



PRESS
CD Around K - PRINT & Friends
(Yolk, juillet 2009)

Shock-award record 2009 JazzMagazine

JazzMagazine/JazzMan, december 2009, Choc 2009.

Saxophonist Sylvain Cathala here extends his Print group to a nine-performer-group and thus gives his concepts inherited from Steve Coleman and Tim Berne, a sumptuous orchestral material, constantly animated by labyrinthine counterpoints, rhythmical progressions and roaring fawn colours.

Place Publique, november, december 2009

Print and Friends is one of the ensembles directed by very active saxophonist Sylvain Cathala. Around him and his print comrades (Stéphane Payen on the alto sax, Jean-Philippe Morel on the contrabass and Franck Vaillant on the drums), there are four other acrobats (trumpet and bugle, tuba and trombone, guitar, fender rhodes). What an instrumental palette for the maestro to display his exploring talents on! Sylvain Cathala exhibits here a boundless inventiveness. Both incredibly free and perfectly controlled, his universe is a musical forest in which paths cross each other and merge before they vanish and then come out again. A must of intelligence to which JazzMagazine/jazzMan has awarded a "Shock".

JazzMagazine/JazzMan, september 2009, Shock-award record, Frédéric Goaty.

I can't wait for Steve Coleman to listen to this record. Besides, that's what you'll certainly do before him, because I hope that this review will convince you to invest in this exceptional sum of modern music. Why mention Steve Coleman in the introduction? Because it seems to me that, for the first time, I keep listening to the works of a group which has absorbed his innovations (rhythmical, melodic, harmonious, philosophical), in order to invent a totally original universe. Around K is an exceptionally homogeneous record. Its treasures and tone inspirations do not reveal themselves when you listen to it for the first time, which is always a very good sign. Jazz, according to Print, is ambitious and adventurous, but also seductive and sensual. And here, everything that has to do with tone fascinates: the tone of each soloist, the group's tone (what a group, what a real group!), the sound recording. Our ears are treated with care, which enables us to be all ears: a sonic trip on the scale of "Into The Deep Night" curls up in them all the better and, in this piece, our dazzling young men take the liberty of jumbling together the legacy of the first Weather Report and the hypnotic scansions of the aforementioned Coleman. And if, as a conclusion, I'd dare to make a wish, it would be this one: let Print's Friends join the group permanently because I admit that, from now on, I'd find it hard to do without Jozef Dumoulin's magic spells in this context.

PS: In an ideal world, Free Houle would naturally enter the playlist of a good Parisian radio jazz station.

Sunship, october 2009 - Franpi Barriaux.

Among the most interesting jazz ensembles in France, saxophonist Sylvain Cathala's quartet Print, created in 1996, is one of our greatest assets, delivering with each record a music with a perfect polyrhythmic construction, firmly rooted in an efficiency and elegance that brings the group nearer to the works of Steve Coleman's M-Base, particularly through the clearly displayed reference to the Belgian group Aka Moon...A contemporary musical construction, open and collective, which clearly bears Cathala's print... (Print).

We had left Print in 2007 with a record "Baltic Dance" which exploited an uncompromising urban vein, driven by an exceptionally efficient rhythm section with Jean-Philippe Morel (the ineffable "United Colours of Sodom" bassist) and drummer Franck Vaillant, Benzine's inspiring spirit, whose latest album was particularly enjoyed here. One Franck Vaillant, essential for the complexity of asymmetric rhythmic, extremely elaborate, which radically assembles Print's music: a music that seeps through the night, both dark and raw, fascinating in its balance between excitement and torpor. But Print is also valued for the prodigious class of Cathala's compositions and its discursive and sometimes totally telluric exchanges with the quartet's other excellent saxophonist Stéphane Payen, whom we love too for the excellent Thôt. Two saxophones for a quartet, the construction is surprising but efficiency in harmonic research is always maximal...

Back at Yolk which obviously livens up the musical summer with four absolutely remarkable releases (we'll soon talk again about the Alban Larche trio), Print has become rather stout with "Around K" which maybe still

more draws its inspiration from this midnight atmosphere, these city lights and infinite spaces. From a quartet, Print has become "Print and Friends", an octet, inviting four musicians from the same galaxy. There is the excellent keyboard player Jozef Dumoulin who has been officiating in the same sphere for a long time (Octurn, Benzine, Magic Malik) and brings an electric tone which adds an urban dimension to this tone with a city heights origin, made of atmosphere and garish neon lights and who allies in this electricity with guitarist Gilles Coronado (Le Gros Cube, Thôt, Caroline...) always at the right moment. The importance of these two musicians gives Print more scope and less dryness in the quartet's initial discourse.

Cathala's music becomes labyrinthine, deep and luxuriant, all the more so as two Belgian extra wind instrumentalists: trumpeter Laurent Blondiau (Le Gros Cube, Mâäk's Spirit) and remarkable tuba player Michel Massot bring with their presence a great improvising force to the rhythm section... Therefore, *Around K* is a greatly coherent record that unites musicians who know each other inside out, stand for a collective and common conception of music, meet again in total complicity for an absolutely accomplished synthesis of their individual universes. On this account, the exacerbated sensations and the electric stickiness of pieces such as "Into The Deep Night" almost constitute a manifesto of it.

Le Nouvel Observateur, 01/10/2009, Bernard Loupias.

Among Yolk's recent releases, this CD by saxophonist Sylvain Cathala's quartet which has become an octet here, with, notably, the addition of Gilles Coronado's guitar and Jozef Dumoulin's keyboards in order to invent a labyrinthine and rigorously constructed music. This music should delight the fans of Steve Coleman at his best and those of the Belgian Aka Moon.

www.crisscross-jazz.com, Mathieu Durand

Look out, a tremendous knockout. When saxophonist Sylvain Cathala invites his friends, the celebration is so mad that it becomes orgiastic. A hymn to brass instruments (saxophones, trombone, tuba, trumpet, bugle), "Around K" (Yolk) sounds a bit like the banquet at the end of an Asterix episode without Assurancetourix (Getafix). Having learnt rhythm from Steve Coleman at a very early age, Print extends his art again and again: Obelix used to hew menhirs and Cathala prefers tonal matter- each to his own. But the result is comparably imposing. "Around K" is almost a history / story lesson: loads of sudden new developments, dialogues full of retorts, no demagoguery and actors in full possession of their faculties: Jean-Philippe Morel amazing on the bass, Jozef Dumoulin stunning on the keyboards and that's not all! Unquestionably, one of the greatest records of 2009. Hooray and glory to this small village of indomitable Gauls which still resists.

www.macao.fr, by Lonny Phili

Here's a musical joust as we enjoy them.

With progressive crescendo constructions, collective improvisations, structured and deconstructed rhythmic, crazy and break-filled approaches, all the necessary elements are there to stir up fine never-ending discussions.

And we have a tremendous time, keeping secret what is fair (Keeping Secret What Is Fair). Sylvain Cathala's music buzzes in the only space where the fire it stirs up wouldn't hurt a fly.... Buzzzzz.....

www.krinein.com

A subtle balance between poetry, a dreamy atmosphere and saturation.

www.citizenjazz.com. October 19th 2009. Julien Gros-Burdet.

Among Yolk's faithful friends, we find Print, led by Sylvain Cathala. For this new record, this quartet has turned into an octet by inviting four "Friends" (obviously a chums' business), Gilles Coronado, Jozef Dumoulin, Michel Massot and Laurent Blondiau. Cathala can thus show the full extent of his talent. Eight pieces and as many rich, original, nocturnal stories. The composer's great strength consists in offering an ever-moving music with complex melodies and rhythms without ever letting its intellectual and complex aspect reduce in any way the listener's happiness. No unmotivated coolness or complexity. Listening to the arrangements for the two brass instruments, to Jean-Philippe Morel's omnipresent contrabass or to Laurent Blondiau's solos, is enough to get convinced of it. This music has a cinema-like quality: a lot of things happen, which we gradually discover while we repeatedly listen to it. Its treasures arise from its intermixed lines – the ones from the guitar and the rhodes, the ones from the saxophones. On the drums, Franck Vaillant doesn't ground his music but propels it in subtle rhythmic intervals. Coherence is obvious: everything is perfectly right, we feel that the repertory and the group have a common history, that everyone knows everyone else. Here you have to let the work on tones, tensions and bounds, the group's tone and the commitment of the musicians carry you away. With "Around K", Print's octet version holds its most accomplished album, and that's really saying something when you know the quality of the previous records.

www.lesdni.com, September 2009 by Jean-Marc Gelin

Olympic Café regulars in Paris'18th arrondissement, where Sylvain Cathala's group regularly performed won't be surprised to discover here this young saxophonist's music who, with his Print partners (his group's name), signs here a particularly well-crafted album. Rich in every respect. For the occasion, some "friends" have come to join the core team: long-standing friends and Yolk stable regulars too; namely, Laurent Blondiau, Michel Massot, Gilles Coronado and Jozef Dumoulin who become so much part of the quartet that you would think that this ensemble has always been like this.

It is with virtuoso skill that Sylvain Cathala, an exceptionally gifted saxophonist whom we have spotted ever since he learnt the ropes with Steve Coleman and Sam Rivers, here offers a magnificently composed album which creates cinematographic or theatrical atmospheres as dark as they are sometimes disturbing. Composition here is scholarly and modern in the art of mastering the fusion between unisons and counterpoints, excellently mixing the soloists and the tone of a particularly homogeneous group. A composition which plays with asymmetries, irregular rhythmic, multifaceted harmonic geometries; a very compact composition which is part of collective dynamics, in which phrases and "backs" punctuate a discourse constructed with almost mathematical skill. A very mental approach of music which, for all that, doesn't forget energy on the way.

Progressia, September 2009- Mathieu Carré.

Through *Around K*, the Print Quartet (saxophones, contrabass, drums), sounds like an innovative big band. Joined by four musicians with a sharp discourse and already expert at group exercises, the ensemble led by Sylvain Cathala comes near in spirit to the controlled experiments of Steve Coleman or Octurn ... within which Laurent Blondiau (trumpet and bugle) and Jozef Dumoulin (fender rhodes) were already active in 2006. Indisputably, the latter brings a real personality with just the right amount of eccentricity and discreet influences (the poetic introduction of "Into The Deep Night" worthy of Robert Wyatt or his forceful interventions reminiscent of Xenophobia by Bojan Z) and enables Print and Friends to gain access to the league of the great ensembles, capable of setting fire to different musical horizons without misrepresenting them completely. We expected no less from a group which includes the brains of United Colours of Sodom, Jean-Philippe Morel or Gilles Coronado, the eclectic and innovative guitarist (filled with a seventies-marked fervour on "Spaces of Fire"). The real amazing feat rather comes from the homogeneous quality of the ensemble. Resolutely showing the way, Sylvain Cathala gets the best out of his fellow musicians: an intelligent and yet carefully composed music, but designed to forge ahead under any circumstances and to anticipate the unevenness of the ground to use it all the better.

Quest France – august 10 2009

Saxophonist and founder member of the Print Quartet, Sylvain Cathala has decided to double his team for "Around K", his latest record. The musical potential is increased twofold, dramatically increasing what made Print's appeal in its first version: well-chosen harmonies and razor-edged rhythmic for tones which cross, accompany each other or collide, enabling exciting improvisation phases.

Le Bien Public, 03/10/09 . Guillaume Malvoisin.

An impressive opening. Print has perfectly launched the D'Jazz Kabaret season. Foreshadowing an upcoming festival, the opening night of the D'Jazz Kabaret season has kept its promises: laying on a first-rate meal.

For the second part, led by Print, the far from perfect lighting which interfered with the volutes from Sylvain Cathala and his Friends, would be merely anecdotic. Last season, we saw his Rolex group and its clean and clear lines. With Print, on top of that, you have to hear the perfect coherence and the very personal geometry. Every break, carefully thought-out, confuses us in order to better take us back to essential ground. Every note aims at a goal with an undisclosed name but whose spirit has thoroughly instilled into the listener. To celebrate its fourth album, Print works twice as hard and offers a radicality free of any aggressiveness. An intelligent, frank and generous, exceptional album.

Le Bien Public, 29/09/2009.

One of the two French dates of the Print project!

After freeing his clear lines with his Rolex group last season, Sylvain Cathala comes back to Dijon with Print. Its catchphrase: the future is now; lovers of exceptional things, take notice! Print gathers a few figures seen and heard too, at previous D'Jazz Kabaret events. Built on the original quartet base, the burgeoning octet only seems to know adventure as internal law. An original instrumentation for a rich and fluid music, in which

team-work is not an empty word but the keystone of creation. The work is focused on time and develops polyrhythmics and several speeds, thus creating a sort of volcanic dizziness which would make the late Haroun Tazieff pale with envy. A musician of the depths who only lets the sensitive surface of things tremble, Sylvain Cathala pursues counterpoint and harmony as others hunt for bear in the Klondike. With fire and bare hands. Most certainly, this ensemble should open the forthcoming season in the most beautiful way. We said the future was now. Pleasant promises.

www.jazzmagazine.com 09/2008. By **Franck Bergerot**.

Astounding! On Escher-like geometries, Sylvain Cathala displays vast and almost infinite scores in which the delighted listener gets lost. Luxuriant, musical groves stand there, imposing forests suddenly start flashing by as if we were travelling through them on board some uncontrolled train or suddenly twist round in the grip of some breathtaking tornado. With the addition of his "Friends" to his Print group, Sylvain Cathala gives his counterpoints a prodigious harmonic depth. When he is not in pursuit of a panic-stricken ostinato, Michel Massot walks his tuba with a funambulist's grace, Laurent Blondiau practises musical wizardry, Stephane Payen careers through terrifying scrambles, Jozef Dumoulin makes languid fawn colours roar, Sylvain Cathala elaborates patient labyrinths, Gilles Coronado scratches the musical curtains hung by the composer, Jean-Philippe Morel twists them and Franck Vaillant builds improbable rhythmical structures.