

# FULL SOLO

PAUL LAY



Watch on YouTube

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## FULL SOLO

Paul Lay belongs to this generation of musical phenomenons who grew up with one foot in classical music, the other in jazz, and understands the soul of both traditions. [...]

He started working on a Beethoven repertoire to celebrate his 250th birthday, at René Martin's request for the 2020 edition of the Folles Journées de Nantes. He concentrated on a few universal melodies, such as the Moonlight Sonata, For Elise, Ode to Joy or his Symphony No.9, but also on his own compositions inspired by Beethoven's music and the places where he had lived: Vienna, Heiligenstadt...

It can be very risky to tackle such a repertoire, and that's where being a superhero makes all the difference. With amazing technical skills and ideas – and a true appetite for risk – Paul charges head on into the unforgettable tunes and appropriates the theme with the utter coolness of a jazzman playing great standards, revealing in the Viennese composer's work a stellar melodist who begs to be played and reinvented, without losing its timeless modernity. "

– From the booklet by Laurent de Wilde

1. *Thème et variations*
2. *In Vienna - Portrait*
3. *Hymne à la joie*
4. *In Vienna - Blues*
5. *Sonate au clair de lune*
6. *Symphonie n°7*
7. *Lettre à Elise*
8. *In Vienna - Water drops*
9. *Lied*
10. *Des sourires et des ombres*
11. *In Vienna - Heiligenstadt*
12. *Bagatelle*





RELEASED ON 25/06/2021 - GAZEBO

***An alluringly graceful and spellbinding record.***

Louis-Julien Nikolaou (Télérama)

***An enticing and top-notch challenge met with flying colours!***

Ludovic Florin (Jazz Magazine)

***This solo work confirms that he belongs at the table  
with today's blue-chip piano players.***

Bruno Guermonprez (Jazz News)

***Paul Lay belongs to that new breed of pianists (...) He covers Beethoven's music  
and manages to make it swing.***

Alex Jaffray (Télématin, France 2)

" This opportunity to create for La Folle Journée de Nantes allowed me to delve into Beethoven's work. I listened to, deciphered and analysed numerous works. What struck me most was the power of the forms. Each piece 'holds together' masterfully. The difficulty of this project lay in finding the right balance, the right distance between the beauty, the perfection of these pieces and the new spaces created by my improvisations without the whole piece collapsing.

I wanted to develop new forms on the piano based on some of Beethoven's most important works while keeping the spirit of the composer: rhythm, melodies, breaks, silence and above all: Mystery.

I also travelled to Vienna for a short time to be inspired by the city where Beethoven lived for a long time. It was there that I composed the other tracks of the album. Each track refers to a mood, an emotion that occurred during my wanderings. "

– Paul Lay

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 (with Simon Tailleu and Elie Duris) 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 including Paris Philharmonie, La Roque d'Anthéron Festival and French May Festival in Hong Kong among others.

Paul becomes a sought-after sideman and 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. Paul also receives support of the Centre Culturel de Rencontres les Dominicains de Haute-Alsace, where he has regularly been invited as artist in residence since 2015.

Since 2018, BNP Paribas Foundation has been supporting him for his career development.

After 10 years of collaboration with Laborie Jazz label and 4 releases (Unveiling 2010, Mikado 2014, The Party and Alcazar Memories 2017), Deep Rivers was released in 2020 to great critical acclaim. The trio performs about fifty concerts in 2020-2021. «Masterpiece, dazzling suite» Le Monde; «Definitely a pianist and magician to follow...» France Inter.

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.

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

In December 2022 Paul Lay releases his brand new opus Blue in Green in tribute to Bill Evans. Recorded live at La Piccola Scala in February 2022, Blue in Green is the first jazz album to be released on the Scala Music label, already a favorite at Fnac cd stores.

**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



## 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



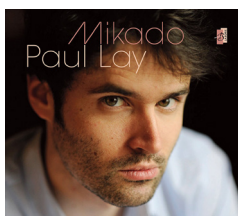
The trumpeter Eric Le Lann and the pianist Paul Lay celebrate the art of Louis Armstrong with a rare elegance. *FIP*  
When beauty, elegance and mastery meet, one can hope for an album of high quality. In this respect, *Thanks a million* fulfills our hopes. *Télérama*



## 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*

**BOOKING ET MANAGEMENT**

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