



FP. 004

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Raphaël Pannier

“FAUNE”



Raphaël Pannier Quartet
Faune

—

Digital / CD / EP

Realease: 18 / 09 / 2020

Label : French Paradox

Distribution : L'autre distribution

FP.004

"An imaginative colorist
and a master of textures"



Ed Enright
Downbeat Magazine

"Faune is a complete work of art
with a level of performance and expression
unusual in a debut"

Keith Black
Winnipeg Free Press



"Les étoiles se sont alignées
pour faire de ce projet une réussite "



Yves Dorison
Culture Jazz

"Ce disque tutoie les hautes sphères"

Frédéric Goaty
Jazz Magazine



"#3 on the album selection for the
Best Debut album of 2020"



Francis Davis
NPR Music

"BBC Music Magazine 5 stars"

An audacious project that Pannier
pulls off magnificently"

Gary Booth
BBC Music Magazine



A vibrantly poetic aesthetic

The singular artistic vision of drummer-composer Raphaël Pannier bursts into brilliant, extraordinary focus on his first recording *Faune* (due out September 18, 2020 via French Paradox/L'Autre Distribution).

With musical direction by one of Pannier's key mentors, MacArthur genius and star alto saxophonist Miguel Zenón, *Faune* presents a sequence of the drummer's vibrant originals along with unique interpretations of French classical works and American jazz standards. Zenón has long been recognized for his work bridging his Puerto Rican roots with modern jazz, and his phenomenal balancing of tradition and modernity. Like his mentor, Pannier also links two traditions, French classical and American jazz, in startlingly innovative ways. "This album really does bring together my two worlds: my European upbringing and early classical studies with my American life and jazz education," Pannier says. "In this, it has been such an honor to work with Miguel Zenón, a real hero of mine for the way he has melded his Puerto Rican roots and Latin traditions with socially conscious modern jazz."

The highly imaginative universe of Pannier's music is reflected in his choice of musicians, all players dedicated to music as a deeply human form of expression. Zenón, with his expansive palette of influences, monster technique, and exceptional creativity, offers magnificent, inspired saxophone solos. Pianist Aaron Goldberg brings profoundly felt, almost philosophical leanings to the keyboard with masterful improvisations and elegant playing rooted in the jazz tradition. With his self-taught stylings, bassist François Moutin brings an entirely new approach to his instrument, infusing vital, foundational energy into the rhythm section. The addition of the virtuosic classical Georgian pianist Giorgi Mikadze is a key component of Pannier's vision of melding traditional classical scores and modern jazz. Pannier brings a high level of technique to his imaginative playing, laying down complex, varied rhythms that provide rich color and texture. Presenting the band in various duo, trio, and quartet configurations adds to the bounty of shapes, textures, and colors.

The French title *Faune* translates to "wildlife," though it also references a mythical sense of the animal spirit famous in works of French modernism by Debussy and Mallarmé. The nod to Debussy's famous prelude is apropos, as the album reflects an impressionistic sensibility, combining it with a keen rhythmic vitality.

Faune, the debut album by drummer-composer Raphaël Pannier

Like Debussy, Pannier is very much a colorist of his instrument, executing performances on the drums with graphic and imaginary play, creating a sonic impressionist landscape that's reflected in both his original compositions and his arrangements. "Lullaby" is a journey into dreams, "Fauna" an exploration of an imaginative forest, "Monkey Puzzle Tree" an apparitional tree with incredible harmonies. "Midtown Blues," an aural sketch of Manhattan executed as a joyful, swinging piano trio, perfectly depicts the feeling of being bumped and bounced while walking in Times Square.

Painterly tracks include the album's centerpiece work by Messiaen (from his 1944 piano collection *Vingt regards sur l'Enfant-Jésus*), and a selection by Ravel (from his 1917 suite *Le Tombeau de Couperin*). The freshly lyrical take on Ornette's classic 1959 ballad "Lonely Woman" expresses another side of Pannier, as does the pulsing, muscular "E.S.P." (the Shorter-penned title track to the Miles Davis Quintet's *E.S.P.* LP of 1965) and Hamilton de Holanda's bounding "Capricho de Raphaël." Multiple pieces, including "Forlane" and the intro/outro frames for "E.S.P.," have additional electronic atmospherics created by Jacob Bergson.

The Ravel piece, played as a classical score with modern rhythms and textures interwoven, is just one example of Pannier's unique approach. "Many jazz musicians have played 'Forlane' as jazz," he says, "but I don't think anyone has played the score and then reimaged a drum part within it quite as we've done." By translating the traditional classical score and adding a modern vernacular, Pannier retains and builds on the emotional authenticity of the works.

The album's cover art, an image of a work by Theo van Doesburg, reflects Pannier's generous, wide-ranging aesthetic. Founder of the European artistic movement "De Stijl" at the beginning of the 20th century, van Doesburg believed in the universal power of abstract art. Playing with light and colors, simple cubic volumes, and rhythmic concrete lines, he gave birth to a refined, rhythmic new style that would inspire artists including Mondrian and the Bauhaus, and now, Pannier.

Faune is a complete work of art with a level of performance and expression unusual in a debut. It traces, by its very design, the formation of a refined and timeless music, one based on the imagination and executed with virtuosity and excellence.

The Tracklist

01 / 10'00	Lonely Woman Ornette Coleman
02 / 05'23	Midtown Blues Raphaël Pannier
03 / 06'38	Lullaby Raphaël Pannier
04 / 08'38	"Le Baiser de l'Enfant Jésus" Olivier Messiaen
05 / 00'53	Intro to ESP Raphaël Pannier
06 / 06'00	ESP Miles Davis
07 / 00'51	Outro to ESP Raphaël Pannier
08 / 07'21	"Forlane" Maurice Ravel
09 / 06'36	Fauna Raphaël Pannier
10 / 05'15	Capricho de Raphaël Hamilton de Holanda
11 / 05'23	Monkey Puzzle Tree Raphaël Pannier
12 / 02'09	Monkey Puzzle Tree Final : Drum soli Raphaël Pannier

The formation

Raphaël Pannier	Drums / composition / arrangements
Miguel Zenon	Saxophone Alto / musical director
Aaron Goldberg	Piano
François Moutin	Upright bass
Giorgi Mikadze	Classical piano (Messiaen: "le baiser de l'Enfant Jésus" ; Ravel: Forlane ; Monkey Puzzle Tree)



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Raphaël Pannier
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Biography

Raphaël Pannier

Born in Paris in 1990 and now living in Harlem, Pannier started playing drums at age 5 and performing professionally by 13. He earned a scholarship to the Berklee College of Music in Boston, studying with Terri Lyne Carrington, Ralph Peterson Jr. and Hal Crook, among others. At Berklee, Pannier met Azerbaijani jazz pianist Emil Afrasiyab, with whom he began performing a unique fusion between jazz and mugham, the traditional music from Azerbaijan.

Pannier completed his master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music and was then awarded a scholarship to attend the competitive Betty Carter Jazz Ahead program at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., led by Jason Moran and Eric Harland. Pannier also received a scholarship to study with Mark Turner and Alex Sipiagin at the "Generations" workshop in Switzerland.

The drummer won first prize in the Six Strings Theory Competition organized by fusion guitar star Lee Ritenour, with whom he toured various festivals in the U.S., recorded in the studio and performed at the Blue Note Tokyo. Pannier has also played alongside the likes of Steve Wilson, Bob James, Marcos Valle, Eric Lewis, Manuel Valera, Rotem Sivan and Lage Lund, appearing at jazz festivals from Montreal, Paris and Tokyo to Brazil, Spain, Estonia and Azerbaijan.

His performances in New York have run the gamut from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center to the Apollo Theater and Minton's Playhouse. In 2018, Pannier released as a co-leader the album *These Times* with saxophonist Chad Lefkowitz-Brown, pianist Holger Marjamaa and bassist Ben Tiberio.

Paris Move

Album “*Indispensable*”

Those of you who know Julien Daïan and his French Paradox label also know his level of high standards and quality. Also, when this CD entitled “FAUNE” arrived at the editorial office, which is drummer Raphaël Pannier’s first album, we eagerly listened to it, especially since this CD will not be available until August 21st. Raphaël Pannier divides his life between the USA and France, and “FAUNE” is the perfect synthesis of what European musicians bring to American jazz, and vice versa. An album whose title, “FAUNE”, is indicative of this mutual contribution so important and so decisive at the same time. As often, French jazz musicians come from a conservatory course, with classical studies, while on the American side, the courses are very different, with specialized schools or universities with dedicated classes. Ornette, Messiaen or Ravel are all themes that govern this album, with a particular intelligence and truly incredible musicians who harmonize perfectly. As proof, let us note on the double bass the excellent François Moutin, the brilliant Miguel Zenón on the saxophone, the very elegant Aaron Goldberg on the piano and the star of the piano from the classical world, Giorgi Mikadze, who comes in climax to bring his great art on the classic works of this album, allowing other musicians to seize it from a particular angle. For a first album, the concept itself is just fascinating, because Raphaël also tackles ESP, by Miles Davis, even bringing in variations of intro and exit.

As you know, we receive in our editors tons of jazz albums from Europe and the USA, and we only retain the best, that is to say those who bring a little extra to the building, which is indeed the case here, with, moreover, a remarkable achievement to satisfy our thirst for perfection. So we give without hesitation our label “Indispensable”, which is the choice of the editors of Bayou Blue Radio and Paris-Move.



Paris Move
Faune - Album “*Indispensable*”
Thierry Docmac
article du 25/07/2020
France





France Musique
Emission "Open Jazz" avec
Alex Dutilh
émission du 14/09/2020
France



France Musique

Alex Dutilh - "Open Jazz"

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EXTRACT

"Good evening everyone! A wonderful discovery for many I think: the first album by a drummer named Raphaël Pannier, which he called "Faune"... so it sounded like a joke on "L'Après-Midi d'un Faune"... but not at all! It is in fact very consciously that Raphaël Pannier titled his album in this way, with an admiration for this beginning of the 20th century with musicians like Debussy, poets like Mallarmé, painters like Gauguin... He has a passion for this era. And besides in his album we find a back and forth between classical and jazz, there is Messiaen, or Ravel. [...different topic...]

2.28 Here then is Raphaël Pannier with this first album, and an absolutely perfect cast. It is sponsored by Miguel Zenón, the saxophonist who took Raphael Pannier in love. With the drummer, we find Aaron Goldberg at the piano, but when it comes to classical pieces by Messiaen or Ravel, it is another pianist, a classical virtuoso, Giorgi Mikadze, who gives his own interpretation; and it's François Moutin, the most French of New York bassists, who completes the group. With this high-flying cast, Raphaël Pannier plays in the court of the few drummers in history who have also been composers, and leaders: they are not that many. We open with his amazing version, where he took apart and then re-dressed, Ornette Coleman's "Lonely Woman".

TSF Jazz

Jean-Charles Doukhan

- "Deli Express"

Quel disque captivant ! Quel projet envoûtant !!

Faune, le premier album de Raphaël Pannier fascine par son propos et sa profondeur.

Il est l'oeuvre d'un jeune batteur parisien parti tenter l'aventure américaine à 18 ans, en étudiant d'abord au Berklee College of Music, puis en s'installant à New York.

C'est là-bas, qu'il a enregistré ce répertoire, avec des pointures telles qu'Aaron Goldberg et Miguel Zenon.

Ce dernier a d'ailleurs été tellement bluffé par l'univers de Raphaël qu'il a signé la direction artistique de Faune... Un album qui fait dialoguer, avec une cohérence rare, jazz, classique, et musique contemporaine.

Au niveau de l'inspiration, la faune de Raphaël Pannier est autant composée d'Ornette Coleman que de Maurice Ravel, de Wayne Shorter que d'Olivier Messiaen.

Il vient nous présenter ce riche univers ce midi, en compagnie de Baptiste Herbin (saxophone), Leonardo Montana (piano) et François Moutin (contrebasse).



TSF Jazz
Déli Express
Jean-Charles Doukhan
16/10/2020
France



Raphaël Pannier, un batteur à suivre

VENDREDI 16 OCTOBRE 2020



Quel disque captivant ! Quel projet envoûtant !!

Faune, le premier album de Raphaël Pannier fascine par son propos et sa profondeur.

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Raphaël Pannier Quartet: Faune



By [DAN BILAWSKY](#)
November 3, 2020
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The debut from drummer [Raphaël Pannier](#) has no difficulty laying out references to modern modes of impressionism and the nature of wildlife implied in its title. Its opener—a ten-minute take on [Ornette Coleman](#)'s "Lonely Woman" that offers slinky melody, sophisticated coloring, intense upheaval, a bass soliloquy and a return to the shadowy theme—is but the first of many indications that Pannier can paint open compositions in altered light while also awakening and taming tension. It's an artful display of leadership from a most notable new voice.

Leading a top-notch quartet featuring alto saxophonist [Miguel Zenón](#), pianist [Aaron Goldberg](#) and bassist [François Moutin](#), Pannier makes the grade and moves time and space with his kit. One need only look at some of his original compositions to realize the degree of flexibility at



All about jazz

Chronique album

DAN BILAWSKY

Chronique du 03/11/2020

UK



All about Jazz
Chronique album
Album rated 4,5 stars/5

EXTRAIT

The debut from drummer Raphaël Pannier has no difficulty laying out references to modern modes of impressionism and the nature of wildlife implied in its title. Its opener—a ten-minute take on Ornette Coleman's "Lonely Woman" that offers slinky melody, sophisticated coloring, intense upheaval, a bass soliloquy and a return to the shadowy theme—is but the first of many indications that Pannier can paint open compositions in altered light while also awakening and taming tension. It's an artful display of leadership from a most notable new voice.

Slate

The 10 Best Jazz Albums of 2020

EXTRAIT

This is an odd debut album by drummer-composer Raphaël Pannier, featuring a slowed-down cover of Ornette Coleman's "Lonely Woman," a frenzied zigzag through Wayne Shorter's "E.S.P.," one piece each by Ravel, Messiaen, and the Brazilian bandolinist Hamilton de Holanda, and a handful of originals—all fronted by alto saxophonist Miguel Zenón (a mentor of Pannier's) blowing as lyrically as I've heard him. The music floats and sways in a different atmosphere.



Faune

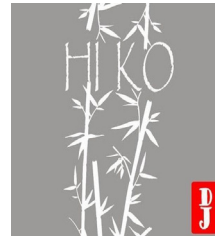
By Raphaël Pannier Quartet. French Paradox.

\$28.52 from Amazon

Slate
The Best Jazz Albums of 2020 avec
Fred Kaplan
Sélection du 02/12/2020
France

SLATE

Other Press



The Mercury News

CultureJazz

LJN

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Jazz
JOURNAL

Das Schweizer Jazz & Blues Magazin
J A Z Z
N O R E

JAZZIZ

BBC music
MAGAZINE



MONARCH
ONE VOICE - ONE VISION - ONE PEOPLE



Radios

—



"Une magnifique
découverte"



Alex Dutilh
France Musique

"A simply remarkable
debut"

Jim Harrington
The Mercury News



"Raphaël Pannier brings a
deeply thoughtful approach
to his debut, FAUNE "



Nate Chinen
WBGO Radio

"Une profonde maîtrise et une
belle cohésion de groupe"

Mathieu
Fnac stores



"Pannier is someone who should be
a force in jazz for years to come"

The Mercury News

Jim Harrington
The Mercury News



French Paradox

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