

HANDS FEET CONNECTION

FRANCK MONBAYLET
AURÉLIEN LEHMANN



TAP DANCE JAZZ

THE DUO

HANDS FEET CONNECTION

A REMARKABLE BLEND OF TAP DANCE AND JAZZ PIANO

"Hands Feet Connection" presents an extraordinary musical experience that fuses piano with tap dance, showcasing a lively combination of improvisations and original compositions. This enchanting performance weaves together jazz and ethnic music crafting a distinctive environment where tap dancing evolves into authentic percussion. Each performance is a unique interplay of sound and movement, pushing the boundaries of artistic expression and leaving spectators in awe.

HANDS FEET CONNECTION aims to introduce a percussive, expressive, and physical element embodied by a tap dancer into jazz. They advocate for a theatrical interpretation of jazz music, highlighting its ability to stimulate the audience's imagination through the representation of soundscapes enriched by dance. The duo seeks to revive the historical connection between percussive dance (tap dance) and the liberating essence of jazz music.

THE SOUND OF DANCE

The performance highlights the musical expressivity of Tap Dance, an art form often linked to American musicals in popular culture. Breaking away from conventional standards, much like the groundbreaking experiments of jazz musicians in the 1950s, this duo reimagines tap dance as an independent musical genre. By fusing different musical styles—such as classical, jazz, and ethnic influences—the production creates striking imagery. This artistic endeavor seeks to be evocative, enchanting, and uplifting, providing an immersive experience through sound and dance.

"THE BEST MUSIC IS THE MUSIC THAT IS WRITTEN FOR DANCE BECAUSE DANCING ENHANCES MUSIC."

– DIZZY GILLESPIE





Aurélien Lehmann, tap dancer

Aurélien Lehmann, a virtuoso tap dancer and multidisciplinary artist, redefines the art of tap dance by seamlessly blending classical elegance with jazz improvisation. Through collaborations with renowned artists from France and across the globe, he has created and performed in various shows that highlight his innovative and versatile approach of tap dance including Tap Virtuoso (2022), Rhythm on Fire (2023), À la Table des Dieux (2024). His performances at prestigious venues worldwide such as Théâtre du Châtelet, Birdland Jazz, Festival de las Ideas, and Jazz in Macau, along with partnerships with international brands and institutions like HERMÈS, LA SAMARITAINE, and LE LOUVRE, have earned him praise for his innovative style. In 2024, he was honored by the "Changing Times Tap Dance" foundation. Aurélien Lehmann's video "Tap Virtuoso" has garnered international recognition, winning eight international awards.

"The French Fred Astaire" TF1
"A genius tap dancer" C8
"A tap virtuoso" TV5 Monde.



Franck Monbaylet, pianist, composer, arranger

After completing a classical course at the conservatory with a focus on violin, Franck Monbaylet's musical journey expanded to include playing keyboards and synthesizers in rock, pop, and rhythm'n blues bands. Eventually, he shifted his focus to music acoustics, working as a pianist, arranger, orchestrator, musical director, and producer. His performances have taken him across 5 continents, playing in jazz clubs, festivals, arenas, cathedrals, and other prestigious venues, and contributing to approximately twenty albums.

Achievements:

- Awarded the Best Film Music prize at the Beijing Film Festival (China)
- Finalist at the "Jazz sous les Pommiers" festival (Coutances)
- Awarded the Grand Prize by the Charles Cros Academy for "La Nuit Obscure"
- Nominated for the Victoires de la Musique



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PRESS REVIEW

HIS NEW SHOW, "AT THE TABLE OF THE GODS", ELEVATES THE ART OF TAP DANCE TO NEW HEIGHTS. THE COMPLETELY ORIGINAL SCORE, REMINISCENT OF SONATAS BLENDED WITH JAZZ AND JAVA, IS MASTERFULLY CRAFTED BY FRANCK MONBAYLET, WHO BEAUTIFULLY COMPLEMENTS THE DANCER'S MOVEMENTS. IN THIS TECHNIQUE, EACH STEP RESONATES WITH CERTAINTY, CRAFTING ITS OWN MELODY. THE FOOT GLIDES AND EXTENDS INTO REMARKABLE AND UNEXPECTED "TOES." AT TIMES, A EUPHORIC AND INFECTIOUS TRANCE ENVELOPS THE STAGE. IN OTHER MOMENTS, THE FEET ASTONISHINGLY DIVERGE, CREATING TWO DISTINCT RHYTHMIC LINES. THE BURSTS OF SPEED ARE TRULY ASTONISHING. THIS PERFORMANCE TRANSCENDS MERE ARTISTRY; IT EMBODIES A PHYSICALITY THAT RIVALS A MARATHON. ULTIMATELY, THERE IS NEVER A SENSE OF MONOTONY OR REPETITION.

LE MONDE DU CINÉ - NOV 2024

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ORIGINAL TUNES AND ARRANGEMENTS

PAUL WALTZ

IN ILLO TEMPORE

GOLDEN AGE

FLAMES

ABYSS

TILL THE END OF THE WORLD

A WANDER IN THE NIGHT

CITY WIND

L'AUBERGE

CELESTIAL BODIES

CARAVAN (arr. Franck Monbaylet)

BAGUALA OF THE HILLS



ARTISTS' NOTES

AURÉLIEN LEHMANN

Tap Dance harmonizes the physical and the mental aspects of performance, blending dance and musicality through rhythmic energy and motion. This percussive art form, with its rich sounds and athletic quality, conveys a profound sensitivity akin to ecstasy, captivating the audience with its lyrical intensity. The enchanting synergy between two improvisational jazz artists reveals the transformative power of musical connection. Our goal with this performance is to imprint lasting memories in the audience's imagination, illuminating abstract, fleeting, or timeless impressions through the fusion of body, rhythm, and harmony, evoking emotions and sensations in every individual's quest for meaning.

FRANCK MONBAYLET

What we bring to this partnership comprises elements that align closely with my artistic vision. Aurélien Lehmann's artwork beautifully weaves in dance, a medium I hold in high regard, having worked alongside improvisational dancers, the Beijing Modern Dance Company, and more recently with flamenco dancer Karine Gonzalez. The rhythmic sounds he produces with his feet, akin to percussion instruments, play a significant role in my projects. Whether collaborating with Maurice Merizen on the show "Les Notes d'un Voyageur" or with Rhani Krija, percussionist for Sting, on Yves Duteil's album "Respect," percussion remains essential. Composition, which has been my connection to music since I was ten, is another crucial element. This duo concept, characterized musically as piano and percussion, necessitates precise writing and execution while also providing enough space for improvisation—a discipline I value and practice extensively, particularly in jazz ensembles and various artistic contexts. Furthermore, my love for poetry has inspired me to collaborate on projects that interpret the works of authors like Charles Baudelaire, Pablo Neruda, Federico Garcia Lorca, and Saint John of the Cross. I am thrilled to help elevate the recognition of Tap Dance as an extraordinary yet often overlooked art form, as demonstrated by Aurélien Lehmann and his American peers.



JAZZ CONCERTS



TRAILER
"TILL THE END OF THE
WORLD"
(FRANCK MONBAYLET)



LIVE AT LEGENDARY JAZZ
CLUB BAISER IN PARIS
"LEGITIME URGENCE"
(FRANCK MONBAYLET)



IMPROVISATION
"GOLDEN AGE" (FRANCK
MONBAYLET)



THE SHOW

NEW SHOW "AT THE TABLE OF THE GODS"
(COMING SOON IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE)

WATCH TRAILER



BOOKING

BOOKING : booking@tapdanceparis.com

PRODUCTION : TAP DANCE PARIS

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