

LES VIBRANTS DÉFRICHEURS

THINK BIG – Creation 2021

Think Big is an unprecedented quartet which has the air of a libertarian manifesto. A ground of experimentation furiously alive. The double bass player Thibault Cellier and the saxophonist Raphaël

Quenehen got to know each other for 18 years within the collective of artists “Les Vibrants Défricheurs” and the band “Papanosh”. Along with them, Mike Reed, drummer and composer, hyper-activist on the Chicago’s scene and member of the AACM plus Ben Lamar Gay, his long-time partner, trumpeter and multi-instrumentalist coming from the same galaxy.

Think Big, for a perpetual musical de-liberation

ON TOUR

2021 : October 8 to 15

2022 : March (exact dates TBA)

LINE-UP

Raphaël Quenehen, saxophones

Ben LaMar Gay, trumpets

Thibault Cellier, double bass

Mike Reed, drums

BIOS



Raphaël Quenehen, saxophones

After two DEM, (National Music Degrees), in Saxophone and Jazz, at the Conservatoire of Rouen, Raphaël Quenehen is selected to study at the CNSM of Paris (National Conservatoire of Paris) where he obtains the Jazz price (cum laude), the Generative Improvisation degree (Best grade) and the Indian music degree (Best grade). At the Conservatoire of Paris, he develops fruitful relationships with musicians of today's French jazz scene: DDJ, collective COAX, Lorelei, Surnatural Orchestra ... Within the collective "The Vibrants Défricheurs", he takes part in many multidisciplinary projects: dance, visual arts and video. He is a member of groups at the crossroads of different musical fields: "Papanosh", "Le Gros Bal", "Petite Vengeance"... He also nourishes collaborations with improvising musicians such as Guillaume Orti, Alexandros Markeas (creation with Quatuor Habanera in 2009), Bernard Combi (duet), Jacques Di Donato (trio Brahma), Kenny Wollesen (duet), Yoann Durant (duet). Raphaël also plays in "Kumquat and Company Lubat" with Bernard Lubat. He is a teacher of Music of oral tradition at the CNR (Conservatoire of region) of Rouen and the co-artistic director of the "MensAlors!" Festival (France).

Thibault Cellier, double bass

Thibault studied double bass, classical piano and tuba at the CNR of Rouen (National Conservatoire of Region). He trained with musicians such as C. Tchamitchian, G. Orti, M. Ducret, L. Outside, D. Chevallier, H. Texier, D. Levallet, Magic Malik... He is an active member of the musical collective "Les Vibrants Défricheurs" (Collective of artists in Rouen) and his talent explores different musical forms. Member of "Papanosh" and "Novembre" (JazzMig 2018 laureate), he also plays with various projects: "Compagnie des Musiques à Ouïr" with Denis Charolles, "Fakebooks" with Antonin Hoang and Sylvain Darrifourcq. He performed with Roy Nathanson (Lounge Lizards), Marc Ribot, André Minvielle, Bernard Lubat, Archie Shepp, Théo Ceccaldi, Brad Scott, Guillaume Orti, Fidel Fourneyron among others. Since 2014, Thibault is the artistic co-director of "Mens Alors!" festival (France).



Mike Reed, drums

Mike Reed is a musician, composer and presenter based in Chicago. Reed has been part of the vibrant Chicago jazz and improvised music community since 1997. While performing in a variety of projects locally, nationally and internationally, Reed also leads two widely acclaimed groups, Loose Assembly and People, Places & Things. Reed was named Chicagoan of the Year for Jazz (2008) by the Chicago Tribune and was distinguished as "Rising Jazz Star" in the 57th annual Downbeat critics poll. Over the years he had the pleasure to work with jazz luminaries and improvised world music including Roscoe Mitchell, Wadada Leo Smith, Fred Anderson and Julian Priester among others. As a producer, Reed serves as Chairperson for the Chicago Jazz Festival Programming Committee and from 2009-11 he served as vice chairman for the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). Reed is also the internationally renowned Pitchfork Music Festival producer, drawing over 50,000 attendees to Chicago over 3 days and featuring today's most cutting-edge rock and pop artists. In April 2013 Reed opened Constellation, a venue whose mission is to present progressive performance and forward-thinking music with a focus on jazz, improvisation and contemporary classical. Reed is a 2016 United States Artist Fellow and the 2019 Meier Achievement Award recipient.



Ben LaMar Gay, trumpet

Ben LaMar Gay is a composer and cornetist who moves sound, color, and space through folkloric filters to produce electro-acoustic collages. A Chicago native, Ben's true technique is giving life to an idea while exploring and expanding on the term "Americana." By being active in Chicago's experimental music scene and having spent a three-year residency in Brazil, Ben collaborated with several influential figures in the world of music, including Joshua Abrams, the Association of the Advancement of Creative Musicians, Bixiga 70, Black Monks of Mississippi, Celso Fonseca, George Lewis, Nicole Mitchell, Jeff Parker, Theo Parrish, Mike Reed, Tomeka Reid, and ItibereZwarg. With the celebrated release of his debut album, Downtown Castles Can Never Block the Sun (International Anthem, 2018) and multiple commissions, Ben is establishing his unique place and voice in the creative ecosystem. He received artist residencies from Edgar Miller Legacy Glasner Studios and the Red Bull Music Academy. His range of performances and creative projects span from his hometown in Chicago's very own Symphony Center and across the globe to places such as Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Poland, and the Netherlands. Embracing global vision while remaining true to his roots, Ben aligns his creative output with the honest notion that he only knows how to be a man from the South Side of Chicago.

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