

Pierre
Bensusan
"encore"



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Pierre Bensusan

“encore”

To celebrate 40 years of performances from this tireless troubadour (1974 – 2014), Dadgad Music is releasing “ENCORE,” a live double album, available worldwide this Autumn.



Bensusan gave his first concert in 1974 at the American Center in Paris. He was 17 years old and it was the great age of Folk revival in France. In tracing his path, even after having sold a half-million albums, you could say that it's on stage and on tour that he has lived out the majority of his life as a musician, by holding more than 3000 concerts on almost every continent.

His audience listens to his records but knows perfectly well that it's in concert that the artist is able to reveal different music, created in the moment with an enormous range of expression and a vast emotional depth. Moreover, many of the titles found on his albums were born from on stage improvisation. However, his discography only includes the DVD of a concert in San Francisco in 1996 and a CD in duet with Didier Malherbe, Live au New Morning (Paris -1997). This gap is now filled.

"My desire was to present myself in the context of my 'real' life, on the road, because the proximity of the public, the pleasure, the urgency, the risk-taking, the 'danger' but also the joy of sharing the moment yield unique emotional states," declares Bensusan. "So over the years I had collected dozens of recordings I had mostly never listened to. What you have is a selection of these particular moments from various shows and different time periods."

"ENCORE" brings together tracks recorded between 1998 and 2013 in France, Canada, Ireland, Austria and especially in the USA, where Bensusan regularly records.

Of note are 2 duets with Jordan Rudess recorded in France and a good number of tracks never recorded on the masterful performer's "studio" albums.

A little known story

In a career spanning nearly 40 years, there have been too many stories to tell... here's one of them.

Pierre Bensusan and James Bond

My friend Maria had not only offered to host me but also to throw a party for me at her home after my concert in Santa Monica (in the Los Angeles area). She was accompanied by her boyfriend, actor Pierce Brosnan, who hadn't been in a blockbuster film yet but had already earned a good reputation in Hollywood. As Pierce is from Dublin, we talked about the country and got on well. Maria left early to arrange the final preparations, and she asked Pierce to stay with me and ride in the car with me. So we continued our small talk while I put away my equipment (and there was a good amount of it in those days—racks, guitars, cables, my own suitcases, etc.). And at the moment when I was getting ready to carry it all to their car, he told me, "Don't move—stay seated and let me do it!" We had a wonderful evening, and our breakfast the next day was just as enjoyable. Several months later, while I was walking in Paris with my 8-year-old son, we came upon an enormous poster for the new James Bond film with Pierce's photo. I told my son about the time James Bond had carried my luggage. A little later, I found out that he had told his classmates that James Bond was actually his dad's porter.

Biography

He was born in 1957 in Oran. The career of Pierre Bensusan (pronounced ben-çu-zan) began in 1975. He was 17 years old at the time, and his first album, "Près de Paris" (Close to Paris), earned the Rose d'Or at the Festival du Montreux.

After a constant presence in France in the 70s and the early 80s, Bensusan caught the attention of Manny Greenhill, Joan Baez's manager. Since then, he tours in North America every year, expanding his "territory" to other Anglo-Saxon countries as well as all of Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Over the course of his albums, his universe opens up, taking on such a scope that he offers very personal music, at the edges of Mediterranean, Celtic, classical and jazz music. His career is punctuated by prestigious collaborations with Jordan Rudess, Bill Keith, Doc Watson, Steve Vai, Didier Malherbe, Larry Coryell, Taj Mahal, Paco de Lucia, Leo Kottke, Michael Hedges, Carla Bley, John Renbourn, Andy Timmons, Nana Vasconcellos, Yoko Kano, Andrew York, Guinga, Jacques Higelin, among others

Chosen as Best World Music Guitarist by the readers of the prestigious Guitar Player Magazine in the United States in 2008, Pierre Bensusan is a composer, guitarist and singer, one of the rare French musicians today whose music is known across the globe. Recognized as one of the most eloquent "World" musicians of our time, he melds sounds which cover a vast geography and diverse time periods, a musical universe which surprises and results in the most unexpected combinations, culminating in what is immediately identifiable and undeniably known to be "the Bensusan Sound".

Discography



Vividly (2010)



A La Carte (2009)



Altiplanos (2005)



Intuite (2001)



Live In Paris (1997)



Wu Wei (1993)



Spices (1998)



Solai (1981)



Musique (1979)



Bensusan 2 (1997)



Pres de Paris (1975)

In 2010 Dadgad Music reissued the entire discography of Pierre Bensusan (nine original albums and one compilation). The box of 10 CD's "Complete Works 1975-2010" is available exclusively from Pierre's website.



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