VINCENT COURTOIS · COLIN VALLON

PRESS TEXT

Vincent Courtois – cello
Colin Vallon – piano

French cellist master Vincent Courtois and Swiss piano wizard Colin Vallon are both inclined to combine lyrical melodies with abstract improvisation. The concept of their debut album was influenced by a domestic tragedy, which inspired the title track (A Simple Fall). However, the tone of the album is not defined by the darkness of grief, but by transcendent beauty and pervading melancholy.

Courtois and Vallon's approach continues the tradition of the cello-piano duo, rooted primarily in classical music, and adds a unique orchestral dimension to this intimate chamber lineup: the cello can equally play the role of a percussion, a harmony, or a melody instrument, while the piano sometimes transforms into a glass harp, a music box, or a viola da gamba. The result is a kaleidoscopic musical material that bridges the gap between classical music, contemporary music, and jazz, and is permeated by the sense of "free fall" inherent in improvisation.

Vincent Courtois – cello

(FR, 1968) Vincent Courtois' classical training gave him technique, precision and control. Curiosity and eclecticism did the rest, and led him to a musical exploration all his own. His music builds on relationships, on the balance of personalities and energies, on contrast, uncertainty and silence: a form in which freedom is handled with the utmost rigour and attentiveness.

He has played with artists such as Rita Mitsouko, Christian Escoudé, Michel Petrucciani, Michel Portal, Joëlle Léandre...

Colin Vallon – piano

(CH, 1980) Colin Vallon reaches to the heart of things with just a few notes. He is capable not only of sensitive discretion but also of flamboyant exuberance; his improvisations are marked by their wealth of ideas and their stringency. The way he connects a basic lyrical idea with investigative determination is unaffected and touchingly breathtaking.

He has played or recorded with artists such as Larry Grenadier, Jeff Ballard, Ambrose Akinmusire, Wolfgang Muthspiel, Tom Harrell, Kenny Wheeler...