



BEN
LOPEZ

• GUITARIST COMPOSER •



BEN LOPEZ-DRAFT

BIOGRAPHY:

Benjamin Lopez is a Jazz guitarist from Paris. As the leader of his own group or as a sideman, he regularly performs in the capital's clubs such as **Sunset/Sunside**, **Duc des Lombards** and **Baiser Salé**.

After obtaining his **DEM Jazz** at Edim under the teaching of **Romain Pilon**, **David Prez**, **Laurent Coq** and **Eric Schultz**, Benjamin went to New York for a year to study at the prestigious New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, thanks to a merit scholarship. He learned from some of his heroes like guitarists **Mike Moreno**, **Peter Bernstein**, **Andrew Renfroe**, **Steve Cardenas** and saxophonist **Dayna Stephens**.

Benjamin stood out in particular at the **Smietana Guitar Competition** chaired by guitarist **Peter Bernstein** and was selected among hundreds of international guitarists to participate in the Semi Finals in **Krakow, Poland**.

Upon his return to Paris, Benjamin collaborated and performed with many musicians from the Parisian jazz scene such as **Ricardo Izquierdo**, **Robin Nicaise**, **David Prez**, **Jozef Dumoulin**, **Ariel Tessier**, **Stéphane Adsuar Yoni Zelnik**, **Viktor Nyberg**, **Florent Nisse**, **Damien Varailon**, **Simon Chivallon**, **Jeremy Hinnekens**...

He also had the opportunity to tour Mexico with saxophonist **Charley Rose** and singer/storyteller **Diego Gonzalez** as part of the musical project around Latin American authors (Alejo Carpentier, Julio Cortazar) **Viaje en la Semilla**.

With Charley, Benjamin formed his first group with Gabriel Midon on double bass, Ariel Tessier on drums and piano wizard **Jozef Dumoulin**.

Benjamin is today supported by **389 la boutique**, a cultural association which aims to promote its artists through cultural events.



THE PROJECT

With "Draft", guitarist and composer Ben Lopez signs his first album as a leader. Benjamin has gathered around him musicians with whom he has shared the stage for more than 10 years. With them, he developed a sound and an understanding in improvisation which served to nourish the repertoire of this first album. The quartet composed of Robby Marshall on saxophone, Sylvain Dubrez on double bass and Stefano Lucchini on drums draws a musical landscape rich in textures and colors, influenced by the world of musicians such as Bill Frisell and Kurt Rosenwinkel.

The pieces of this first album were partly written while Benjamin was still a student at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music and are therefore greatly influenced by the contemporary Jazz musicians that we all know.

Others were born from a system of composition under constraint inspired by the Oulipo french writers. For example, Oliver's Twist is a piece written in a limited transposition mode theorized by the composer Olivier Messiaen. Likewise, Dodécasong uses the 12 tones of the chromatic scale and is the result of an exercise inspired by Arnold Schoenberg's theory of dodecaphonism. From Nowhere, which opens the album, is a departure from the well-known standard Out of Nowhere.

Guest on several pieces, pianist Laurent Coq completes the group's sound palette with his inimitable raw style.

"Draft" opens Benjamin's sketchbooks to the listener, it is an invitation to travel into a hypnotizing universe ranging from energetic rock to poetic ballads.

Visual imagined by the designer Terreur Graphique (Dargaud, Libération)



THE MEMBERS



ROBBY MARSHALL - SAXOPHONE

Described as “innovative and wildly creative” by the LA Weekly, saxophonist Robby Marshall has toured alongside Cassandra Wilson, Michael Bublé, Trombone Shorty, Brenna Whitaker, and also performed with Carlos Santana, Nancy Wilson, Tigran Hamasyan, Bobby McFerrin, Dave Douglas, Terri Lyne Carrington, Tom Jones, Hugh Laurie and many more. He has appeared on legendary stages like Madison Square Garden, Royal Albert Hall, and several jazz festivals including Montreux, North Sea, Newport, Umbria, and New Orleans JHF.



SYLVAIN DUBREZ - DOUBLE BASS

Sylvain Dubrez started playing guitar at the age of 10, after two years of training at CMDL he launched into the profession of musician. He then toured for 7 years on the 5 continents with the singer Meissa, composed for the cinema and the theater with the director Coline Serreau. At the age of 25 he took up the double bass and began a new career by accompanying many Parisian jazz musicians, Didier Lockwood, Alain Jean-Marie, Michel Perez, Sylvain Beuf, etc... he also collaborated with the Robby Marshall Quartet, Damien Groleau trio, Rimendo, Melody Linhart, Lisa Spada and plays in several shows on Nougaro, Greco, Piaf, Vian, Trenet, Brel etc...



STEFANO LUCCHINI - DRUMS

Son of the Italian drummer and teacher Enrico Lucchini, who was the assistant of Kenny Clarke and Dante Agostini in Paris in the 1960s. He grew up in Milan and started playing drums at the age of 5; he turned professional after high school. Based in Paris since 2012, he has since been very active on the jazz scene; he has accompanied musicians such as Olivier Hutman, Gael Horellou, Frederic Borey, Hermon Mehari, Ricardo Izquierdo, and has been touring since 2015 with the French group Odezenne, whose producer and composer is his brother, Mattia Lucchini.

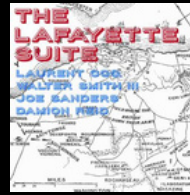
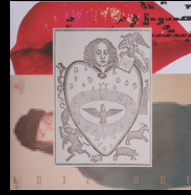


LAURENT COQ - PIANO

Laurent Coq is a French pianist-composer who has conducted his artistic activities for more than twenty years on both sides of the Atlantic. From his first stay in New York in 1994 — through collaborations with major figures in today's jazz (Miguel Zenón, Walter Smith III), to his latest trio disc Kinship (2017 jazz&people/PIAS) recorded with two eminent representatives of the New York scene, Laurent has forged strong links with the jazz scene in New York.

MEDIA

SELECTIVE DISCOGRAPHY OF MEMBERS



Robby Marshall: composition, arrangement and saxophones on records by Gabi Hartman and Coming Forth by Day by Cassandra Wilson.

Stefano Lucchini: drums on Magic Malik and Odezenne records.

Laurent Coq: piano and composition on The Lafayette Suite co-signed with Walter Smith III and on his trio album Kinship with Jonathan Blake and Joshua Crumbly.

RADIOS/PRESSE

Fip: Jazz playlist during the month of July 2023, Club Jazz à Fip hosted by Thomas Curbillon "A very successful first record" FIP

Radio France: Open Jazz program hosted by Alex Dutilh from June 15, 2023 and February 21, 2022

La Gazette Bleue: DRAFT is a great discovery. Ben Lopez plows his furrow among tutelary figures and embodies modern and inventive jazz with subtle melodic lines. (C. Moreau)

Paris-Move: Of undeniable maturity, this album confirms, if necessary, that European jazz no longer has much to envy of those of any other continent. (P. Dallongeville)

CONCERTS DRAFT

January 2024 Spain/Portugal Tour – Draft Trio

January 23 and 24 Granada
25.01 Cordoba
26.01 Seville - Assejazz
27.01 Jaen
28.01 Faro

Past concerts

03.27.23 Duc Des Lombards
23.05.23 Sunset/Sunside
19.07.23 38 Riv Jazz Club
24.09.23 Bellevilloise

USEFUL LINKS AND CREDITS

benlopezmusic.fr

[listen to the album](#)

[hd photos](#)



Video Studio - Scolotism



Live 38riv - Zeitnot



Live 38riv - 3 temps



Live Duc des Lombards - From Nowhere



believe.

389
la boutique