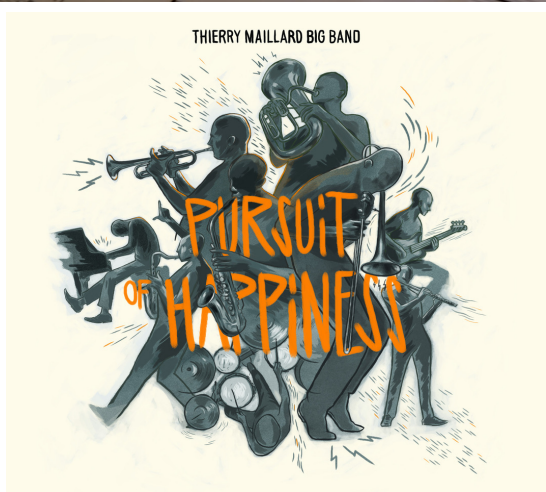


THIERRY MAILLARD BIG BAND



PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

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After a long discography and stage experience in the jazz area, where Thierry Maillard already could explore all different facets of this music, from solo piano to septet to trio of course, and several orchestral experiences with strings (Prague's Philharmonic Orchestra), Thierry Maillard realises his life's work, with the creation of this exceptional big band which synthesises all his influences and his many musical experiences, in a big melodic, harmonic and rhythmic whirl, for everybody's enjoyment, and while pursuing happiness of course !

With

Stéphane Chausse: sax alto, clarinet, bass clarinet

Médéric Collignon: cornet and vocal

Claude Egea: trumpet and bugle

David Enhco: trumpet and bugle

Hadrien Féraud: electric bass

Stéphane Guillaume: sax soprano and tenor, flute, clarinet

Didier Havet: tuba et trombone basse

Ludivine Issambourg: flute and flute alto

Sébastien Llado: trombone

Thierry Maillard: piano

Lucas Saint Cricq: sax baryton, tenor and soprano

Yoann Schmidt: drums

Samy Thiébault: flute, sax tenor, sax alto

Daniel Zimmermann: trombone

Christophe Zoogonès : flute

After fourteen published records in twenty years, **Thierry Maillard** realises his most ambitious dream: an album for a big bang of fifteen musicians chosen among the most emblematic of French Jazz. Plentiful compositions specifically written for this spectacular project. A music at the same time demanding and fun for a permanent firework where the beauty of melodies is carried by a relentless volcanic groove. The major work of a musician as endearing as inspired. Rich and dense compositions, with a lot of colours and contrast. A formidably structured music, with a stacking of magic and secret drawers, and magnificent russian dolls that interlock one another. A complex and rigorous musical writing, requiring a lot of focus and dedication from the musicians, but also relatively easy to grasp for the audience, who is constantly transported by captivating melodies, and guided by an irresistible groovy rhythm. **Thierry Maillard's** influences are diverse and varied, lyricism and romanticism of classical music of course, rhythmic strength of jazz-rock, audacity of contemporary music, elegance and swing of the golden age of jazz. An obvious passion for **Frank Zappa's** universe, who managed to integrate all these influences in his own music, for Bartok as well, with his famous concerto for orchestra. An unrestrained love for melodies and harmonic boldness of **Bill Evans** and **Chick Corea**. An important album that acted as catalyst for "Pursuit of Happiness" is "wide Angles, that **Michael Brecker** published in 2003, and where he was magnificently supported by a woodwinds, brass and string orchestra (arranged by **Gil Goldstein**).

After writing the eight compositions of "Pursuit of Happiness", and deciding that the recording would happen far from Paris, in the magnificent Cévennes foothills, in Pompignan, in the studio "Recall" of his friend **Philippe Maillot**, **Thierry Maillard** only needed to choose experienced musicians, ready to take up this incredible orchestral challenge. A fifteen musician big bang that are almost all leaders and although they pretty much all know each other, they had never played together. They had to learn to "sound" together, to adjust their instrument towards others, and to bring a collective instrumental and orchestral colour from fifteen musicians who each had their individuality and singularity. The rhythmic core of this big band is composed of **Thierry Maillard** at the piano, **Hadrien Féraud** at the electric bass and **Yoann Schmidt** at the drums. These three carry the foundations of the energy, the roots of the feeling, and the explosion of a permanent groove that irrigates the whole orchestra. A set of five brass instruments: **Claude Egéa** and **David Enhco** at the trumpets, **Daniel Zimmermann** and **Sébastien Llado** at the trombones, and **Dider Havet** at the tuba. Gleaming brass that sparkle constantly, with much finesse and strength at the same time, and who **Thierry Maillard** gave a lot of freedom, letting them express themselves through flamboyant choruses: **Claude Egéa** on "Modern Times", **David Enhco** on "Unknown Planet", **Daniel Zimmermann** and **Sébastien Llado** on "The Dream is Over". A set of six woodwinds with rich and varied colours with **Ludivine Issambourg** at the alto flute, **Christophe Zoogonès** at the flute, **Stéphane Chousse** at the clarinet, bass clarinet and alto sax, **Lucas Saint-Cricq** at the alto and baryton sax, **Stéphane Guillaume** at the soprano and tenor sax, and **Samy Thiébault** at the tenor sax. This six musicians will each have the place of honour within **Thierry Maillard's** compositions. **Stéphane Chousse's** clarinet in "Diverging", **Ludivine Issambourg's** alto flute in "Hurricane", **Christophe Zoogonès's** flute in "Modern Times", **Stéphane Guillaume's** impressive soprano sax in "Pursuit Of Happiness", **Lucas Saint-Cricq's** alto sax in "Albatros", and **Samy Thiébault's** tenor sax in "Hurricane". Finally, on two tracks, we note the presence of a distinguished guest, particularly delirious and inventive, a singular musician and man orchestra: the troublemaker **Médéric Collignon** ! With his explosive playing at the cornet and the strong expressiveness of his voice, he brings an additional bit of craziness and poetry to "Diverging" and "Albatros".

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