

ROBERTO NEGRO

Loving Suite pour Birdy So

new album - La Curieuse / L'Autre Distribution

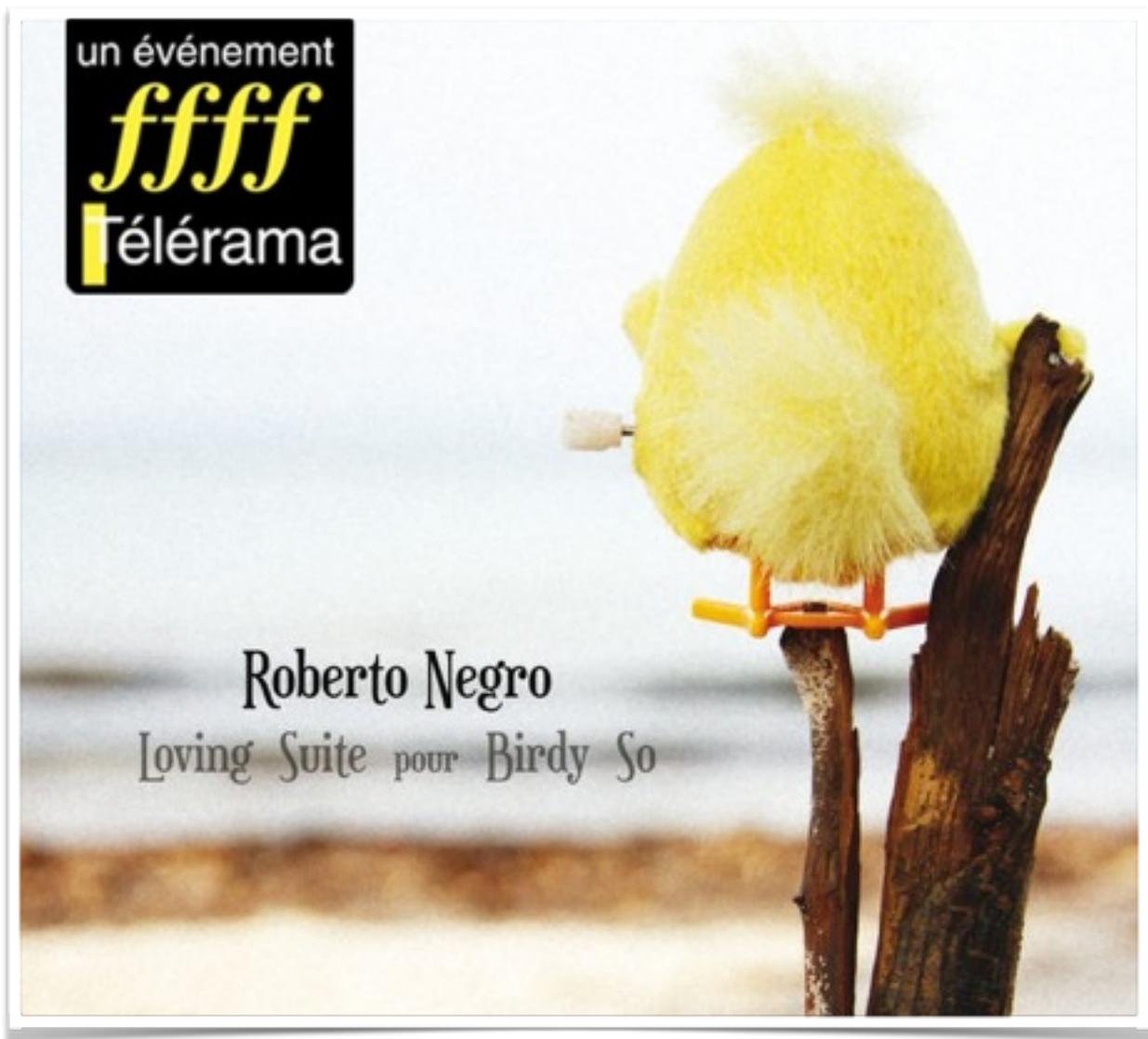


photo : Jean-Pascal Réel

Loving Suite pour Birdy So

Roberto Negro : Piano, composition

Elise Caron : Vocals, flute

Federico Casagrande : Guitar

Théo Ceccaldi : Violin, viola

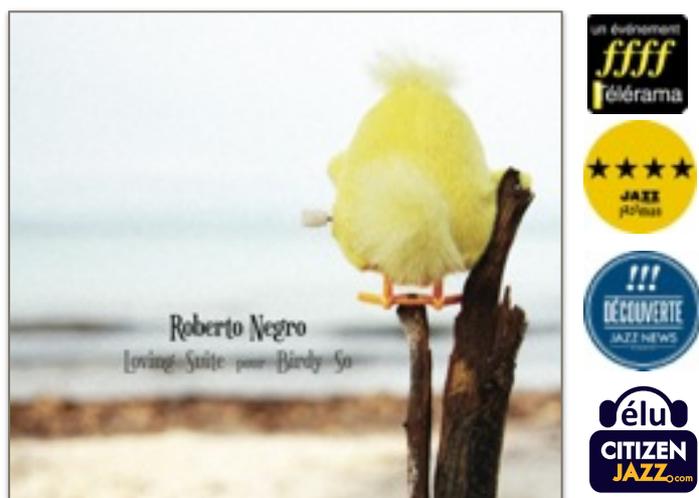
Valentin Ceccaldi : Cello

Nicolas Bianco : Double-bass

Lyrics by **Xavier Machault**

Loving Suite pour Birdy So is an invitation to love. The kind of love that is written in small letters. The kind of love that needs no drums and trumpets or flowery language; the kind of love that chooses its words, that dreams with its nose in the air from a window with no balcony; the kind of love that claims nothing more than being present, and for real. Loving Suite pour Birdy So is a poem of sound, whose rounded words caress the skin. And yet, it does not forget the hiccups of big love, the dirty break-ups that can even happen on station platforms.

Bordering between improvised music and French-style song-writing, the young pianist and composer, Roberto Negro, created Loving Suite pour Birdy So for a strings ensemble, bringing together his dream team of musicians and featuring singer/actress Elise Caron. A soft, sweet sensation of cotton follows Loving Suite pour Birdy So. And that's a promise.



Album out april 28th, 2014

Recorded at Studio La Buissonne, february 2013



Press review



“Roberto Negro’s talent as an original, romantic and innovative composer is eloquently proved by his *Loving Suite pour Birdy So* (...). This Champagne title plays like a masterpiece, thanks to the combination of its texts, a voice that evokes sophistication alienated from distress, and music that splashes around in all directions.”

Michel Contat - TELERAMA



“This ambitious piece, that lies somewhere between song, improvisation and classical tradition revisited, achieves the masterstroke of confirming a true unity of tone and writing. (...) An expert cocktail of formal elegance and tender, juvenile romance, offering its inimitable charm to this long, sung declaration of love.”

Stéphane Ollivier - JAZZ MAGAZINE



“Roberto Negro is a modern bard, the minstrel of a new episode of courtly love for troubadour Machault.”

Philippe Méziat - CITIZEN JAZZ

“This recording is one of those that, having heard it once, you just know that it will stay with you for a long time, gaining in favourite status each time you listen. An *Instant Classic* as the English say.”

Franpi SUNSHIP



“A sort of miniature opera, a suite for intense strings, an ideal setting for the bewitching voice of Elise Caron. An astonishing, singular recording.”

Mathieu Durand - JAZZ NEWS

“Brilliant and imaginative recording by pianist Negro, who mixes jazz, classical and folk without ever really sounding like any one of them. With vocalist Elise Caron providing a thrilling turn on vocals, Federico Casagrande proving that he is one of the more exciting guitarists on the scene, and a string trio adding some lovely harmonic and melodic contributions, the resulting singular sound is as captivating as it is inventive. Highly recommended.”

Dave Sumner - WONDERING SOUND

“It is like nothing while at the same time, being like everything... and enchantment soon comes from the scope of the vocabulary. Here, the word *overture* is not used lightly. While a thousand references spring to mind, there is not one more relevant than another, and none leave an identifiable trace: minimalism, Baroque counterpoint, post-serialism, chamber music, rock, blues, free, pre or post Jarret piano with a touch of Bley and a few remnants of Powell, open scores less like Boulez than Tim Berne. Each shimmers, gleams then disappears into the theme of an orchestral piece, interwoven with improvised passages; this nothing like patchwork, but imposes unified, intransigent material, servicing a perfectly original style”

Franck Bergerot - JAZZ MAGAZINE LIVE

“Instead of a concert, what you get is a show... and story that hooks you in with fascination and wonder as you oscillate between sweetness and dissonance, serenity and discordance. And what remains? Romance, audacity, humour. *Delightful* as our English friends would say.”

Florent Servia - DJAM

“Once again, the concert brings more (...) a presence, a body bringing flesh to the music, drowning us in the emotions felt by the musicians and to which they react.”

Philippe Méziat -JAZZ MAGAZINE LIVE

« Rhythmic Steve Reich-style twists, orchestral textures in the manner of Bartok and Poulenc type moods, and yet as a whole, the piece is no sacrifice to pastiche and loses none of its formal coherency. Roberto Negro, pianist and composer, certainly has his own specific universe. »

Stéphane Ollivier - Interview for JAZZ MAGAZINE – July 2013

Line-up



ELISE CARON / vocals, flute

Elise Caron, author-composer, is a contemporary singer equally at ease in both improvisation and interpretation. Her albums, including *Chansons pour les petites oreilles* (2003) and *Eurydice Bis fin* (2005), were released by the Chant du Monde label and distributed by Harmonia Mundi. Elise Caron studies dramatic arts in Rouen and singing at the CNSM in Paris. As well as being a soloist and improvisation artist for the *Orchestre National de Jazz*, directed by Denis Badault, Elise Caron has also collaborated with the big names of contemporary music on various creations, ranging from jazz to song, including Jacques Rebotier, Fred Frith, Luc Ferrari, Claude Barthélémy, Aldo Romano, Albert Marcoeur.



ROBERTO NEGRO / piano, composition

Roberto was born in Torino in the spring of 1981. He grew up in the Democratic Republic of Congo and moved to Paris in 2008, where he studied with Marc Ducret, Denis Badault, Benoit Delbecq. He graduated from the Chambéry conservatory, where he studied with Pierre Drevet (Brussels Jazz Orchestra, Maria Schneider) and Laurent Blumenthal (ONJ). His composition work was rewarded by a prize during his course at the Didier Lockwood music centre.

The Roberto Negro Trio's first album, "Downtown Sorry", was met with comments such as "REVELATION!" by JAZZ MAGAZINE", and "ELECTED CITIZEN JAZZ" and "LIKES IT!" on JazzIt.

For two years, the group has been performing in various venues and festivals throughout France (Orléans theatre, Lyon opera house, Jazz à Oloron, Jazz à Juan) as well as on the international stage (in Guatemala and Mexico), clocking up around thirty dates a year.

In March 2012, Roberto was given free rein over a week-long residency at the Lyon opera house amphitheatre. The programme included a trio with Daniel Humair and Emile Parisien, his own trio with guest Christophe Monniot and « Loving Suite for Birdy So » for a miniature chamber orchestra, with Elise Caron on vocals, Federico Casagrande on guitar, Théo Ceccaldi on violin, Valentin Ceccaldi on cello, Roberto Negro on piano and Nicolas Bianco on double bass. Composition and arrangement by Roberto Negro, lyrics by Xavier Machault. The album was met with comments such as « **** » by JAZZ MAGAZINE », "ELECTED CITIZEN JAZZ », « DISCOVER ! JAZZ NEWS » and the prestigious FFFF TELERAMA.

Roberto also composed the music for the stage play Malapolvere, written and interpreted by Laura Curino, an Italian actress. He worked on this project with Théo Ceccaldi, violin, Valentin Ceccaldi, cello, and Adrien Chennebault, drums and the resulting group is called La Scala.

Roberto is a member of TRICOLLECTIF, an association of musicians from Orleans and Paris, comprising groups such as Marcel et Solange, Théo Ceccaldi Trio, Walabix and La Scala, the chamber quartet in which he plays alongside the Ceccaldi brothers and Adrien Chennebault.

Roberto plays with Louis Sclavis, Emile Parisien, Luis Vicente, Sylvain Darrifourcq, David Enthco.



THEO CECCALDI / violin, viola

Unfolding a music-language filled with subtle nuances while constantly seeking to reconcile fire, lyricism and sophisticated form, Théo Ceccaldi is definitely one of the great revelations of the contemporary jazz scene in France.

Théo Ceccaldi seriously started studying classical music at a tender age and received First Prize for Violin, Notation and Chamber Music in 2004. But he was always drawn to the freedom of jazz, and in 2010 he genuinely found his own voice when he founded an original trio — with his brother

Valentin on cello and Guillaume Aknine on guitar — which established the link between the western chamber-music tradition and free improvisation. The Théo Ceccaldi Trio won the Tremplin Orléans' Jazz in 2011, and they have since confirmed what everyone thought was good about them, releasing two albums in succession for the Ayler Records label and then taking the laurels of the 2014 “Jazz Migration” programme organized by AFIJMA-AJC.

A founding member of the young collective from Orleans known as Tricollectif, violinist Théo Ceccaldi has been active in a series of formations including the Toons group led by his brother Valentin, the chamber quartet La Scala and Loving Suite pour Birdy So led by pianist Roberto Negro (with Elise Caron). Recognized by his peers, he recently joined the IXI string-quartet co-led by Régis Huby and Guillaume Roy, which enjoys a reputation for improvised music, Médéric Collignon's project “A la recherche du roi frippé”, which revisits the music of Robert Fripp/King Crimson, and also the Franco-German octet T.E.E. Ensemble of pianist Hans Lüdemann, which also features Alexandra Grimal.

Particularly drawn by all transversal art forms, the young violinist has also ventured into theatre and dance, notably in collaborations with the “Compagnie Les Veilleurs” (based on the text Contre les Bêtes by Jacques Rebotier), and choreographer Josef Nadj.



FEDERICO CASAGRANDE / guitar

Paris based jazz guitarist Federico Casagrande started in early age the study of classical music in Italy.

In 2003 he moved on a scholarship to Boston, U.S.A., where he attended the Berklee College of Music and graduated summa cum laude in 2006.

He studied with Giampaolo Gobbo, Sandro Gibellini, Tommaso Lama, Dave Tronzo, Mick Goodrick, Rick Peckham, Greg Hopkins, Jeff Galindo, Garrison Fewell, Dave Santoro, Hal Crook, Ed Tomassi. In 2007 he won the first prize at the Gibson Montreux Jazz Festival Guitar Competition with George Benson president of the jury.

He performed in Italy, U.S.A., Canada, Denmark, Austria, Estland, Latvia, Portugal, Switzerland, France, U.K., China, Taiwan, South Korea, Belgium, Ukraina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Germany.

He leads several projects performing original composition.

With saxophonist Christophe Panzani he founded The Drops, paris based band who released two albums (“Falling from the sky” and “Spray”) and has been extensively touring over the years.

He has been performing in solo for 8 years and this work led to his record "At the End of the Day" (CamJazz, release november 2014) which features Michele Rabbia, Vincent Peirani and Vincent Courtois.

He works as well as a sideman in various jazz groups in Europe.

He released 7 records as leader or co-leader.

The last one "The Ancient Battle of the Invisible" has been produced by major jazz italian label CAMJAZZ.

He performed in U.s.a., Canada, Italy, France, Portugal, Denmark, Estland, Latvia, Austria, U.k., Germany, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Ukraina, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan.



VALENTIN CECCALDI / cello

Through the teachings of Raphaële Semezis, Florian Lauridon, Joëlle Léandre, Pascal Contet, Vincent Courtois,

Marc Ducret and Stevan Kovacs Tickmayer ; Valentin Ceccaldi became passionate about jazz and improvised music.

In 2007 he created the band Walabix which will become, two years later, the winner of the "tremplin Orléans Jazz", finalist of both the "Concours National de Jazz de La Défense" and of the "tremplin Rezzo Jazz à Vienne".

He then created the trio Marcel et Solange (3rd group price at the "Concours National de Jazz de La Défense 2011", winner of "Jazz Migration 2013") and the Théo Ceccaldi Trio (winner of the "tremplin Orléans Jazz 2011", finalist of the "tremplin Jazz à Vienne 2011", winner of "Jazz Migration 2014").

In 2012 he participated in the creation of La Scala, Durio Zibethinus, Toons (winner of the "tremplin Orléans Jazz 2013") and « la Loving Suite pour Birdy So » of the pianist Roberto Negro with Élise Caron.

That same year he co-founded the Tricollectif, an artists collective.

Always in search of discovering new ideas, he participated in the project of Médéric Collignon around King Crimson and he has, since 2012, integrated the Frasques Orchestra. He also participated since 2013 in a Franco-English project (SONSALE). This project is supported by the plan Jazz Shuttle of SACEM.

In 2013, he won the composer prize at the "Tremplin Jazz Européen d'Avignon"

He has had the pleasure to play with Joëlle Léandre, Louis Sclavis, Denis Badault, Sylvain Darrifourcq, Elise Caron, Samuel Blaser, Christophe Lavergne, Bart Maris, Corey Mwamba, Claude Barthélémy and many others.



NICOLAS BIANCO / double-bass

Nicolas Bianco is a composer and bassist, artistic director of Divagations company and music educationalist.

Born in 1963, he probably takes after his grand-father, the great baritone René Bianco, his enchantment with the Opera, musical show and all the artistic disciplines they gather. He has been involved for a long time in an interdisciplinary praxis, while developing a personal approach based on stylistic interbreeding.

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