

✍ Màxim Serranos Soler



➔ Jazz concert at the Abbaye de Neumünster

What do you get if you put four Londoners together? Well, yes, maybe also four pints of ale, but I mean something else. Most of the time, you will get four active and creative people. This is the case of the four musicians who will come on stage on Monday 9 November at the Abbaye de Neumünster (Rue Münster, Luxembourg Ville). The Francesc Marco Quartet was created in London, where its four young talented components were studying at some point, and is recreated abroad every now and then for special occasions. The four musicians have some common features: a passion for music, academic training, excellent skills, and enough ability to play different instruments and styles. This can be better appreciated by having a look at each of them separately.

Francesc Marco (piano) was born in Tarragona, Catalonia. He grew up in Luxembourg and completed his studies in London, both at the university and at the Royal Academy of Music. He is involved in many musical projects in the UK and abroad, for instance, F-IRE, The Irreverents, and Sunshine Kings. Sometimes he even plays solo, which he did at the Kulturfabrik last February. Zac Gvirtzman studied at Oxford and is very active with a myriad of bands. Although he is a jazzman, two of his favourite styles are gipsy and Balkan music. During his free time, he joins his old mates and plays the clarinet and the saxophone in the Quartet. As for Jiri Slavik, the bass player, he was born in Havirov, Czech Republic. His musical training was completed in Rome and London, where he lived until 2007 when he moved to Paris. Well, maybe it is more accurate to say that he transferred his belongings to Paris: he is always moving around, as he is a member of several music bands, most of them playing different styles. Finally, the multi-instrumentalist Fred Thomas is a son of musicians and a laureate in jazz. Apart from his work as a percussionist with the Quartet, he leads his own Fred Thomas Trio and appears in a number of bands also with uncountable music styles.

Naturally, with these mixed ingredients and the playful curiosity that fuels these artists, the result could only be a programme with mixed sonorities and harmonies, taking rhythms from one source and melodies from another. The repertoire that the band has announced includes Brazilian standards, funk, klezmer, Cuban classics, Eastern European ballads... and, obviously, good old jazz.

Tickets can be bought through www.luxembourgticket.lu or on the same evening at the Abbaye. The concert is organised by the Centre Català de Luxembourg with the support of the Spanish Embassy in Luxembourg. The embassy has prepared a whole week of events dedicated to Spain, including the Made in Spain fair at LuxExpo in Kirchberg.

➔ "When I lived in the woods, everything was alright."

Portugal. The Man at den Atelier

✍ Stephen Lowe

Spell checker be damned, Portugal. The Man are fandabbydozy. Any of the good good people in attendance for their sonically blistering performance 18 months ago will know exactly what to expect. For those that go in to this new show green, you'll initially be baffled, once you get your head around what's going on, you'll be forever smitten. Drawing from a range of influences that ooze Zeppelin, Mars Volta, White Stripes, Soundgarden sonics and with every serious rock band's favourite accessory...facial hair, adorning their jutting jaws, PTM mean business.

The hirsute quintet couldn't be more enthralled to the 70's if they tried, and with new album *The Satanic Satanist* showcasing a hitherto unknown love of the acoustic guitar PTM are in full flow. Gin/Whisky soaked Blues, Engine stripping RAWK and the occasional dash of Folk elbow each others delicate ribs in order to be at the forefront of the musical maelstrom that is 'the Man's musculature imagery. You really should prise yourself from your desk next Monday and experience a different type of Guitar Hero.



Support comes from local math-rock legends, Mutiny On The Bounty, who, on something of a role, return to Luxembourg following some hard gigging in the UK. Expect bigger riffs, smarter timing and tub-thumping of the highest order.

Monday 9 November, Doors 8 pm
www.atelier.lu
www.portugaltheman.net
www.myspace.com/mutinyonthebountytheband

➔ Competition

Those good folk at the A, have 3 pairs of tickets for the show put on by those wily Nebraskans. To win yourself a pair, let us know the date BEFORE and AFTER the performance in Luxembourg. Send your destinations to gabby-352@newmedialux.lu remember to include your full name and postal address.