

WORLDWIDE CD RELEASE (EXCEPT FRANCE)

FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2018

LAURENT DE WILDE  
**NEW  
MONK  
TRIO**

# LAURENT DE WILDE

## “NEW MONK TRIO”

*“Laurent de Wilde achieved a perfect transposition of his predecessor’s sense of humoristic gravity”*

Citizen Jazz



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**Internationally renowned jazz pianist, Laurent de Wilde has been described as an exciting and passionate musician. Born in the United States in 1960, de Wilde spent his formative years (1964 to 1983) in France where he was immersed in French culture, music and literature eventually studying philosophy at the “Ecole Normale Supérieure” in Paris.**

Returning to the United States on a scholarship to further his musical knowledge, he studied jazz piano in New York where he resided for eight years. In the late 1980’s he recorded his first albums with trumpet player

Eddie Henderson and drummers Jack DeJohnette and Billy Hart.

Returning to Paris in 1991, he continued his musical career touring throughout Europe, the United States and Japan. In 1993 he was awarded the Django Reinhardt Prize and in 1998 the “Victoires du Jazz”. In this period he also wrote his first book, a biography of Thelonious Monk that was published by Gallimard in 1996. The book received critical acclaim and has been translated and published in the United States, the U.K., Japan, Spain and Italy.





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After the turn of the century, de Wilde pursued a number of varied and intense projects including his Acoustic Trio, producing the album "**Over the Clouds**" that was awarded album of the year by Jazz Magazine, Telerama and TSF Jazz. In this period he also devoted himself to electronic music, a genre that challenged and inspired him to record six albums including "**Fly**" and "**Fly Superfly**". He collaborated with artists such as the slammer/composer Abd Al Malik and comedian Jacques Gamblin. He ventured into TV with two documentaries for Arte on Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus and released his second book "**The Heroes of Sound**" (published by Grasset), a saga of the inventors of keyboards in the twentieth century.

In 2016, "**Riddles**", a piano duo album where African

legend Ray Lema and de Wilde "play as few notes as possible and just the right ones", was released. In concert, this project reaches its full potential and has led to the duo performing regularly on French and European stages.

Finally, to mark the centennial of Thelonious Monk's birthday and the twentieth anniversary of the publication of his Thelonious Monk biography, de Wilde's album titled "**New Monk Trio**" has been released. Accompanied by Jérôme Regard on double bass and Donald Kontomanou on drums, de Wilde revisits Monk's repertoire delivering a contemporary reading of the pianist's work and proving that Monk's modernity transcends the limits of time and continues to shake the essential values of music.







**In 2017 the brilliant pianist and composer Thelonious Monk would have turned 100 years old. To say that his music is still alive would be a grave understatement, in fact with its rhythmic depth and harmonic density it has never seemed stronger, more inspiring and is as relevant today as it was when it was composed.**

For many years while performing either with his acoustic or electronic formations, de Wilde has borrowed pieces from Monk's repertoire - however it has taken more than twenty years for Laurent to dedicate an entire album to Thelonious "**Sphere**" Monk, a mythical tutelary figure who inspires and artistically nourishes him. With the release of the album "**New Monk Trio**" de Wilde finally feels he is able to offer a personal and original reading of the work of the master.

When speaking of the project Laurent stated "With the turnup of Thelonious 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, I convinced myself the time had come to pay tribute to him in my own way: by resuming his melodies, rearranging them with my modest personal sound palette and sometimes recomposing his music. I choose for this a format that is pleasant and familiar to me, the acoustic trio. Also, I preferred the short formats Thelonious was so

fond of in the beginning and of which I appreciate the compelling constraint of clarity."

For the "**New Monk trio**" project, Laurent de Wilde decided to re-read a selection of Monk's songs, to interpret them in his own way by modifying the original tempo, altering forms and breaking open harmonies according to his mood and humor. In this way, we once again re-discover, with pleasure, versions of the well-known "**Misterioso**", "**Round Midnight**", "**Pannonica**" and "**Monk's Mood**" beautifully revisited by the trio.

We can appreciate the humor of "**Monk's Mix**" bringing together several melodies on a calypso rhythm. We start to whistle happily with the trio on "**Friday The 13**", the last title of the album. "**Reflections**" is interpreted faithfully in line with the original writing while Laurent's original composition "**Tune for T**" completes an album ripe for the adventurous listener.

Laurent de Wilde and his high profile trio clearly establish, for those who would have doubted it, the strong modernity of Monk's language. From yesterday to today, beyond the limits of time, Monk's music remains timeless and its modernity resists the outrages often inflicted by time on works of the past.

The choice of Jérôme Regard on the bass and Donald Kontomanou on the drums is obvious: as partners for several years in the acoustic trio ("Over the clouds"), they developed the show «Ce que la Djazz fait à ma Djambe» around the French actor Jacques Gamblin. Their joy of playing and musical creativity make them an essential element in the project. Of equal importance is the contribution of recording engineer Dominique Poutet, aka Otisto 23 who shows that he is not only a virtuoso of live computer exercises but also excels at recording acoustic music.

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## THE MUSICIANS



### JÉRÔME REGARD

Acoustic and electric bass player, Jérôme Regard is an eclectic musician and highly sought after sideman. In concert, he has performed with Manu Katché, the Paris Jazz Big Band, Jan Garbarek, Stefano Di Battista, Daniel Humair, Vincent Peirani, Emile Parisien, Stéphane Belmondo, Franck Avitabile and many others. He has participated in many festivals and, performs regularly in Europe, Asia and the United States. Jérôme is also highly active as a jazz educator and teaches at the National Conservatory of Lyon.



### DONALD KONTOMANOU

Jazz drummer Donald Kontomanou comes from a family of musicians (his mother is Elisabeth Kontomanou), and has played in jazz clubs since the age of 14. At 15 he moved to New York where he played with Eric Revis (bass player of Branford Marsalis) and spent then a year in India to studying tabla technique. In 2002 he moved back to Paris where he has performed with artists such as Stéphane Belmondo, Laurent de Wilde, Rick Margitza to name just a few. Alongside John Scofield, Sam Newsome and Orrin Evans he has recorded albums with Elisabeth Kontomanou. Very active on the new jazz scene, he tours regularly performing at festivals in France and abroad.

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