



Qui Qu'en grogne

Yannick Rieu Generation Quartet

For his new project "Generation Quartet", Yannick Rieu returns in a quartet format (piano, double bass, drums and saxophones). Since his professional beginnings, Rieu has always navigated between so-called electric or electronic projects (Non Acoustic Project, Spectrum, Da Li, MachiNations) and those based on acoustic instrumentation (L'art du Trio, Balade Ballades, Saint-Gervais - this last project received the "CHOC" award from the French magazine "Jazzman"). These different paths meet and enrich each other and allow Rieu to consider each project with an originality and a timeliness that are underlined by the critics and appreciated by the public. The music he proposes with this group is meant to be accessible, even "catchy" through simple melodies without being simplistic, melodies that will be developed and complexified later in the improvisation.

With "Generation Quartet", Yannick Rieu surrounds himself with confirmed musicians and the next generation. This group is composed of Gentiane Michaud-Gagnon (Revelation Radio Canada 2018-2019), Louis-Vincent Hamel, Guy Boisvert and, of course, Yannick Rieu. As its name indicates, the "Generation Quartet" project makes possible a dialogue between two generations of musicians who, over the years and through shared experiences, have developed a particular chemistry, a sound of their own that defies categories.

One foot in the jazz tradition, the other in innovation, this group is characterized by the great cohesion of its members, who explore, dialogue and exchange together. In addition to the unbridled spontaneity, the collective energy is another great strength of this quartet. The music they share is full of poetry, mystery and beauty, evoking the human and spiritual experience in all its aspects.

The text of the album

Time, all of a sudden, gives the impression of having dilated, it is as if suspended, has taken on another face. A bubble. A cocoon. Everything is simple. The incredible privilege of being able to be totally immersed in the game - we play the music -, this one being its engine, this transmission belt allowing this jump in another world. It is the sap accompanying the will to "make oneself blossom", to blossom in order to better give. Yes, we play to give.

That, for me, is the ultimate goal. To share. To give. To offer. To be attentive to this modest offering that we want to be worthy of the passion that inhabits us.

To play music, to improvise: to tell a story, to build bridges, to go towards the other, to make an action unfold from which movement is absent, to bring the spectator to travel in another dimension. To take him by the hand? Juggling with the extremes: tensions, relaxations and all the range of possibilities that these two poles offer, cries of joy, despair or sweet whispers, pulling the elastic of reason by ways that leave the time of the waking state.

Observer without center, acrobat of time, traveler of the moment. Surprising but not disconcerting, arousing the desire to know more, to make the listener say: oh yes? And then? And in the best case: again!

"Qui qu'en grogne", in the Middle Ages, war cries of privateers or an inscription that appeared on many medieval fortifications in order to keep the village or town where they were built in respect. Qui qu'en grogne, the name of the boat where I spent part of my childhood.

Qui qu'en grogne...follow your path, no matter what people say or think.

Short presentation:

Recognized as one of the most talented saxophonists on the world scene, notably by the American jazz bible Down Beat, composer and saxophonist Yannick Rieu has performed around the world where he has garnered awards and praise for both his recordings and live performances. "Generation Quartet is characterized by the great cohesion of its members, who explore, dialogue and exchange together. The music they share is imbued with poetry, mystery and beauty, evoking the human and spiritual experience in all its aspects.

Musicians:

Yannick Rieu/compositions, saxophones

Gentiane Michaud-Gagnon/piano

Guy Boisvert/double bass

Louis-Vincent Hamel/drums

**YANNICK RIEU**

composer and saxophonist

Recognized as one of the most talented jazz saxophonists in the world, Yannick Rieu is the recipient of the 18th Oscar Peterson Award, acknowledging his outstanding musicianship and exceptional contribution to the development of Canadian jazz. His music is best defined by its constant evolution.

He has received unanimous praise from jazz critics around the world: «Most likely one of the world's 20 best jazz saxophone players.» - Journal de Montréal (Canada) – «Canada's greatest jazz poet.» - Jazzman (France) – In 1988, “*Downbeat*” magazine Critic Poll ranked him alongside Brandford Marsalis and Joe Lovano as one of the 20 most promising saxophonists on the world scene. Jazz writers have compared him to Stan Getz or Lee Konitz (L'Express, Toronto) - «He sounds like a mixture of Tony Malaby or Chris Potter's muscular playing with a hint of mid-60s Sonny Rollins lyricism.» - The Jazz Clinic (USA).

Where does Yannick Rieu really stand? The answer is complex. «He has the ability to evoke the roar and fury of life as well as the tenderness and exquisite delight of our existence.» (Stanley Péan, Radio Canada).

«Contextually neither expressionist nor impressionist, avant-gardist nor neo-conservative, Yannick Rieu instead inhabits a middle ground, where inspiration is motivated by individual concern, a private vision. The choice he has made mark him as a musician of thoughtful gesture and singular craft.» - Art Lange, New York.

«Bruno Monsaingeon once said that Glenn Gould's genius was to give each auditor the seemingly miraculous ability to decipher Bach's music. Yannick Rieu is endowed with the same gift: to hear him think out loud his interior musical self is to experience the exhilarating sensation of being able to speak the jazz idiom ourselves.» L'Express, Toronto.

Yannick Rieu leaves no one indifferent. Through his acoustic and electronic projects, he tackles music from multiple angles, while improvisation remains the cornerstone of his artistry. Always intense and intuitive, he plays tenor and soprano saxophone, obeying his own philosophy, without any compromise. As a creative artist, he constantly aims at giving sense to his music.

Yannick Rieu has received three «Félix» awards, from Canada's ADISQ (Association for the Recording, Concert and Video Industries) in the Jazz Album of the Year category for his albums «*What Is the Colour of Love?*», «*Little Zab*», and «*I Is Memory*.» Through the course of his fruitful musical career, he has been regularly nominated as composer and saxophonist.

Short biography of Yannick Rieu

Yannick Rieu was the 18th recipient of the ***Oscar Peterson Award*** to celebrate the quality of his art and his outstanding contribution to the development of Canadian jazz. As early as 1988, ***Down Beat***, the American bible of jazz, ranked him amongst the 20 most talented saxophonists in the world alongside Branford Marsalis, Joe Lovano and Courtney Pine. Since then, Yannick Rieu has played throughout the world and collects praise and awards, both for his recordings and his performances on stage.

"Traits of a genius", Christophe Rodriquez, Journal de Montréal

"The greatest poet of Canadian jazzmen", JAZZMAN, Paris

Recent awards and honors:

2021: Opus Award – Jazz album of the Year (Yannick Rieu "MachiNations")

2020: André Gagnon de la Fondation SPACQ Award for Composer of Instrumental Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4-a1gwlaBU&feature=youtu.be>

2019: Tribute Award 2019 presented by Festi Jazz Mont-Tremblant for his remarkable contribution to the development of jazz in Canada

Interview : Yannick Rieu - André Gagnon de la Fondation SPACQ Award

<https://sortiesjazznights.com/yannick-rieu-remporte-le-prix-andre-gagnon-de-la-spacq-dans-la-categorie-musique-instrumentale/>

Gentiane Michaud-Gagnon

Award winning pianist Gentiane MG's musical training began in her early youth, studying classical music at the *Quebec Music Conservatory* in Saguenay. During her teenage years she developed a strong interest for composition, and her growing curiosity would later bring her to discover improvised music, eventually relocating to Montréal to pursue a formal education in Jazz Performance at McGill University.

In 2014, she founded the Gentiane MG Trio alongside bassist Levi Dover and drummer Louis-Vincent Hamel. With this group, Gentiane MG has toured extensively in Quebec, in Canada and in Mexico. The trio has released two albums of original music, *Eternal Cycle* (Arté Boréal, 2017) and *Wonderland* (Effendi, 2019).

The three bandmates explore musical freedom and communication using MG's pieces as a foundation to build upon, conceiving of instrumental music as a vehicle for profound expression. MG's compositions are rooted in the jazz tradition of songwriting and improvisation while also influenced by impressionistic and romantic classical music.

Gentiane MG is an active member of saxophonist Yannick Rieu's Generation Quartet, with which she has toured extensively in China. She recently co-produced a duo album with saxophonist Frank Lozano, *Convergence* (MCM, 2020) and appears regularly with the Montreal National Jazz Orchestra. MG has received several awards for her work with her trio, including the *François Marcaurette de la GMMQ Award* in 2017, the *Radio-Canada Jazz Award* in 2018 and the *OPUS Award: Discovery of the Year* in 2020.



Louis-Vincent Hamel

Born in Quebec City, Louis-Vincent Hamel started playing drums at age 5. After a few years of private lessons with teacher Raynald Drouin, he went to the Conservatoire de musique de Québec to study classical percussions. He then started his bachelor's degree at Université Laval, moved to Montreal and graduated from McGill University, where he studied with teachers Chris McCann, Michel Lambert and Jim Doxas. In 2018, he completed a Master's degree with teachers Joe Sullivan, John Hollenbeck and Jean-Nicolas Trottier.

Louis-Vincent played with renowned musicians such as Ellis Marsalis, Yannick Rieu, Rémi Bolduc, Rafael Zaldivar, Luis Perdomo and Samuel Blais. He is a member of numerous groups including Hornet, No Codes, Emilio Reyna Ensemble, Simon Legault Quintet, Alex Francoeur Group, Gilles Bernard Quartet and Gentiane MG Trio, with which he has played in Mexico in 2017, and Yannick Rieu's quartet, with which he has toured in France, Italy and China in 2016, 2019 and 2021. Louis-Vincent frequently plays in the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, Festival de Jazz de Québec, Festival Jazz ETCETERA de Lévis, Festival Jazz et Blues du Saguenay, OFF Festival de Jazz de Montréal, Festi Jazz Mont-Tremblant and the Festival de Jazz de Rimouski. He also won the 2015 Opus Prize for jazz concert of the year with the Rémi Bolduc Quartet, as well as the François-Marcaurelle Prize for best performance at the OFF Jazz Festival in 2017 and 2018. He obtained the McGill Graduate Excellence Fellowship in 2016 and the Jacqueline Lallemend Bursary in 2013.



Guy Boisvert

Bassist Guy Boisvert, a graduate of McGill University in jazz performance, has been a member of François Bourassa's quartet since 1982. With nine albums to their credit, the quartet was awarded the "Juno" for best jazz album of the year in 2001 for their album "Live". In 2004, the group won another award for their album "Indefinite time", the "Félix" for best jazz album, not to mention the four "Opus" awards they have won to date. With his band, Guy has toured several countries and participated in several renowned jazz festivals, including the North Sea Jazz Festival in The Hague, Netherlands.

Guy performs regularly with saxophonist Yannick Rieu in projects such as John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme" and also the "Generation Quartet" with an original repertoire that includes almost exclusively Yannick's compositions.

Accompanying many artists, he has played on several albums including those of Terez Montcalm, François Richard, Sylvain Provost, Christian Pamerleau and Pierre Côté. He has collaborated on a few film soundtracks, including "Jack Paradise" and the "Omerta" series by guitarist and composer Michel Cusson. Guy has also participated in the Quebec jazz program in New York and has performed at Jazz at the Lincoln Center with François Bourassa's quartet and special guest saxophonist David Binney. François Bourassa's quartet has also opened for world-renowned artists such as Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie, Tommy Dorsey orchestra, Tony Bennett, Winton Marsalis, Wayne Shorter and Dave Holland quintet. Since 1990, he teaches music at the Cégep de Drummondville.

