

Les Sessions

New jazz album featuring Just Like Django & Claude Chichon

Out of love for the music of Django Reinhardt and the French treasury of songs, the Danish jazz quartet Just Like Django and French singer Claude Chichon met up last year to create new and original music together. This musical meeting has now led to the release of a new album: Les Sessions, which will be released on March 30.

Just Like Django is one of the leading gypsy jazz bands in Denmark. While Django Reinhardt clearly is the inspiration, for the band his music is not just an answer book to be copied. Their music is directly influenced by Django's innovative and creative musical approach and his unorthodox playing style and it's filled with improvisations and enthusiastic liveliness which, together with rustic guitar rhythms, create a swinging sensation of French charm. But the band also seeks to find new ways between the traditional gypsy jazz, the French folk music and world music.

On their new album you'll hear music that awakes reminiscences of Spanish flamenco, Argentine tango, Bulgarian clarinet, French chanson, American swing and classical music.

The record is made in collaboration with French singer and composer Claude Chichon whom the band has been working with since 2016. Chichon has previously worked with Bent Fabricius Bjerre and put music to the poems of HRH Prince Henrik of Denmark. Furthermore, several guest musicians appear on the album such as the renowned Danish accordionist Kristian Rusbjerg and jazz guitarist Mathias Kristensen adding great stylistic range to the music. All in all, this collaboration offers a unique blend of old French chansons and new compositions in the borderland between tradition and renewal.

Just Like Django consists of four musicians who, for a number of years, have added vitality and originality to the gypsy jazz. Clarinetist and saxophonist in the band, Johan Toftegaard, is educated from the Royal Academy of Music in Aarhus. Johan plays in a number of jazz orchestras, including the Aarhus Jazz Orchestra, and he is especially fond of practicing Bulgarian and Turkish folk music. The lead guitarist and main composer is Peter Uldahl. Besides being specialised in gypsy guitar music, Peter has studied guitar and flamenco in Granada, Spain, and musicology at the University of Aarhus. Jon Noe is an experienced rhythm guitarist who is also known from the Danish band: The Rascal Swing Band. And finally the double-bass is played by Thomas Løkke Læssøe, who also studied musicology at the University of Aarhus and who is an integral part of the jazz environment of Aarhus.



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