**PAUL LAY**

*Paul Lay is the most brilliant jazz pianist of his generation.* Francis Marmande, Le Monde

**IN OCTOBER 2020, PAUL LAY IS AWARDED « INSTRUMENTAL ARTIST » OF THE YEAR BY VICTOIRES DU JAZZ.**

After studying at Paris Conservatoire National Supérieur, Paul Lay releases his first recording in 2010, *Unveiling* (with Simon Tailleu and Elie Duris), to great critical acclaim.

He has won numerous prizes both in national and international competitions : soloist prize at the National Jazz Competition of La Defense, International Piano Jazz Competition of Moscow, Martial Solal International Piano Jazz Competition, Montreux International Piano Jazz Competition, Charles Cros Academy Prize for his second cd release *Mikado* and Django Reinhardt Prize by the French Jazz Academy.

Paul regularly makes new collaborations with new and 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 Pallemaerts and Clemens Van der Feen) and *Alcazar Memories* (with Isabel Sörling and Simon Tailleu). These two very original trios will 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 the WWI. Paul also receives the 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 supported him for the development of his career.

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 with great critical acclaim.

**IN 2014, PAUL LAY WON THE PRESTIGIOUS CHARLES CROS ACADEMY PRIZE FOR *THE BEST INTERNATIONAL JAZZ ALBUM OF THE YEAR* WITH HIS ALBUM MIKADO.**

**IN 2016, PAUL LAY RECEIVED THE *« DJANGO REINHARDT » PRIZE* FOR THE*BEST FRENCH JAZZ MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR* BY THE FRENCH JAZZ ACADEMY.
HE WAS ALSO ELECTED *BEST YOUNG FRENCH JAZZ TALENT OF THE YEAR* BY A POLL OF CRITICS PRODUCED BY JAZZ MAGAZINE.**