

A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark, high-collared jacket, stands in front of a weathered, light-colored wall. He is holding a dark, vintage-style suitcase with a handle in his left hand and a small, orange and white keyboard instrument in his right hand. The scene is lit with a soft, natural light, creating a moody atmosphere.

BORDER LINES

STÉPHANE TSAPIS

== **TRIO** ==

STÉPHANE TSAPIS - PIANO, COMPOSITIONS

MARC BURONFOSSE - DOUBLE BASS

ARNAUD BISCAY - DRUMS

NEW ALBUM - 18 MARS 2016

CRISTAL RECORDS / HARMONIA MUNDI

THE PROJECT

One can talk of affairs of the heart with composure and things of the mind with feeling. For that, one just has to reconcile - or even unite - the irreconcilable. Which is precisely what this trio does, in its singular way of linking expressionism to restraint and generosity to a certain reserve, without ever sacrificing one to the other. Its hallmark? Understatement. Stéphane Tsapis and Marc Buronfosse - both members of the Georges Paczynski trio, where they are very much at home - know how to make music which is as sparse as it is inspiring. Arnaud Biscay too has perfected the precious art of creating fervour without frenzy. No showy outpourings here, but rather a distilling of emotion which excludes neither eloquence nor interiority - as long as they go hand in hand.

But it is clear that this music, however understated, has no intention of mincing its words, nor of stopping at the surface of things. If you know your target and hit the mark, you can afford to pull your punches. With «Border Lines», Stéphane Tsapis, who won the 2014 Ellington Composers Award - and one understands why - has realised a highly original album. He set out to present, as he says, «a musical panorama of Greece past and present», and to conjure up «different regions and different periods», combining original compositions with «arrangements of Greek standards». At the same time, he wanted every sequence of this film unfolding for the listener's imagination to «explore the concept of border».

Two pledges, both amply honoured.

Alain Gerber, writer



STEPHANE TSAPIS

Stéphane Tsapis is a composer, pianist and professor of film scoring at the Paris Conservatoire. His album *Mataroa*, literary and musical fresco retracing the route of the exiled Greeks during the civil war, is supported by SACEM and is hailed by international critics (Mexico, Colombia, Greece, France citizen jazz award in 2012, USA, Japan). He multiplies collaborations abroad, especially in Japan with the album *Musique pour 4 mains et one bouche*, a duo with the Japanese saxophonist Maki Nakano. In May 2014 he tours once more in Japan with *Charlie and Edna* his latest trio album (Jazzmagazine revelation) produced by the Japanese label Cloud. He represents France with the *Paris-Mexico* project in 2013 in the Mexico Euro Jazz festival where he performs in front of 20,000 auditors. He represents France in Dushanbe Ethno jazz festival in Tajikistan in May 2014 where he performs in trio with Maki Nakano and Yann Pittard. His new album *Border Lines* will be released in March 2016 on Cristal Records label distributed by Harmonia Mundi. In this album he explores his Greek roots with lots of freedom, accompanied by Marc Buronfosse on bass and Arnaud Biscay on drums.

Among his many accomplishments and price, we can mention that Stéphane was awarded at the International Film Festival of Aubagne for the film *La Nuit autour*, and that he won the first prize at the Duke Ellington composition contest in 2012 with his piece for Big Band *Mount Athos*.

Alongside his career as a pianist, he composes more and more for the cinema: he has written the soundtrack of *Khaos, les visages humains de la crise grecque* in 2012, and that of *The Immigrant* (Chaplin) for Jazz quartet and symphony orchestra to be premiered in January 2016 in Paris with guest soloist Jean-Charles Richard.





REFERENCES

France :

Paris, Studio de L'ermitage, Sunside, Festival de Radio France de Montpellier

Mexique :

Casa de Francia, Mexico Euro Jazz Festival, Convite, Black Horse, French Institut of Queretaro, Blue Monk etc...

Grèce :

Tinos Jazz Festival, Paros Jazz Festival, Syros (Elia)

Japon :

Tokyo, Sometime, Chiba, Jazz spot candy, Kyoto, Institut Français du Kansai, Yokohama, Jazzspot Dolphy, Nagoya, Doxy, Yokkaichi, Fullhouse

Tadjikistan :

Doushanbe Ethno Jazz