



RAFAËL DATO

A QUEST FOR MUSICAL SYNTHESE



ABOUT RAFAËL DATO

Since his early childhood, Rafaël Dato has delved into sounds, rhythms and melodies of mankind's soundscapes. His repertoire, both eclectic and coherent, is inspired by the works of Bach and Mozart, GoGo Penguin and Brad Mehldau, John Williams and Radiohead, Gabriel Fauré, and even Nirvana...Needless to say he is not done searching, to the delight of music lovers.

Born in 1997 near Paris, Rafaël Dato immerses himself from the age of 6 in the universe of sounds and rhythms through skin percussion instruments, especially the djembe. Was he then bewitched by the depth of Afro-American, Caribbean or Brazilian beats and tunes ? No one knows for sure... What is for certain is that both of Rafaël's parents nurture his musical sensitivity : his father is a professional violinist who has accompanied the greats of the French chanson and his mother is a bossa nova enthusiast.

At the age of 8, Rafaël begins his formal musical education in Conservatoire de la Vallée de la Chevreuse by joining the classical percussion department. He soon enrolls in Conservatoire de Versailles which offers tailored timetable education. There, he studies for seven years under Lionel Postollec, solo timpanist at Opéra de Paris. In the meanwhile, he befriends young pianists who introduce him to Chopin and Liszt. Rafaël transforms a few pages by Chopin into jazz riffs and receives his father's encouragement.

Utterly bewitched, he decides to devote himself to music, tackling from then on classical piano. He also starts teaching himself jazz.

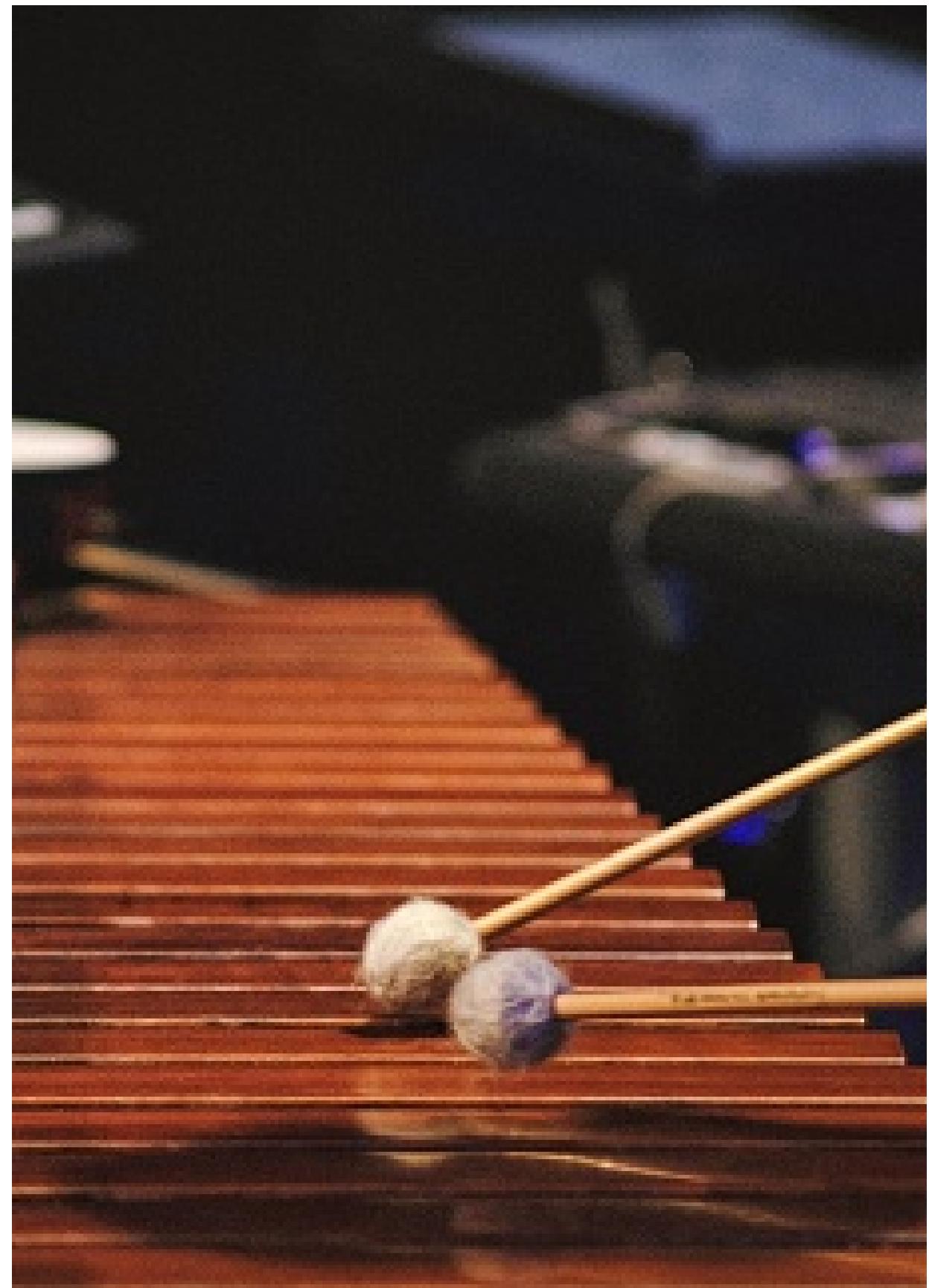
Actually, Rafaël seizes numerous opportunities to learn (private lessons, masterclasses, academies, courses...) but also rejects all prepared education or academicism. This is what makes him a genuine « self-taught composer ». With jazz becoming more and more important to him, Rafaël discovers inventiveness, improvisation and creation.



He is subsequently allowed to enter the pre-professional jazz curriculum (C.O.P.) in Versailles, during which he trains in arrangement and composition with distinguished figures of the French jazz stage such as Damien Argentieri, Sylvain Bœuf, Frédéric Borey, Fred Nardin and Aaron Parks.

However, he does not withdraw from the classical repertoire and works under the aegis of Stéphane Delplace in Conservatoire de Paris Claude Debussy, learning classical harmony, counterpoint and composition. Always aspiring to enrich his musical culture and hone his creative skills, Rafaël attentively listens to his father's old rock recordings again : Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and other pioneers of prog rock whom he discovered first in his teenage years and whose influence can be heard in his present music.

Rafaël is now emerging as a concert pianist, composer, arranger and project leader. His ecumenical conception of music drives him towards a composite repertoire, sometimes intimate, always personal. In concert can be heard original compositions, pop-rock and film music covers, but also reveries nourished by his philosophical and poetic readings, and of course creations where improvisation plays an important role.





Rafaël Dato has played with numerous bands in Théâtre national de Saint-Quentin en Yvelines, Théâtre Montansier (Versailles), Espace Ararat (Paris), Rendez-vous d'ailleurs (Paris), Le 38 Riv' (Paris), Festival Musique et Patrimoine en Haute-Bièvre, 8e musicales d'automne en Essonne, Festival Jazz Pourpre (Dordogne). He has payed many tributes to inspiring artists such as Michel Petrucciani, Chick Corea, John Coltrane, Michel Legrand...

Today, his musical process transcends genres and styles, in the footsteps of Keith Jarrett, Bill Evans or Brad Mehldau : an everlasting quest for originality in an impossible synthesis



A COMPOSER AT A
CROSSROADS OF
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As far as he can remember, Rafaël Dato has always been surrounded with varied music, which were sometimes quite far from one another. It was only natural that he should try and melt these various influences into his own universe.

Rocked by percussion instruments when he was a child, Rafaël then mainly fed on great classical composers discovered with his father (a professional violinist), but also pop and rock bands from the 70s and the 90s, masters of jazz, Brazilian tunes and the French chanson. However, he also ventures into more contemporary music, looking for new mixtures.

Besides his strong and eclectic musical foundation, Rafaël is also keen on philosophy, poetry, sociology, visual arts... Rafaël's ambition is now to open the barriers of classical music, various jazz, film music, pop and rock, and to try new syntheses between harmonies, chords and melodies. The background idea is to make accessible to a large audience the different genres that constitute his universe.



THE
RAFAËL DATO
TRIO



Founded in 2015 by Rafaël while still a student in Conservatoire de Versailles, The Rafaël Dato Trio follows the tradition of the prestigious jazz trios of Bill Evans, Keith Jarrett, Brad Mehldau and Esbjörn Svensson. The Trio offers a multifaceted repertoire : original compositions, pop-rock and film music arrangements, and of course jazz classics.

Its members are: bassist and double-bassist Antoine Leiser, drummer and percussionist Timothée Garson, and pianist-composer-arranger Rafaël Dato. Its ambition focuses on seeking harmony and instrumental balance. It aims at conciliating Romantic emotions, Rock's spontaneous and intense energy, classical complexity and lyricism, and finally minimalist and film music atmospheres. Its groove comes from jazz, pop and rock (rock prog of the 70's and alternative rock of the 90's/ 2000's). The form of the compositions inherits from classical and film music. All these ingredients produce, according to Rafaël, an alternative jazz/neo-classical style.

In their playing, always centered around live performance, the three musicians offer a subtle alchemy between them ; an alchemy that enables surprises and emotion. One thinks of Bill Evans' « Interplay », and its symbiotic improvisations. Rafaël always wants his fellow musicians to be free to express their personality and explore their imagination.

The Rafaël Dato Trio has performed in several concert halls and clubs in and near Paris, and in various festivals (Bourgogne, Dordogne...). It has given tribute concerts to Michel Petrucciani, Chick Corea, John Coltrane, Michel Legrand.

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