

Francois Bourassa Quartet - UK tour 2013

Publicity Report

NATIONAL PRESS and ONLINE

- Financial Times Review 2 October <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/7414549c-2b44-11e3-a1b7-00144feab7de.html#axzz2gal0wGna>
- Bebop spoken here Review/preview 25 September <http://lance-bebopspokenhere.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/cd-review-francois-bourassa-quartet.html>
- Live review 8 October <http://lance-bebopspokenhere.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/francois-bourassa-quartet-lit-phil.html>
- Jazzmann News story <http://www.thejazzmann.com/news/article/francois-bourassa-quartet-european-tour-september-october-2013/>
- London Jazz News/listing: 18th and 25th September
- Live Review 1 October <http://www.londonjazznews.com/2013/10/review-francois-bourassa-quartet-at.html>
- syndicated to various inc. <http://britishmusicboom.com/review-francois-bourassa-quartet-at-the-vortex/>
- Marlbank Preview <http://www.marlbank.net/news/895-francois-bourassa-quartet-to-play-london-edinburgh-and-newcastle-dates>
- Preview update on Oxford <http://www.marlbank.net/news/1038-oxford-date-added-to-francois-bourassa-tour>

REGIONAL

- Darlington & Stockton Times Preview 30 Aug; preview 13 September. *Live review coming*
- Northern Echo CD review 3 October

RADIO

- Phonic FM Airplay 13 August *Franz Muller*
<http://www.edgeofjazz.com/playlist.htm>
- UK Jazz Radio Airplay x 3 tracks 15 September Jazz in the 21st Century
- 103.2FM Dublin City FM Airplay 11 September *Franz Muller*
<http://hipradio.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/nighttrain-11th-september-13.html>
- 102.5FM The Bridge Jazz Show Airplay 30 September *Franz Muller*

Financial Times – 2 October 2013

By Mike Hobart

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/7414549c-2b44-11e3-a1b7-00144feab7de.html#axzz2gal0wGna>

François Bourassa Quartet, Vortex Jazz Club, London – review

The gig reflected the title of the pianist/composer's new CD, 'Idiosyncrasies'

French-Canadian pianist/composer François Bourassa's angular accents and full-blooded attack mix the rhythmic angles of Thelonious Monk with the thumping left-hand chords of modal jazz. Add in snaky themes pirouetting over a contemporary pulse and compositional structures that bear the influence of the Second Viennese School and the title of Bourassa's recently released eighth CD *Idiosyncrasies* is fully justified.

He opened this gig, the launch of a two-week European tour, with the florid, call-and-response intro of the CD's opening track "Isola". A bouncy theme grew in complexity, sax and piano intertwined and as solos took shape, modal trills scattered into fragments and sparse discords came at angles. The practices are well established, but Bourassa's sense of space, buoyant swing and full-pedal resonance had a defining personal stamp.

His band has the personality and confidence to match. They sound great as a unit, phrase firmly and make each note count while following the rigorous terrain that Bourassa has constructed. "Chiller Night" contrasted abstract noise with raucous rock, the three-movement "Suite Allemande" was a riot of interlocking lines, bucolic balladry and surging abstract boogie and the rampaging finale, "Rare Stones", played out with a convoluted line over a slinky rock pulse.

Such sturdy and clearly defined structures gave each solo a definite shape, while most had clear, attention-grabbing conclusions – a flurry of unison notes, a brace of short stabs or a sudden fade. Tenor/soprano saxophonist André Leroux's furry tone and heavy articulation oozed commitment, while his subtle phonics and woofy low-note atmospherics coloured out-of-tempo, noir-flavoured interludes. Greg Ritchie was a driving force on drums, played a crowd-raising roll-and-splash drum solo and showed a contemporary control of pulse when required.

But the central relationship was between Bourassa and his double bassist of more than 30 years, Guy Boisvert. Lines locked in, rhythms overlapped and pre-arranged subtleties were scattered throughout.



francoisbourassa.com



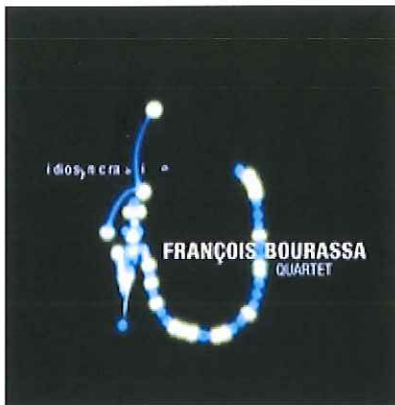
lee@gogobetween.com

Bebop spoken here – 25 September 2013

By Russell Corbet

<http://lance-bebospokenhere.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/cd-review-francois-bourassa-quartet.html>

CD Review: Francois Bourassa Quartet *Idiosyncrasie*



Francois Bourassa (piano, voice), André Leroux (tenor & soprano saxophones, bass clarinet, voice), Guy Boisvert (double bass, voice) & Philippe Melanson (drums)

Canadian pianist Francois Bourassa recorded *Idiosyncrasie* in 2011. The participating musicians are long time associates, firmly established on the jazz scene in Canada and beyond. The album explores the links between contemporary jazz and twentieth century composers such as Berg, Schoenberg and Webern. *Isola*, the opening track, suggests off-centre Monk.

The band settles into a groove with André Leroux's tenor insistent, if not dominant. The album's sound is one of Satie-like stillness, introspection and space. *Haiku-Darmstadt* encapsulates these qualities. If there is a conscious use of the Haiku form in Bourassa's composition then that is one for the musicologists.

There is determinedly bleak piano playing, resisting the introduction of the other instruments until finally the group sound is heard. Bourassa's repeated motifs punctuate the recording with layer upon layer of intricate lines and on occasion, perhaps too few, Leroux comes in with some powerful tenor. Philippe Melanson's inventive drumming is tight throughout and bassist Guy Boisvert succeeds in combining delicacy and authority. *Idiosyncrasie* is available on **Effendi Records**.

The Francois Bourassa Quartet can be heard in London at the Vortex on Monday 30 September (in a double bill with Stories), then at the Jazz Bar, Edinburgh (6 October), the Lit & Phil, Newcastle (7 October), followed by selected dates in Europe. It should be noted that on this autumn tour Greg Ritchie deps for Philippe Melanson.



Bebop spoken here – 8 October 2013

By Russell Corbet

<http://lance-bebopspokenhere.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/francois-bourassa-quartet-lit-phil.html>

Francois Bourassa Quartet Lit & Phil, Newcastle. October 7



Francois Bourassa (piano), André Leroux (tenor & soprano saxophones), Guy Boisvert (double bass) & Greg Ritchie (drums)

(Review by Russell, photos by Ken Drew).

Pianist Francois Bourassa sported a black t-shirt bearing the legend *Effendi*. The genial Canadian clearly took the opportunity to promote the Toronto-based record label on which his 2011 CD *Idiosyncrasie* was released.

The two sets heard at the Lit & Phil featured material from the CD and an earlier album – *Rasstones*. The live experience differed markedly to the recorded output. Frequently smiling, Bourassa played rattling good, swinging piano, encouraging, then responding to, the in-the-pocket bass and drums of long-time cohorts Guy Boisvert and Greg Ritchie. *Isola* from *Idiosyncrasie* started proceedings and the quartet confirmed that they could play, then some! Bourassa has known and worked with his band mates for years and it showed. André Leroux opened his account on tenor with conviction, possessing ‘front man’ presence. *Chant Poo* from *Rasstones* saw him switch to soprano, weaving in and out of Bourassa’s clock work nursery rhyme. A three-part suite – the ‘German’ – from the 2011 release held the audience rapt; big tenor and scintillating, swinging piano trio playing drawing loud applause. The second set heard *Haiku-Darmstadt* and from *Rasstones* the deceptive *Nationz* – a ballad beginning, developing into a robust up-tempo group workout. Bourassa’s quartet proved to be a well-honed unit focusing on group improvisation with the bonus of Leroux taking command from time to time, an extended tenor-drums (Greg Ritchie) exchange a particular highlight.

CD sales were brisk, most going during the interval, the rest by the end of the night. As so often is the case, the live experience won out. A good gig with a decent crowd in, all in all a good night of contemporary jazz.



London Jazz – 1 October 2013

By Matthew Wright

<http://www.londonjazznews.com/2013/10/review-francois-bourassa-quartet-at.html>

François Bourassa Quartet at the Vortex

30th September 2013



In these days of international festivals and a global music scene, we expect reputations to travel as easily as people. Yet the **François Bourassa Quartet**, from Montreal, despite being multiple prize-winners in Canada, do not yet have much of a profile in the UK. The quartet began a two-week European tour at The Vortex last night. After a highly impressive performance of powerful yet fluidly lyrical music

straddling post-bop, free improvisation and contemporary classical music, that certainly deserves to change.

Drawing on both its most recent album, *Idiosyncrasie*, from 2012, and earlier material, the quartet played a long second set that started quite classical, becoming more boppy as the adrenaline flowed and midnight approached. Bourassa composes for the group and led with authority, though all four contributed prodigious, searching, technical solos, and passed the soloist's harmonic baton around in a series of impressively lithe exchanges. Saxist **André Leroux**, playing both tenor and soprano, combined monstrous speed and power with delicate phrasing and nuance, while drummer **Greg Ritchie** gave a masterclass in rhythmic control, his playing, especially with the soft sticks, melting exquisitely into the others' playing. **Guy Boisvert**, on double bass, offered a rare combination of delicacy and skill, though his sound was perhaps too gentle to penetrate individually for much of the time.

Bourassa, meanwhile, clearly knows everyone from Brubeck to Boulez, as both composer and performer, though the debt to Thelonius Monk was perhaps the most prominent. His compositions were wholly convincing, and his impressively broad and mature range of influence was intelligently synthesised to Bourassa's own voice. These were not, perhaps, sounds that will change the face of the music, but the skill, panache and sensitivity with which Bourassa combined his jazz influences, then seasoned them with a touch of the classical avant-garde results in an utterly compelling musical statement. Catch them if you can.



Marlbank - preview

By Stephen Graham

<http://www.marlbank.net/news/895-francois-bourassa-quartet-to-play-london-edinburgh-and-newcastle-dates>

François Bourassa quartet to play London, Edinburgh and Newcastle dates



François Bourassa is to embark on a three-date British tour beginning on 30 September at the Vortex in London in the company of his quartet of saxophonist/flautist André Leroux, bassist Guy Boisvert, longstanding playing partners both, and drummer Greg Ritchie. The Montreal-born pianist, whose style encompasses the innovations of Paul Bley and the wider classical and jazz avant garde, appeared with Leroux, Boisvert, and drummer Philippe Melanson on their 2011 album together, *Idiosyncrasie*, released by the Canadian Effendi label. Other dates in this short English and Scottish leg of their European tour are the Jazz Bar in Edinburgh on 6 October, and the Literary & Philosophical Society, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 7 October.



Marlbank – preview update

By Stephen Graham

<http://www.marlbank.net/news/1038-oxford-date-added-to-francois-bourassa-tour>

Oxford date added to François Bourassa tour



An additional UK date has been added to pianist François Bourassa's upcoming tour, with the Spin in Oxford new on the quartet's itinerary for a gig there on 3 October. The British leg of their tour begins on 30 September at the Vortex in London in the company of his quartet of saxophonist/flautist André Leroux, bassist Guy Boisvert, longstanding playing partners both, and drummer Greg Ritchie. It's part of a double bill

with new band Stories. The Montreal-born pianist, whose style encompasses the innovations of Paul Bley and the wider classical and jazz avant garde, appeared with Leroux, Boisvert, and drummer Philippe Melanson on their 2011 album together, *Idiosyncrasie*, released by the Canadian Effendi label. Other dates in this short English and Scottish leg of their European tour are the Jazz Bar in Edinburgh on 6 October, and the Literary & Philosophical Society, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 7 October.

François Bourassa quartet pictured



'It's great to see jazz is back in fashion again'

AFTER my comments last year about the reduction in jazz programmes in the region it's good to report that there seems to be rather more in the coming months than we've seen for a couple of years, writes Peter Bevan.

Darlington Jazz Club, which meets on Sundays at the Forum Music Centre, has successfully completed its first full year of programming and will re-



SHOWS: From the left, Claire Martin, Francois Bourassa and Cecile McLorin Salvant

Darlington & Stockton Times – 13 September 2013

By Peter Bevan

DARLINGTON & STOCKTON TIMES

Fans only getting one chance to see favourite Francois

CANADIAN jazz pianist Francois Bourassa is touring in the UK but has only one date in the North-East, Monday, October 7, which is likely to see his many fans clamouring for tickets.

Other performers at the Newcastle Lit & Phil include John Law's Trio on Saturday, October 26, alto saxophone/flute player Greg Abate with the Paul Edis Trio on Wednesday, November 6, and the Nicholas Meier Trio on Friday, December 6; tickets from litandphil.org.uk.



DATE: Francois Bourassa Quartet



Northern Echo – 3 October 2013

By Peter Bevan

CD REVIEWS: Francois Bourassa
Quartet/Idiosyncrasie (Effendi Records
FND111) This award-winning
Canadian group is little known in this
country so their Newcastle
appearance is particularly welcome.
The CD, with Bourassa on piano,
Andre Leroux on reeds, Guy Boisvert
bass and Philippe Melanson drums
covers many moods from the spiky
Isola to the deeper Haiku-Darmstadt,
all thoroughly explored by this well
integrated group *effendirecords.com*

