



LAURENT COULONDRE BIOGRAPHY

Laurent Coulondre was born in Nîmes (France) in 1989. At 4 years old, he began music playing drums and soon acquired a sense of rhythm that will never leave him. A few years later he definitely took up playing the piano.

When Laurent turned 9, he discovered jazz with the pianist Stéphane Kochoyan and performed with the local big band opening for big names such as Marcus Miller, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Al Jarreau or Michel Legrand.

In 2010, he graduated from the National Conservatory of Toulouse with a Jazz DEM and became a bachelor in Musicology at Toulouse University. During these years of training, he made an Erasmus stay in Spain where he studied at the Superior Conservatory of Catalonia and developed a passion for organ playing over there. He also deepened his experience with the Jazz in Marciac Orchestra. Laurent recorded his first album « **Opus I** » and launched himself with his trio on the road of music competitions. He is a Soloist First Prize and Winner of the Didier Lockwood European Contest, Winner of the Jazz in Castello and Jazz en Baie Competition. The same year he discovered and experienced the life of Parisian jazzmen and recorded in 2013 his second album « **Opus II** ». Gradually recognized by the jazz community, he was called upon to play and record as a sideman with musicians such as Paul Jackson, Nicolas Folmer, Sylvain Beuf, Stéphane Huchard, Pierre de Bethmann...

In 2014 he embarked on a new recording project, developing a new and original concept of reversible trio in which he presents himself performing at the piano as well as the organ. The trio won the National Jazz à la Defense Competition. In addition, Laurent was voted Spedidam Generation Artist, Adami Jazz Talent and also Sacem Prizewinner. That same year, the album « **Schizophrenia** » was released on Sound Surveyor, which propelled the trio on the stages of major jazz festivals, for example opening for Sting at Jazz in Vienne, Jazz in Marciac, at l'Olympia opening for Lisa Simone, Nancy Jazz Pulsations, Paris Jazz Festival (FR) but also in Tokyo Jazz (JP), London Jazz (UK)...

In 2016, winner of the prestigious « Best New Artist Award » at « Les Victoires de la Musique » (the French Grammy Awards) and also prizewinner of the Lagardère Foundation, Laurent kept touring in major venues such as the Cully Jazz (CH), Amersfoort Jazz (NL), Getxo Jazz (ES), Jazz sous les pommiers (FR), Elbjazz Festival (DE), Jazz a la pedrera (ES), IF Alger (DZ)...

In 2017, our renowned keyboardist summoned the best French drummers (André Ceccarelli, Martin Wangermée, Yoann Serra and Cyril Atef) for explosive duos, Keys & Drums, around a new album « **Gravity Zero** », released on Sound Surveyor. From then on, concerts would follow one another at a frantic pace both nationally (Jazz à Ramatuelle, Monaco Jazz Festival, Jazz à St Germain des prés, Jazz à Junas...) and internationally (Small Jazz Club (NY), Toronto Jazz Festival, Ottawa Jazz Festival, Rimouski Jazz Festival, Montreal Jazz Festival (CA), London Jazz Festival (UK), Winter Jazz Fest (US), North Sea Jazz (NL), So What's Next (NL), Moods (CH), on tour in China (CN) and Taiwan (TW)).

In 2019, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Michel Petrucciani's death, Laurent paid tribute to an artist whose impact on his career was one of the deepest and most influential. He teamed up

with Jérémy Bruyère (bass and double bass) and André Ceccarelli (drums) to revive the repertoire of the pianist with glass bones in his new album « **Michel on My Mind** » (released on 23/08/2019 by New World Production/L'autre Distribution). A long tour followed for the Trio, flying from nationally renowned venues and festivals (Festival Jazz à Saint Germain, Maisons Laffitte Jazz Festival, Festival Jazz au fil de l'Oise, Nîmes Métropole Jazz Festival, Jazz au Phare, Festival Au grès du Jazz, Jazz à Clamart, Sceaux What, Salle Pleyel...) to international ones (Tokyo Jazz Festival (JP)...).

In 2020, with one « Victoire du Jazz » to his credit, one of the greatest accolades for a jazz musician, Laurent Coulondre was awarded the « Disque français de l'année » by the Académie du Jazz for his album « Michel on My Mind ». He was featured on the cover of Jazz Magazine when he topped the « French Musician of the Year category » of the magazine's Annual Critics Poll in February 2020. He has also received valuable support from the BNP Paribas Foundation for the development of his artistic projects.

(Translation by Yann Lapivotte)