



Yves Léveillé's Phare: Faithful Beacon of Canadian Jazz

The pianist and composer Yves Léveillé has just released a new album, his eighth under the Effendi label, entitled *Phare* (Guiding Light). An opus of a more restless temperament than usual but, as ever, tinged with insight, poetry and inspiration.

To paraphrase my friend and colleague Stanley Péan, we have grown accustomed to Yves Léveillé's albums characterized by a mellow, muted ambience suffused at times with unusual harmonies. In that sense, *Phare* can be viewed as a child more anxious and fidgety than expectations from listening to his previous albums might suggest. Not turbulent, but more animated than usual, a tad more vibrant and zestful.

But rest assured, it is impeccable and above all very accessible. Even when the composer flirts with atonalism (*La lune dans sa bulle* and in a few other places), his approach remains benign, humble and attached to the poetry of gesture, the nobleness of sound, the authenticity of emotions. And we're also entitled to moments of melancholy of soothing beauty (*Gestation*).

An all-star cast helped Léveillé realize his vision: Yannick Rieu on alto sax, Jacques Kuba Séguin on trumpet, Kevin Warren on drums and Guy Boisvert on double bass.

As he mentioned in an interview, all them are highly accomplished musicians. They exude confidence in their abilities and are capable of letting go as they plunge into another musician's universe, adding fully assured personal contributions in a non-intrusive manner.

In the world of Canadian jazz, Yves Léveillé remains a dynamic force, a first-rate point of reference, a beacon that continues to light the way.

Frédéric Cardin; Ici musique (Radio-Canada), June 21, 2019