

## **Sascha Ley & Laurent Payfert** | vocals & double bass

*"An amazing concert. Experimentation. We are in an urban jungle. We are in a bar. We are on the roof of a building in London. We are on a street, and the music is with us. As long as there are voices like Sascha's and instruments such as Laurent's, everything will be fine."*

Paulo Lobo



With an unprecedented musical complicity, Sascha Ley and Laurent Payfert invite you to a journey through multiple imaginary landscapes, marking a few stops here and there. By creating a captivating dialogue, their music, both delicate and minimalist, at once rhythmic and vigorous, sounds out the possibilities of both their instruments and compositions.

The Gateshead International Jazz Festival describes them as a remarkable duo whose beautifully integrated music breathes fresh life into familiar songs, as well as heading off in bold new directions as Sascha's wordless vocals interweave with Laurent's freely melodic playing. Hypnotic and mesmerizing.

A new album is in work for 2018.

SASCHA LEY likes walking along unconventional paths in her musical output, which is strongly oriented towards jazz, free improvisation, imaginary folklore and contemporary music. The German-Luxembourgish vocalist and actress studied in Germany, Netherlands and India and occupies a solid place Luxembourg's art scene for years. In parallel with music, drama and film works, Sascha has devoted herself in recent years increasingly to composing and writing, creating and directing interdisciplinary performances. **[www.saschaley.net](http://www.saschaley.net)**

LAURENT PAYFERT, French double bass player and composer, has been trained in classical music at the Conservatoire de Metz (F). Playing as a bassist in rock and funk bands, he gets into jazz and improvised music by the end of the 80ies, stylistically influenced by encounters with H. Van De Geyn, Ricardo Del Fra and Steve Lacy a. o. Besides the duo and his "Laurent Payfert Quartet", he performs as a sideman and collaborates with stage artists and sculptors. **[www.laurentpayfert.com](http://www.laurentpayfert.com)**

**Contact** | [www.leypayfert.com](http://www.leypayfert.com)

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## REVIEWS

*An exceptional and unprecedented duo ... JAZZ PERSPECTIVES (JPN) 08/17*

*Osmosis. The universes are varied, one passes by romantic compositions, sequences of experimental jazz, and even a blues of Led Zeppelin. A high-level vocal mastery (..) JAZZ RHÔNE ALPES 08/17 (FR)*

*Sascha Ley is a multiple talent: actress, director, and of course jazz vocalist. In the duo with the French bassist Laurent Payfert, she designs a fascinating modern jazz with a multifaceted alto voice. JAZZTHING 11/16 (D)*

*To see and to listen to Sascha Ley and Laurent Payfert in concert, is really something. You leave a concert by Sascha Ley and Laurent Payfert with balm for your soul. The audience (...) eventually leaves the auditorium, entranced. D'LAND 08/16 (L)*

*The Saarbrücken born vocal artist from Luxembourg, who also works as an actress and composer, is – if one may say so – without parallel in Europe (...) in every respect an extraordinary singer and musician. She is accompanied by the bass player Laurent Payfert and thereby connected to the entire spectrum of acoustic music this enchanting solo artist stands for. There is a lot of storytelling, acting and improvisation involved in each of these songs. Here we find music and drama combined in a unique way. JAZZ PODIUM (D)*

*(..) off the beaten paths (..) the vocalist who really can sing. Sascha is accompanied by an inventive double bass. Fans of Greetje Bijma will enjoy this album for sure. JAZZ FLITS (NL)*

## PERSONAL NOTE

Our improvised music is a spontaneous invention shared with a responding audience. It is always lifelike; you work instantly with all your senses, your thoughts and awareness, inventing sounds that lead you to new shores. You keep discovering and composing on the spot without any safety net. Sometimes it happens that the sound actually creates you, the being, the musician, the Self. Surprise, shock, revelation, jubilation – you name it.

The two of us have developed this dialogue into a partnership of a very special kind. That is why we decided to leave most of our first album to instant compositions and to reserve only some of the space for songs that our audiences will easily recognize as familiar. The classical approach to music is surely nothing we are afraid of. We usually stick to the harmonic understanding of music and groove and beauty. However, the wild and boundless world of sounds keeps inspiring us time and time again to go for the complete adventure, exploring the beauty of music on untrodden paths. *Sascha Ley*

