

BACH'S GROOVE

PAUL LAY TRIO

Tibute to Johann Sebastian Bach
in trio with Clemens van der Feen (double bass) and Donald Kontomanou (drums)



© François Passerini



Watch on YouTube

Excerpts from the concert at Festival Piano en Valois, 2021
Film broadcasted on Qwest TV – Quincy Jones'Channel

CONTACTS

General Management

Diane du Saillant

+33 (0)1 42 81 38 21

agencedianedusaillant@gmail.com

Jazz venues (France)

VIF Tour Fanny Prevet

Tel: +33 (0)6 09 02 70 13

fanny@vif-tours.com

paul-lay.com



BACH'S GROOVE

is a vibrant tribute to the father of music, whose compositions, considered the most rhythmic of all, has inspired many jazz musicians. Revisiting familiar works by the Master - Preludes and Fugues, two luminous chorales including Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Paul Lay, in trio with Clemens van der Feen (double bass) and Donald Kontomanou (drums), composes a new score, which includes Oscar Peterson's astonishing Bach Suite, a piece rarely performed in concert.

Influenced by legendary figures in the history of jazz, such as Miles Davis, known for its remarkable expressions of silent emotions and feelings (here is a reference to Bag's groove), Paul Lay creates atmospheres, full of colour and contrast, with an innate sense of swing and groove that has characterised him so far.

PAUL LAY IS ONE OF THOSE RARE MUSICIANS ONE CAN ABSOLUTELY RELY ON. AS CONVINCING IN HIS JAZZ PILGRIMAGES AS WITH THE MUSIC OF BEETHOVEN, BACH AND BILL EVANS, HE IS A PIANIST OF CONSISTENTLY GOOD TASTE AND LIMITLESS IMAGINATION.

TÉLÉRAMA



Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude in B flat major No. 21
Prelude in G minor No. 16

Oscar Peterson

Bach Suite

Paul Lay

Blues

Johann Sebastian Bach

« Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring » Cantata BWV 147

Johann Sebastian Bach

Erbarme dich, from St. Matthew Passion

Paul lay

Bach's groove

Johann Sebastian Bach

Musette in D major BWV Anh. 126

CALENDAR

UPCOMING TOUR DATES

Saint-Maurice (FRANCE)	05.04.2025
BachFest Leipzig (GERMANY)	15.06.2025
Festival Bach Montréal (CANADA)	26.11 - 8.12.2025

PAST TOUR DATES

La Folle Journée Nantes (premiere)	05.06.2021
Scène national d'Angoulême	15.10.2021
Le Bal Blomet Paris	06.01.2022
Le Mans Jazz Festival	02.06.2022
Festival de Sully Sully-sur-Loire	03.06.2022
Festival Tons Voisins Albi	09.06.2022
Les Pianissimes Lyon	19.06.2022
La Scala Paris	29.06.2022
Festival Intemporel.les Argenton-sur-Creuse	29.07.2022
Festival International de Menton	12.08.2022
La Fabrique à Concert Saint-Malo	10.12.2022
Jazz Club Dunkerque	18.03.2023
Festival de Froville	03.06.2023
Andernos Jazz Festival	29.07.2023
Festival International de La Roque d'Anthéron	05.08.2023
Centre européen de Conques	10.08.2023
Festival de la Vézère	12.08.2023
Festival de La Chaise-Dieu	27.08.2023
Abbaye de Fontevraud	28.03.2024
Festival de Six-Four	06.07.2024

PAUL LAY TRIUMPHANTLY CELEBRATES THE BAROQUE GIANT.

COULEURS JAZZ

Unanimously known as «one of the greatest jazz pianists of his generation» (Le Monde), Paul Lay received the most prestigious awards such as Grand prix de l'Académie Charles Cros in 2014 for his album « Mikado », for which he composed all the tracks and which established him on the international stage as a creator. «Instrumental artist» at the Victoires du Jazz in 2020, Paul Lay has won awards at the most prestigious competitions: Soloist Award at the Concours de la Défense, Moscow Piano-Jazz Competition, Martial Solal Competition and Django Reinhardt Award. His talents as a composer enable him to carry out various projects in his own name, not only as a soloist, but also as a duo, trio, with choir or symphony orchestra.

After studying at Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris, Paul Lay releases his first recording in 2010, **Unveiling** which is highly acclaimed by the critics.

Paul regularly collaborates with new people to create original formats. In 2015 he premieres «Billie Holiday, passionément», a video and musical performance with video maker Olivier Garouste. This performance is given in numerous venues around the globe.

As a sought-after sideman, Paul performs with Riccardo Del Fra, Géraldine Laurent, Eric Le Lann and Ping Machine.

In 2017 his double album **The Party** is released (with Dre Pallemmaerts and Clemens Van der Feen) as well as **Alcazar Memories** (with Isabel Sörling and Simon Tailleu). These very original trios enabled them to perform around the world and give more than 70 concerts.

At the end of 2018, Paul releases «**Thanks a Million**», a duo with Eric le Lann in a stirring tribute to Louis Armstrong. It is largely acclaimed by the press and the audience.

Regularly invited abroad, Paul Lay performs in New York, Toronto, Berlin, Warsaw. He regularly tours Germany, Russia, Peru, Mexico, Dominican Republic, China and Japan.

Paul also benefits from many sponsorship programs that make him an official representative of French jazz. He performed with Barbara Hendricks at the UNESCO International Jazz Day, during the Marseille European Capital of Culture events in 2013, for The Bridge 2017 with the Mission for the 100th anniversary of WWI.

After 10 years of collaboration with Laborie Jazz label and 4 releases, **Deep Rivers** was released in 2020 to great critical acclaim. The trio performs about fifty concerts in 2020-2021.

In June 2021, Paul released his first piano solo album with Gazebo label: **Full Solo**, dedicated to original and unique interpretations of Beethoven. The press is enthusiastic and the album reaches the top of Fnac sales in Jazz/Blues category in September 2021.

After his album «**Blue in Green: Tribute to Bill Evans**», released in 2022 with Scala Music label, Paul has just released a new trio album, «**L'Odysée**» with Gazebo label. Freely inspired by Homer's Odyssey, this album confirms Paul Lay's vocation as a composer.

Lately, composition commissions have increased significantly.

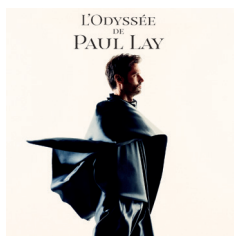
In 2024, several projects have come to light : the soundtrack for Mark Gill's film Ravens, presented at the Austin Film Festival (Texas), a program for choir and jazz trio entitled « Waves of light » (with chamber choir « Les Éléments »), the first performances of Paul Lay's symphonic version of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, with Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg conducted by Wayne Marshall.

In September 2022, Paul Lay is appointed professor of jazz piano at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris.

**EXCELLENT HARMONIC IMAGINATION,
DIVERSE PLAYING, MOST INTERESTING
COMPOSITIONS, AND OBVIOUS
KNOWLEDGE OF JAZZ HISTORY
AS WELL AS A PERSONAL VOICE:
PAUL LAY HAS GOT EVERYTHING IT TAKES
TO GO RIGHT TO THE TOP AND MAKE A
LASTING CAREER.**

MARTIAL SOLAL

RECORDINGS PRESS REVIEW



L'ODYSSÉE - GAZEBO - 2024



Unique in many respects, this album of original compositions carries us away with its richness and joyful gravity. France Musique
The three musicians carry Homer's epic journey in a musical lyricism that is by turns soothing, vibrant or over-the-top. A magnificent record! TSF Jazz



BLUE IN GREEN: TRIBUTE TO BILL EVANS - SCALA MUSIC - 2022



Paul Lay is one of those rare musicians one can absolutely rely on. As convincing in his jazz pilgrimages (Vagabonds) as with the music of Beethoven (Full Solo), Bach and Bill Evans (the Blue in Green album to be released next month), he is a pianist of consistently good taste and limitless imagination. Télérama



FULL SOLO - LABEL GAZEBO - 2021



An unbelievable grace, a fascinating record. Télérama
There are not many jazz pianists who take on the standards of the « classical music» with such subtlety, intelligence, dry humour and accuracy. L'Obs



DEEP RIVERS - LABORIE JAZZ - 2020



Masterpiece, a dazzling suite. Le Monde
Pianist and magician who must absolutely be followed... France Inter
An intelligent and beautifully performed music that goes straight to the heart. Jazz Magazine



THANKS A MILLION - GAZEBO - 2018



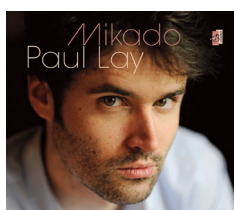
The trumpeter Eric Le Lann and the pianist Paul Lay celebrate the art of Louis Armstrong with a rare elegance. FIP
When beauty, elegance and mastery meet, one can hope for an album of high quality. In this respect, Thanks a million fulfills our hopes. Télérama



ALCAZAR MEMORIES - LABORIE JAZZ - 2017
THE PARTY - LABORIE JAZZ - 2017



Paul Lay has released two albums simultaneously, «Alcazar Memories» and «The Party». The first one, the result of a project created in Marseille, reveals a fascinating singer, Isabel Sörling. The second, which takes the title of the Blake Edwards' movie, plunges us into a festive evening... These two records are true jewels. France Info



MIKADO - LABORIE JAZZ - 2014



With Mikado, Paul Lay confirms his position as a leading pianist and composer of the young generation of European jazz. France Musique



UNVEILING - LABORIE JAZZ - 2010



Paul Lay isn't just a brilliant pianist, he is a brilliant musician who shows great knowledge of the history of music. A revelation. Citizen Jazz

CLEMENS VAN DER FEEN DOUBLE BASS

Clemens (1980) studied jazz and classical bass at the Conservatories of Amsterdam and Detmold (Germany) and received his Master Degree in both fields with honors. After playing with orchestras like the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, his main focus returned to jazz and improvised music. Returning to settle in the Netherlands after a short period in New York, he grew out to be one of the most sought-after bass players around. Clemens released two instrumental jazz albums with original music and in 2022 he released a singer-songwriter album called 'Pop into Being' under the name Clemens Zebulon. Clemens is currently working with Tutu Puoane (SA), the Paul Lay Trio (FR), Harmen Fraanje Trio (NL), Robin Verheyen (BE) and Fred Hersch (US) among others. In 2021, Clemens was invited to play in the Brad Mehldau Quartet at the Transmission-Transition Festival. Clemens has performed with many other great musicians such as the late Toots Thielemans, Jesse van Ruller, Tony Malaby, Pablo Held, Chris Potter, Nelson Veras, Becca Stevens, Jorge Rossy, Ben Monder and Billy Hart. Clemens has been playing all over the world, from jazz clubs in Paris and Tokyo to the Musikverein in Vienna and Carnegie Hall in New York. Clemens plays on a double bass by Daniël Royé from the collection of the NMF.

DONALD KONTOMANOU DRUMS

Born into a family of musicians, Donald Kontomanou began playing drums at the age of 12. He emigrated to New York three years later and trained with many talented musicians: he played in J-D Allen's band, Duane Eubanks' quintet, Alex Harding's quartet, with Jean-Michel Pilc, saxophonist Greg Tardy, Sam Newsome, Stéphane Belmondo.

He then spent a year in India to learn the tabla technique, before moving to Paris in 2002. He recorded several albums with the singer Elisabeth Kontomanou: «Back To My Groove», «Siren Song», «Waiting For Spring» with John Scofield. He performs with Vincent Bourjeyx, Rick Margitza, Jean-Michel Pilc, Sophie Alour, Bruce Barth, Jérôme Sabbagh and plays in the bands of Leïla Olivesi, Gamblain Jazze Laurent De Wilde Sextet, Laurent De Wilde trio, Elisabeth Kontomanou, Laurent Coq and Julien Lourau, David Linx, Éric Lelann, Yonathan Avishai, Géraldine Laurent.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

Diane du Saillant
+33 (0)1 42 81 38 21
agencedianedusailant@gmail.com