

## GUILLAUME SAINT-JAMES

Saxophonist and composer , Guillaume Saint-James was discovered in 1997 by Aldo Romano (1<sup>st</sup> price of the professional competition of the Jazz Festival in Vannes).

He is surrounded by extremely talented jazzmen thus confirming Martial Solal's advice «*talent is also a matter of knowing with whom one can and should play music*». While playing with major artists of the french stage, like Eric Le Lann, Emmanuel Bex, Franck Tortiller, Laurent de Wilde, Pierrick Pédrón, Franck Agulhon, Stéphane Huchard, Pierre de Bethmann, Guillaume Saint-James has created his own sextet Jazzarium.

After several years of complicity, Jazzarium has delivered a flawless and unwavering musical cohesion that functions almost by telepathy. Geoffroy Tamisier, Jean-Louis Pommier and Guillaume Saint-James, a brass wind trio, form the cornerstone of Jazzarium. The foundations are based on Jérôme Séguin with his feline groove, on bass guitar and on Christophe Lavergne a master of inventiveness, on drums.

A unique energy completes the group with Didier Ithursarry on accordeon, whose music melts voluptuously with that of the wind section.

Following on from the highly acclaimed album *Météo Songs*, in his recent creation intitled **Polis** he explores urban hustle and bustle. Released in February 2012 on the Plus Loin label the album has been awarded the accolade of jazz "Revelation" by Jazz Magazine and "OUI !" of Culture Jazz. Guillaume Saint-James is acclaimed as « a brilliant solist among brilliant improvisers » (Culture Jazz).

Thanks to his capacity to mould the musical substance of his sextet to make it sound like a full orchestra, he has been commissioned to write many works for large ensembles in the last few years.

Invited by the «Symphony Orchestra of Brittany» Guillaume Saint-James embarked on writing an extension of his last album Polis : "**Megapolis**", composed for symphony orchestra and jazz sextet, is a fusion of classical and jazz genres, a link between written and improvised music. He subtly invites the jazz sextet to dialogue with the symphonic orchestra.

Acclaimed by the music press as “Ellingtonian” or “retinal”, his compositions conjure visions that the artist transforms into sequences where humour and rhapsody co-exist naturally; where expansive audio spaces meet rhythmic jewels in an amplitude and flow that are the heritage of not only the great masters of classical music but also the legacy of the jazz artists such as Duke Ellington, Bernard Hermann, John Barry ou Maria Schneider.

Since 2012 he is also the leader of original projects like « Le Tatiphone », a jazz and video tribute to the great film-maker Jacques Tati, and « Jazz around the Bunker »

a jazz interpretation of the songs of the french autor-composer-singer Serge Gainsbourg with Sébastien Boisseau (bass) and Matthieu Donarier (sax). He is starting a new collaboration with the pianist Omar Sosa.

He wrote educational pieces in his own publisher « Jazzimuth Creation », then for the most famous educational french publisher Fuzeau.

Since 2008 Guillaume Saint-James is also the director of the jazz festival « Jazz aux Ecluses » in Hédé (Brittany/ France).

2014 will see the repeat performance of **Megapolis** par l’Orchestre Régional de Franche-Comté, and the premiere of « **Brothers in Arts / Homage to our fathers** » commissioned by the Brittany Symphonic Orchestra. A symphonic work co-written by Chris Brubeck for the « **Brothers in Arts** » Project, a tribute for the 70th anniversary of the D-Day and the Liberation of the WWII, to be performed in France in June 2014, and in USA in November 2014 : Oakland (California), Fort Walton Beach (Florida).

In June 2014 he also received the best distinction in the french press : « CHOC » from the newspaper « JAZZ MAGAZINE » for his record « Megapolis » performed with his jazz sextet and the Symphony Orchestra of Bretagne.

In May 2015 the piece « Brothers in Arts » will be played in France in the presence of the french president François Hollande and the german president Angela Merkel for the celebration of 70th birthday of the end of the WW2.