

## Toine Thys' ORLANDO (2020)

**Below you will find information about ORLANDO and its album to be released in November 2020 on Hypnote Records. Have a look at the video teaser [here above](#) and the full album, available for professionals in streaming or download, [here below](#).**

Belgian saxophonist Toine Thys introduces the french-Belgian group **ORLANDO**, featuring his recent collaborations with the French scene.

This group bears the enigmatic name of the hero of the eponymous and mysterious novel by Virginia Woolf. Like Orlando who swears to remain immortal and who will cross many eras, these four musicians experience together many aspects of their reality and their evolution through time.

*"Nothing thicker than a knife's blade separates happiness from melancholy."*  
— Virginia Woolf, Orlando

He brings together his fellow Belgian virtuoso drummer **Antoine Pierre** (*Joshua Redman, Philip Catherine, Tom Barman/Taxi Wars*), two french musicians from the new generation, bassist **Florent Nisse** (*David Enhco, Yaron Herman, Michel Portal*), and pianist wizard **Maxime Sanchez** (*Magic Malik, Chris Cheek, Flash Pig*).

A variety of styles, tones, and subtle rhythms, music where joy and melancholy mingle at every moment. Played with ease, this music invites you to travel in a poetic universe, and opens up to the great outdoors. The drumming is airy, and the central double bass breathes like the old tree under which Orlando sleeps for weeks. The sound and silences are skillfully shared with the melodies of the bass clarinet, and the ever-changing chords of the virtuoso piano: Musical adventure is at the center of this quartet.

To encourage listening and interaction between the musicians, they chose to record the entire album in a single open space, Espace Senghor in Brussels, which is where the album's official release will take place. The concentration of the musicians is palpable, and this quartet is guided by their instinct and trust in each other.

This first album "ORLANDO" will be released in November 2020 on Hynote Records. In a sober and careful lay out, Toine Thys decided to highlight the work of photographer Gil Mirande through a detachable booklet of 10 black and white photographs. These photos are to be freely put in dialogue with the 10 titles of the album, composed by the saxophonist, but also by Antoine Pierre and Florent Nisse.

A two-week presentation tour is planned for November / December, which will take them to Belgium, Flanders, France and Germany.

**Toine Thys (B):** saxes, bass clarinet

**Antoine Pierre (B):** drums

**Maxime Sanchez (FR):** piano

**Florent Nisse (FR):** double bass

**WEBSITE :** [www.toinethys.com](http://www.toinethys.com)

**TRAILER :** <https://youtu.be/y4d6lIDLq7Y>

**LOWLIFE :** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXIC3KjZ\\_Hs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXIC3KjZ_Hs)

**VAUTOUR :** <https://youtu.be/89OeQpzeErQ>

### **TOINE THYS : ([www.toinethys.com](http://www.toinethys.com))**

Toine Thys is bold and reckless musician, a central figure for saxophone and bass clarinet in Europe, with a warm tone. He is active as a leader of his own projects, and a much demanded sideman through Belgium, France, Netherlands. He can be heard as well in Western Africa, South-Korea and Canada.

Toine Thys leads the Toine Thys Trio with Arno Krijger (NL) on Hammond organ and drummer Karl Jannuska (CAN). After 2 Cds awarded « Révélation » in the French JAZZMAN, « découverte » and Jazznews, « Must » on TSF Jazz), they released a third album « THE OPTIMIST » (2019 on IGLOO Records) featuring international stars SAM YAHIEL (Joshua Redman, Bill Frisell, Norah Jones, Steely Dan) on Hammond, HERVE SAMB (Yousoun Dour, Lisa Simone, David Murray, Salif Keita) on guitar and drummer KARL JANNUSKA, and was recorded in New York.

He co-leads ORLANDO, a project with drummer Antoine Pierre and french musicien Florent Nisse (bass) and Maxime Sanchez (piano), as well as the new all star band and cross-over group OVERSEAS, together with egyptian oud player Ihab Radwan, Annemie Osborne (cello), Zé Luis Nascimento (percussions) and Harmen Fraanje (piano).

As a sideman, he is playing with formations Antoine Pierre's URBEX, Laïal Amezian Sheikhs Shikhats, Afrikan Protokol (Burkina/Belgique), Bounce Trio (FR), Ed Verhoeff 4tet, Alain Pierre Special Unit (B), Ben Monder (USA), Andrew D'Angelo, african griot Zouratié Kone Ensemble (Burkina Faso), Barm Weijtezs CRAZY MEN,

Together with trumpettist Laurent Blondiau, and supported by the French Speaking Gouvernement of belgium, he founded in 2013 a wind instrument school in Burkina Faso : « les Ventistes du Faso », and became a specialist in teaching brass instruments in African contexts (DRC, Benin, Kenya,...). He is very involved with musicians rights ([www.facir.be](http://www.facir.be)). This concept is meant to be extended to ther african countries, like DRC (Congo Kinshasa) and Benin.

### **ANTOINE PIERRE :**

Brussels-based drummer and composer Antoine Pierre (1992) has become a key figure on the Belgian jazz scene. Leader of the bands Urbex and Next.Ape but also a pro-active sideman, he is a part of various important bands on the international scene -a.o. with eminent guitarist Philip Catherine or with « TaxiWars », the jazz vs. rock experiment led by Tom Barman and Robin Verheyen.

Back from New York in 2015 where he studied for a year after graduating from the **Royal Conservatory of Brussels**, Pierre receives the Sabam Jazz Award Young Talent. Later that year, he goes into the studio to record his first album as a leader, **URBEX**. Released in 2016, the band tours for two years in Belgium and around then goes back into studio to record their second album, 'Sketches Of Nowhere' (2018, Igloo Records).

Critically acclaimed (Choc Jazzman, Indispensable Jazz News, Must TSF, Octave de la Musique 2019, ...), they embark on their first international tour with different line-ups and guests such as Ben Van Gelder, Reinier Baas or Magic Malik.

Another side of Pierre's multiple-sided artistic personality is shown by the creation of his trip-hop/alternative/electric band **Next.Ape** in which he joins forces with Hungarian singer Veronika Harcsa, guitarist Lorenzo Di Maio and keyboardist Jérôme Klein. In February 2019, they release their first EP and tour internationally -sometimes with American saxophonist Ben Wendel as

special guest. Throughout 2019 and 2020, they regularly go in the studio to prepare their first album to come out by Fall 2021.

In January 2020, Pierre is the artist-in-residence at the Brussels Jazz Festival (Flagey) for which he's commissioned to present 3 different projects: an all-star quartet featuring American saxophonist Joshua Redman, a completely improvised set with fellow drummers Lander Gyselinck and Mark Schilders and an internationally-enlarged version of his band Urbex. The latter was recorded and gave birth to their upcoming album, 'Suspended', to be released in April 2020 (Outnote Records).

Throughout the years and various projects that covered several albums, he fine-tuned his approach and style. This led to him to stand out clearly and be welcomed by the finest players. Pierre is a pro-active sideman (Jean-Paul Estiévenart Quintet, Veronika Harcsa Quartet, TaxiWars,...) who already played with various musicians such as Philip Catherine, Joshua Redman, Enrico Pieranunzi, Ben Wendel, Logan Richardson, Jacky Terrasson, Didier Lockwood,...

#### **FLORENT NISSE :**

Born in 1983 in Colmar (France), Florent Nisse starts studying double bass at the age of six. In 2002 he moves to Lyon in order to attend an engineering school. While studying science he never stops his musical studies, and finally gets in 2007 three degrees, one in mechanics, one in classical music, and one in jazz music. Very active on Lyon's jazz scene at that time, Florent chooses to give up science and to follow his musical career. The year after he's accepted in Paris Conservatory (CNSM) in Jazz, in Riccardo Del Fra's class. He graduates in 2011.

Professionally, Florent Nisse starts his career in Lyon before moving in Paris in 2008. There he quickly becomes part of the rising generation of jazz musicians, and has the opportunity to perform both with rising artists (David Enhco, Flash Pig, Emile Parisien, Yaron Herman, Sylvain Rifflet) and with more recognized ones (Michel Portal, Seamus Blake, Didier Lockwood, Joachim Kühn, Logan Richardson, Gilad Hekselman, Aaron Goldberg). In 2012, Florent Nisse also starts his career as a leader and records his first album, "Aux Mages", released in 2014.

#### **MAXIME SANCHEZ :**

Will soon translate his biography in English

#### **GIL MIRANDE:**

"To be part of your story through my photography"

Gil Mirande (Born 1974) is a Belgian photographer. After a sprained ankle, he was unable to embark on a career as a gym teacher. He chose an unknown field, photo-journalism and studied visual arts in Brussels. Where he develops a versatile personal regard, his work was quickly noticed by George Vercheval (Founder of the Charleroi Museum of Photography) and was motivated to exhibit. Subsequently, he exhibited and worked in several countries, especially abroad, then left to live 10 years in Sydney where he worked in particular for the Australian music scene, becoming at the same time an expert in a photographic laboratory. He is organized his return to Europe while by working for an agency in Switzerland. His photos are always taken on site, and always seek to capture the timeless. Graphic research and framing of his photos are also essential. Today, he divides his family life between Belgium and Finland.