

Bo'n'Co



FIVE



**Bo'n'Co**  
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When Lucien Bovet asked me to write the liner notes for the new album FIVE, my curiosity was piqued to discover the album, having recently collaborated with three of the members of the quintet and having had a great experience not only thanks to the remarkable skills of these musicians, but also thanks to their sincere and natural kindness.

With FIVE, Bo'n'Co invites us on a sonic journey where each composition takes us to different facets of a Jazz contemporary and demanding. The album comprises ten tracks, each with its own distinct identity, yet all reflecting the collective influence of the band members, a group whose cohesion is obvious from the very first listen!

The album opens with “Waiting For Ourmu” by Caryl Baker, a 6/8 with accents that seem to come from Mali, and segues into “Ultima Volta” by Schneider, a waltz with Shorterian accents showcasing the expressiveness of Cédric Bovet’s tenor saxophone

and the fluidity of Claude Schneider's phrasing. "TWO STICKS AND FIVE STRINGS" again by Baker demonstrates the band's rhythmic flexibility, a launch pad for Lucien Bovet's ever-precise, groovy drumming. "Left Hook" another composition by Baker, based on a 7/4 rhythmic pattern, demonstrates a certain formal complexity through which the band moves with ease.

"L'Inespérée", a beautiful ballad composed by Claude Schneider, brings a calm respite after the album's first four tracks. "Paraca" by Cédric Bovet, with its Latin accents, then furnishes an irrepressible invitation to dance, and allows Pierre-André Dougoud to express himself in a lyrical yet virtuoso bass solo. "Autumn In Udine" is a collective composition in which each musician brings his own personal touch, a hymn to the beautiful town of Udine in Italy's Friuli region, set to a groove reminiscent of Ahmad Jamal's "Poinciana". "La Traque" by Pierre-André Dougoud adds a touch of mystery to the album, evoking a Lynchian climate of alternating light and darkness. Schneider's "Monday 19" features a remarkable fluidity of harmonies that immerse us in a never-ending continuum.

The album closes with a composition by the late Don Grolnick, "Act Natural". This piece perfectly sums up the appeal of the musical journey on which Bo'n'Co invites us, a journey energetic and varied, but also at times introspective.

Throughout this beautiful album, the five members of the group demonstrate a complicity that reveals what FIVE means: the sum of five voices, five sensibilities, five energies serving a Jazz profoundly interactive.

**Marc Buronfosse**

Let me just talk about the band Bo'n'Co, and the long story behind it. In 1989, Pierre-André, Claude, my brother Cédric and I started playing together in the "Bovet Brothers" group, with my father Philippe on the piano. We notably participated in a Jazz festival called "Festijazz" in 1990 in my home-town Neuchâtel. We've all kept great memories from this period. Though we still played together in different formations, recording several CDs and performing live, we didn't play formally in a band together again until 2019. At that time, 30 years after "Bovet Brothers" and just before COVID hit, we put together a group in a quartet format, Claude, Pierre-André, Cédric and myself. We named the band "Bovet-Schneider-Dougoud Quartet". The album "Essence of Jazz 3" making up part of a triptych was recorded in 2022, comprised of our own compositions. The feeling, as well as the pleasure of playing together was completely intact, it being a lot of fun recording this album as well as playing the music on different occasions.

During the same year, Cédric and I participated in another recording session in Paris, with Caryl Baker on piano and the great French bass player Marc Buronfosse (who also kindly accepted to write the liner notes associated with the present album). Cédric and I really enjoyed doing this "Paris" recording project, so we asked Caryl to join, forming a new Quintet Bo'n'Co. Of course the music changed a bit having Caryl on piano, but the spirit of the band remains exactly the same, if not stronger. More interactions materialized with the integration of some complex rhythms and musical structures. In this quintet, we definitely love JAZZ (the essence and the history of Jazz), and we love listening to each other, creating ONE music together as FIVE. This recording made in Udine was a fantastic and incredible life experience for each of us. I sincerely hope you will enjoy this recording, as much as we loved making it.

**Lucien Bovet**





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