



Christophe Zoogonès - ZOOLOGY

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Lespas Culturel Leconte de Lisle - Saint Paul (Réunion)

A collective "playing" of high level, original, and exceptional, which leaves a beautiful space for the talents of improvisers of musicians around a particularly volcanic alchemical interaction.

with :

Christophe Zoogonès : flute, ewi
 Jerry Leonide : piano
 Hadrien Feraud : bass
 Yoann Schmidt : drums

Born in reunion island, the flutist and composer Christophe Zoogonès since his childhood has always been inspired by the gospel as he was singing at church, as well as listening to the jazz rock of the headhunter or weather report, but also the entire Jazz world when he was studying at the CIM and later at the Paris Conservatory (CRR) but most of all "Maloya" the rhythm from reunion island that claims creolity. In 2015 he released his first album "Kind of Zoo" recorded in reunion island, a relevant fusion between Maloya and Jazz Rock. Five years later Christophe Zoogonès presents his new opus called "Zoology" , the orchestration is still the same to the previous album: a quartet composed by flute, piano, electric bass and drums with a different team proposing a music that evolves into new horizons. Therefore the compositions of "Zoology" moves away from a spicy flavors of Maloya to enter deeply in a jazz fusion daring and technically demanding but always accessible, playful and joyful.

By combining the aerial melodies of his flute, with the harmonic richness of the piano playing of Mauritian Jerry Leonide, as well as the rich and powerful groove of the rhythmic pair : Hadrien Feraud/Yoann Schmidt, Zoogonès, like a painter, explores a palette of sounds and colors that imbues his album with a strong identity. With these talented and seasoned musicians who form a true group, coherent and tight-knit, with an identifiable sound, where everyone brings his compositions, "Zoology" proposes the best possible definition of jazz. A collective "playing" of high level, original, and exceptional, which leaves a beautiful space for the talents of improvisers of musicians around a particularly volcanic alchemical interaction.

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If the nine compositions, which are still very inspired, seduce us with their melodic, harmonic and rhythmic charm, it is only the beginning of seduction, because the moments of improvisation (where musicians are letting themselves out," and explore their own universe in the service of the collective, always falling back on their feet), give us an intense pleasure that continues to live through the pieces. The album was recorded at the Studio Recall at Pompignan under the leader of the talented sound engineer Philippe Gaillot who wrapped this volcanic and organic music with a voluptuous sound that shines from a thousand colored flares. A record published on the Ilona Records label of the benevolent friend Thierry Maillard, for let us not forget that Christophe Zoogones is part of Thierry Maillard's Big Band! Thierry also offers a very beautiful composition of his raw to Christophe, a theme of the calmed climate, of great sensitivity, Monument Valley, to the particularly pregnant emotional power. The album begins with Portrait Of Marvyn, in homage to Marvyn Zoogonès, Christophe's young son. The flute theme suggests Celtic accents, while hybrid rhythms between Séga and Maloya are developed. As the title suggests, Unusual Appearance provokes in the listener something unusual where we hear a rhythmic intro worthy of the Headhunters that serves as support for the aerial theme played on the flute, then following the various solos (electric piano and flute) the rhythm will fork into a game more rooted in the swing tradition before returning to the initial groove and then oscillating between the two. The eponymous title Zoology is certainly the title of the album with an energetic groove that invites to dance and where we can feel a very beautiful complicity around a dialogue between the piano of Jerry Léonide and the flute of Christophe Zoogonès. The piano is absent from the Intro of Off Road where we are caught in a whirlwind of drums and bass and flute, then a luminous theme develops with the arrival of the piano on a syncopated rhythm that evokes the rhythms of Reunion. Ride With Jolly is a composition by pianist Jerry Léonide, the piece evolves like a film score through various plots and adventures. While Johnny Mac is a composition by bassist Hadrien Feraud in tribute to guitarist John McLaughlin with whom he had the honor of playing! Drummer Yoann Schmidt also brings a composition: First Step, with a sophisticated harmonic language and an increasingly intense groove that explodes around a mini drum solo. Finally, the album concludes with a gospel song, an important music for Christophe, where he invites his cousin Daniella Zoogonès for a beautiful interpretation of a psalm where The flute playing of Christophe adopts particularly blues colors.

www.christophezoogones.com



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