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Bob Mamet Trio Concert Une Grande Découverte (A Great Discovery)

The Chicago-based pianist/composer Bob Mamet performed with his Trio and special guest saxophonist Frank Catalano on October 20 at **Sunside** in Paris. For Bob, it was his first Paris appearance, so therefore for the public in the capital a kind of discovery, and what a discovery it was!

Mamet began in Trio with Wolfram Derschmidt (bass) and Dusan Novakov, (drums) who are not his permanent partners. But both are outstanding, offering unfailing support, and also showing excellent reading skills to decipher Mamet's rich compositions. The Pianist shows his joy of playing in a large Parisian club and pleasure was visible throughout the three sets through excellent communication he has with the audience. Mamet's work displays tremendous finesse and a delicate touch as we noted when listening to his first compositions, "*Impromptu*," "*Keziah*," and "*Illinois Road*."

The Trio was responsible for a strong dose of swing, Bob with his two partners delighting in this manner with Mamet's original Trio compositions at the beginnings of each set. Mamet's tunes included the exuberant "*At Play*", the beautiful and fluid "*Solstice*", and "*Cat's on the Roof*" with its big groove.

On the fourth theme of the first set, Bob invited and introduced his friend Frank Catalano who presented his arrangement of John Coltrane's "*Impressions*." The sound is powerful, weighty, defining "Coltrane Energy for the 21st Century," as stated by the American critics [from "*Downbeat Magazine*."]

Each time that Frank increased the intensity, the Trio responded to him immediately and precisely. The saxophonist subtly demonstrated creativity and offered beautiful dissonances as well as changes of register within the same theme. Bob and Frank offered excellent Jazz standards as well, playing Charlie Parker's Bebop classic "*Ornithology*," Cole Porter's "*Night and Day*" and Kenny Dorham's "*Blue Bossa*."

The band, with their dichotomy of Sweetness and Fire, always arrive to create a beautiful osmosis. Later in the concert Bob Mamet was superb in the interpretation of the theme from Henry Mancini's "*Days of Wine and Roses*" as Catalano played West Coast.

A concert that really impressed the audience.

Patrick Dalmace