

ADRIEN VARACHAUD *Unity 5tet*

STRANGE HORNS



RASUL SIDDIK

ADRIEN VARACHAUD

TOM MCCLUNG

WAYNE DOCKERY

DOUGLAS SIDES

FIRST ALBUM

« The 5tet displays an extraordinary amount of energy and vitality, together with a radiating sound not so common these days. You should quickly get a copy of the CD. »

Nicolas Bénéès



Culture
JAZZ

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Jean Buzelin

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Jean Szlamowicz

jazz hot

JAZZ
jazzman magazine

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Lorraine Soliman

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Adrien Varachaud
Unity 5tet : "Strange Horns"
AV001 (auto-production)

The CD features Rasul Siddik along with French saxophonist Adrien Varachaud, born in 1977. Unlike many of his fellow musicians of the younger generation, Varachaud was not afraid to learn from, and immerse into, the Great Black Music culture. He met Archie Shepp some ten years ago, and then Mal Waldron among others, two decisive steps leading him to work intensively with many American musicians living in Paris and elsewhere. Barry Altschul invited Adrien Varachaud to play with the FAB trio before his first CD was released. Varachaud gathers some of the best-known "Paris Americans," all top-record artists. If you imagine that the young saxophonist was awed by his entourage, you get it all wrong ; he displays instead masterly authority, with a full, fleshy sound at the tenor and a winding playing style punctuated with stresses on the soprano. To have an idea of his accompanists' involvement, it is just enough to listen to the collective « group sound » to realize how naturally coherent the band is. This does not prevent some daring traits in each of the members' solos.

It is to be hoped that Adrien Varachaud, who is both eclipsed and valorized by his prestigious partners, will be reckoned as being as talented as other young French saxophonists who cannot boast his background, and that we will hear him play live in the better venues.

Jean Buzelin

ACTUALITÉS

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Adrien Varachaud

24 mai 2011

Strange Horns

Nouveauté-Découverte

Adrien Varachaud

Strange Horns

Strange Horns, Impulse, Soul Eyes, 4 AM, Oleo

Adrien Varachaud (ts, ss), Rasul Siddik (tp), Tom McClung (p), Wayne Dockery (b), Douglas Sides (dm)

Recorded on May 15 2009, Paris

Time : 57' 05"

AV001 (theunityquintet@yahoo.com)

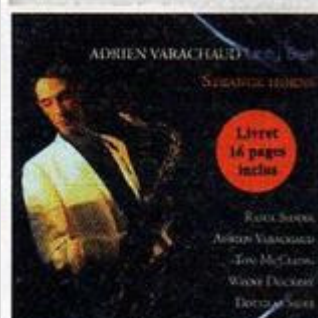
Saxophonist Adrien Varachaud, born in Strasbourg and dubbed by Archie Shepp, works marvels on this superb live recording (produced and mixed by Barry Altschul). His Unity 5tet mirrors the way Adrien Varachaud was adopted by a family of typically Parisian American musicians (Katy Roberts, John Betsch, Ted Curson...). Adrien Varachaud's aesthetic expression clearly wavers between blues and dissonances. Unlike the traditional interpretation of standards, this music is marked by new modes of expression which rely on something larger and more open than the mere exploration of chords. The cohesion of the rhythmic section is very operative in this respect: Rasul Siddik's dazzling stabs and Adrien Varachaud's wilful meanders are supported by Wayne Dockery's beautiful blues-packed lines and Douglas Sides' burgeoning time. Tom McClung contributes superb accompaniment patterns with jolts, rebounds, and vivifying variations magnificently woven into the texture of the solos. McClung's achievement in his own solos is remarkable too, with a keen sense of presence. Varachaud evokes Steve Lacy, Shepp and Roland Kirk. Rasul Siddik offers some very intense solos, Wayne Dockery's swing is marvellous and Douglas Sides displays eruptive musicality. In short, the musicians' sensitive generosity is at its height here and finds particular expression in the blues (« Strange Horns » and « 4 AM »). The cd comes with a remarkable leaflet providing photos, a biography of each musician and information on the circumstances of the recording. A complete success !

Jean Szlamowicz

JAZZ

jazzman magazine

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ADRIEN VARACHAUD UNITY 5TET STRANGE HORNS

1 CD AUTOPRODUIT / THEUNITYQUINTET@YAHOO.COM

Saxophonist Adrien Varachaud has recorded this album entitled « Strange Horns » under the patronage of both Archie Shepp and Barry Altschul. The former gave him unforgettable lessons and the latter helped with the production of the CD. « Strange Horns, » Varachaud first album, was produced in Paris and combines a fair amount of precious assets. What is striking is the easiness which Varachaud displays in the way he develops his own voice among his elders who build up a masterly hard-bop environment. The saxophonist, at the origin of the 5tet, played safe by having Tom McClung, Wayne Dockery, Douglas Sides and Rasul Siddik at the top of his form, play with him. The programme is original and unpretentious with 3 compositions (by Varachaud, Siddik and Sides) and 2 standards, one of them a reprise of Mal Waldron's « Soul Eyes » where the soprano's sensuousness works miracles. In another piece, « Oleo, » the sax's speedy rhythm, not so frequent, becomes truly stupendous. Each theme is followed by a succession of brilliant solos, all carefully planned and played with a lot of self-restraint. For his first CD Varachaud has treated himself to a first-class trip in nostalgia, we expect the second one to be just a little more adventurous.

LORRAINE SOLIMAN

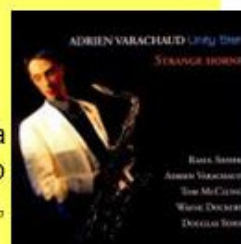
Adrien Varachaud (ts, ss) Rasul Siddik (tp),
Tom McClung (p), Wayne Dockery (b), Douglas
Sides (dm). Mai 2009

L'UNIVERSITÉ SYNDICALISTE MAG

Découvertes

In jazz

Adrien Varachaud is a young tenor and soprano saxophonist born in 1977, who plays in the wake of



Archie Shepp and Steve Lacy. He has organized a 5tet with American musicians all born between 1941 and 1957. The 5tet displays an extraordinary amount of energy and vitality, together with a radiating sound not so common these days. You should quickly get a copy of the CD.

Nicolas Bénéès

• *Strange Horns*, CD sold on www.soufflecontinu.com or theunityquintet@yahoo.com



Les Dernières Nouvelles du Jazz

Lundi 8 novembre 2010 10:08 / 11 / Nov / 2010 18:31

ADRIEN VARACHAUD - UNITY QUINTET « Strange Horns » ***

Indépendant – 2010



Rasul Siddik (tp), Adrien Varachaud (sopiten), Tom McClung (pno), Wayne Dockery (cb), Douglas Sides (dms)

The CD was recorded live in Paris in March 2009. It features a group of outstanding musicians, all with extraordinary itineraries. Rasul Siddik's trumpet is full of audacity and sounds very passionate, as usual. Tom McClung, pianist, is also part of the experience with his madly brilliant touch. Wayne Dockery, formerly Stan Getz's bass player, answers Douglas Sides, a legendary figure in the jazz world playing the drums. Saxophonist Adrien Varachaud could find no better team to open the gig with a composition which provides the album with its title. The CD was produced by Barry Altschul (who also supervised the mastering) whose « Conference of the Birds » had previously enthralled us all. The superbly interpreted Mal Waldron ballad, « Soul Eyes, » cannot pass unnoticed with each of the soloists offering a gamut of sweet sensations produced by a keen sense of melody. The various pieces, recalling Coltrane's aesthetic universe, modulate into ecstatic swinging purity typical of traditional jazz quintet arrangements. The CD is all about a quest for dissonances, for impure sound and improvised fantasy, a series of ingredients which have not been put together at random. The eerie atmosphere is yet another tribute to Ornette Coleman with its ceaseless dream of freedom in mind. This album is undoubtedly full of nostalgia, but is also pregnant with a great deal of talent and rashness. The interplay between the musicians offers the freshness of a truly grand jazz group.

Tristan Loriaut

l'union

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Morsain / The Berlinval Galerie. Intense and Rhythmical Jazz.

By *Anonymous*

Created on *October 1, 2010 11:00*

On Sunday afternoon, the Berlinval galerie in Morsain opened its door to the Adrien Varachaud Unity 5tet. This quintet (Adrien Varachaud at the tenor and soprano saxophones, Rasul Siddik at the trumpet, Tom McClung at the piano, Wayne Dockery at the double bass and Douglas Sides at the drums) delighted all Jazz lovers with its « individual approach » of the music based on « flashes of brilliance » in the sax's solos and the « outstanding rhythmic section. » The group was born out of the Alibi fabric and has just issued a CD, *Strange Horns*.

The musicians' performance delighted the audience



URL source: <http://www.lunion.presse.fr/article/culture-et-loisirs/morsain-galerie-berlinval-du-jazz-intense-et-tres-rythme>

Jazz in the Country

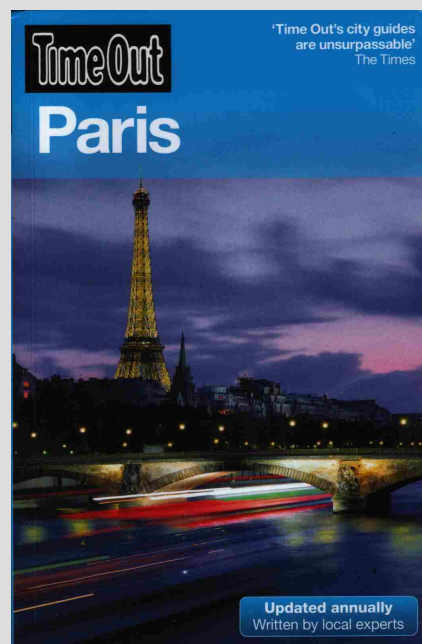
Kick back among the beetroot fields at a unique music festival.

Every once in a while, if you're lucky, you get a chance to partake in one of life's privileged moments. And for lovers of jazz, one of those moments happens each month in a tiny hamlet called **Berlinval**, near Soissons (an hour north Paris), surrounded by nothing but beetroot fields and the occasional sheep.

Twenty five years ago, artist Richard Bréchet and his former wife, Marie-Edith, founded a jazz club called L'Alibi in Uzès, near Nîmes. It soon became the hottest jazz spot outside Paris, attracting big names from across the Atlantic, including trombonist Glenn Ferris (sidekick to Frank Zappa), the legendary Mal Waldron (composer and pianist with Billy Holiday) and saxophone star Archie Shepp.

Nowadays, Bréchet lives in Berlinval in a converted farmhouse that already doubles as an art gallery (La Galerie de Berlinval), but triples as L'Alibi – Mal Waldron/Archie Shepp Jazz Club once a month, when jazz greats jam and bop into the wee hours in his lounge. These are unique and deliciously surreal opportunities to listen to

and mingle with old and new A-listers such as Archie Shepp, pianist Kirk Lightsey (a former regular with Chet Baker), drummer Victor Lewis (who played for Stan Getz), double-bassist Santi Debriano, drummer John Betsch, pianist Tom McClung and saxophonist Adrien Varachaud. Concerts cost around €20 and you need to reserve in advance (03.23.59.01.32/galerie deberlinval@yahoo.fr). Accommodation can also be arranged from €10 (ask when you reserve). To receive the programme, email Bréchet on the address above.



February, 2009