

PAUL LAY Biography



“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.

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.

IN 2016, HE WAS ALSO ELECTED BEST YOUNG FRENCH JAZZ TALENT OF THE YEAR BY A POLL OF CRITICS PRODUCED BY JAZZ MAGAZINE.

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

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 collaborates with new people to create 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 Pallemmaerts and Clemens Van der Feen) and ***Alcazar Memories*** (with Isabel Sörling and Simon Tailleu). These very original two 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 in 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 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 for about fifty concerts in 2020-2021. « *Masterpiece, dazzling suite* ». Le Monde; « *Pianist and magician who must absolutely be followed...* » France Inter

In June 2021, Paul released his first piano solo album: "**Full Solo**", devoted to original and singular interpretations of Beethoven. The album is very enthusiastically received and reaches the top of Fnac sales in Jazz/Blues category in September 2021.

FULL SOLO

france musique CHOC Jazz un événement ffff Télérama INDISPENSABLE JAZZ NEWS élu citizen jazz

An enticing and top-notch challenge met with flying colours !
(Ludovic Florin / Jazz Magazine)

That good old Ludwig eventually swings more than ever !
(FNAC / Selection 10 jazz-classical albums)

An alluringly graceful and spellbinding album !
(Louis-Julien Nicolaou / Télérama)

This solo work confirms that he belongs at the table with today's blue-chip piano players.
(Bruno Guernonprez / 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)

*You wondered whether Ludwig could swing ?
The answer is 'Yes' ! An ecstatic and rollicking record.*
(Paris Jazz Club / Sélection album)