Pierrick Pédron

June 23, Fourth Stage, NAC
www.myspace.com/pierrickpedron

A saxophone player and composer, Pierrick Pédron was born on April 23, 1969, in Saint Brieuc (Côtes dôArmor).

Ten years after starting on the sax in his native Brittany and perfecting his skills at local dances, Pédron discovered jazz. That was 16 years ago. Two years later, he enrolled in the CIM and took part in many funk and R&B projects (Sinclair, Juan Rozoff, etc.).

Following his first recordings in 1994 as a sideman for Magik Malik, he won the Défense jazz contest in 1996 as part of the group Artaud / Blanchet. A regular at the Petit Opportunôs ñNuits blanches,ò Pédron played in the Douzetet de Sax with Lionel Belmondo and François Théberge. He lived in New York for several months while he recorded an album with Ernie Hammes. Returning to France in 2000, Pédron recorded his first album, *Cherokee*. In 2001, he was chosen by Selmer to play alto sax for the *Reference* series. It was around that time that Pédron started his quartet, began duet work with Michel Graillier and playing regularly with the Belmondo brothers.

A huge Charlie Parker fan, Pédron continued to work collaboratively before launching the 2004 album, *Classical Faces*ð as part of a sextet with Pierre de Bethmann, Magik Malik, Franck Agulhon, Thomas Savy and Vincent Artaudð an album that garnered a list of accolades (Jazz Magazineôs Disque dôémoi, the Charles Cros prize, three Télérama prizes). He also worked with other groups, including the Paris Jazz Big Band, Septette with Jacques Vidal and with the Wynton Marsalis Big Band in 2004.

Upon his return from New York in 2005, he recorded with Mulgrew Miller, Lewis Nash and Thomas Bramerie. The resulting *Deep in a Dream* cemented his reputation and made the top of Jazzman and Jazz Magazine lists for 2006, in addition to a double win from the Académie du Jazz (Django Reinhardt Award for Best Artist, Boris Vian Award for Best Album). Pédron

continued a very active schedule on the French scene, collaborating with international jazz musicians, including Belgian trumpeter Greg Houben in 2010.

In the creation and artistic direction of *Cheerleaders*, Pédron worked with Ludovic Bource, a friend from early in his career, who helped put together a brass band-themed album, referencing a theme from their childhood. The saxophone player brought together a 17-piece band of veterans and his own group, a cast that was able to live up to the expectations of this long-term project. ñ*Cheerleaders* is both well-structured and improvised, imagined with an uncertain idea of what it would become. I trusted in my crew to make it to the other side.ò While there is no precise destination here, Pédron holds true to the joy of creating.

Pierrick Pédron will also be in concert in Vancouver on June 21

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