



**Philharmonie
Luxembourg**

**Bill Laurance
& Michael League**

Bill Laurance & Michael League

«Where you wish you were»

Michael League bass, oud

Bill Laurance piano

Chill at the Phil

28.02.24

Mercredi / Mittwoch / Wednesday

19:30 80' without intermission

Salle de Musique de Chambre

Michael League bass, oud

Michael League is a three-time Grammy Award-winning musician based out of Brooklyn, New York. He is the creator and bandleader of instrumental music ensemble Snarky Puppy and world music group Bokanté, co-owner of Atlantic Sound Studios, and founder of the record label and music curation source GroundUP Music. As a child of a military family, he was born in southern California and grew up in both Alabama and northern Virginia. Michael attended the University of North Texas' jazz studies program for 4 years, then moved to nearby Dallas for another 3 years, where he worked with some of the most influential figures in modern gospel, R&B, and soul music, and was mentored by legendary keyboardist Bernard Wright (Miles Davis, Chaka Khan) before moving to Brooklyn in 2009. Snarky Puppy, whose grass-roots approach to the changing music industry has met major critical and commercial success, as well as two Grammy awards in three years. The band, independent since its inception in 2004, has performed over 1200 times on six continents. As a bassist and guitarist, Michael has worked with a diverse range of artists in pop (David Crosby, Laura Mvula, Lalah Hathaway), gospel (Kirk Franklin, Walter Hawkins, Marvin Sapp, Israel Houghton), jazz (Ari Hoenig, Wayne Krantz, Chris Potter, Lionel Loueke), and world (Salif Keita, Carlos Malta, Väsen, Susana Baca) music. He is currently producing solo albums for David Crosby and Salif Keita, as well as seven new independent artists. For GroundUP Music he immediately signed eight new, unknown artists including Banda Magda, Bill Laurance, and the Funky Knuckles. With the growth of the label, a roster of both well-known and upcoming acts was accumulated in an ambitious year of over a dozen releases. Michael brokered a unique partnership with Universal Music in which GroundUP and its artists retain complete creative independence while working with the distribution giant to do what it does best- promote and make music easily available worldwide. Michael is passionately committed to music education and outreach, having given clinics and masterclasses at over 200 schools around the world. He is active as a guest speaker in international music business panels and works regularly with non-profit organizations in an effort to better serve the community at large through the arts. Michael has partnered with Marco De Virgiliis and Markbass team to develop a signature amp and cab with classic tone and impeccable sonic integrity.

Bill Laurance piano

Pianist, keyboardist and composer Bill Laurance's music evokes a striking sense of time and place. As an original member of globetrotting, genre-defying group Snarky Puppy, Laurance has toured the world countless times. His fearless artistic instincts now see him leaping into a boundary-defying solo soundworld for his fifth album, the cryptically titled «Cables». The first album to be released on Laurance's newly launched Flint imprint, the record's eight songs dive deep into multi-layered textures of electro-acoustic keyboards, piano and drum machines. All these components are deployed to give voice to the album's powerful overarching theme, which Laurance explains: «*«Cables» is my first concept album, which was originally inspired by the film Transcendent Man, a documentary about the controversial technologist Ray Kurzweil's prediction that we will have created a conscious robot by the year 2029. While this feels somewhat frightening, I'm equally excited by the idea – it obviously has profound implications for the way our society functions.*» These experiences have fed directly into his four solo albums, with each drawing inspiration from the people and places he's encountered, often distilling them into powerful musical portraits. This sensory, cinematic dimension to his music has perhaps inevitably led to a move into scoring music

for films, most recently for the feature documentary *Remember My Name*, and his first feature film score for *Un Traductor*. Attending the University of Leeds, Laurance majored in classical composition and, thanks to the college's open ethos, also managed to explore jazz, funk and drum'n'bass in his final performance. In the early-noughties, a twenty-something Laurance was trying to make a living on the Leeds music scene, when an unremarkable but timely pick-up gig presented itself with a young bassist called Michael League in singer Michael Solomon Williams' band. Gigs in the north of England forged a friendship with League, who happened to be looking for a new piano player, and League invited Laurance to the US to record the first Snarky Puppy album, *The Only Constant*, and the rest, as they say, is history. Since then, Laurance has clocked up recordings and or performances with such renowned artists as David Crosby, Morcheeba, Salif Keita, Terence Blanchard, Susana Baca, Lalah Hathaway, Laura Mvula, Jacob Collier, Musiq Soul Child, Khalid Sansi, Chris Potter, Lionel Loueke, Carlos Malta, The Metropole Orchestra and the WDR Big Band. He has also worked extensively in the dance world with companies including the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Ballet Rambert and Matthew Bourne's *Adventures in Motion Pictures*. He's composed music for a variety of different clients including Apple Mac, Sky Broadband, Nokia and Hewlett Packard and is currently working on three separate commissions for Big Band, Orchestra and Choir. He is a champion of cutting-edge keyboard developments and is endorsed by: Moog, Mellotron, Sequential, Korg, Nord, Roli Seaboard, Yamaha, Roland, Arp Odyssey, Keyscape, Sound Brenner, Native Instruments and MXR.

Prochain concert du cycle
Nächstes Konzert in der Reihe
Next concert in the series

20.03.24

Sonico

«Piazzolla & Rovira: La Noche del Encuentro»

19:30 80'

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