg halter; the rapper kutti mc, together with the saxophonist jan brönnimann he interprets love songs from many eras of western music, filtered through his computer, and la pluie is a popsong-orientated project that he realises with padee, who is the producer of morphologue. dj mastra and benfay, with the aid of self-made, i.e. modified electronic and acoustic instruments, dedicate themselves to minimal club-orientated tracks. benfay has released his music, amongst others, on the following labels: archipel, stattmusik, muverec, thinner, monolog recordings and tuning spork.