

RLSG

Renaud Louis-Servais Group



www.rlsg.fr

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THE STORY



Franck Guicherd (pn/tp) **Alain Bidot-Naude** (dr) **Renaud Louis-Servais** (gt) **Henri Dorina** (bs)

France-based amazing guitarist Renaud Louis-Servais is one of the most accomplished talents on today's jazz-rock-fusion scene. Through a wide range of guitar playing (electric, nylon, folk and guitar-synth) and showing a rare passion for musicality, Renaud loves to blur the lines and transcend musical boundaries...

His first album "ILUNA" (2011) was recorded and mixed by Steve Prestage (Gino Vannelli, Gary Moore, Peter Gabriel...) who provided his incredible experience. Boosted by songlike themes and great influences, Iluna mirrors what has always been driving Renaud musically: the pleasure to move freely between 'metal', progressive music, 'jazz' and 'rock', paying particular attention to composition and sound quality.

3 tracks from the album reached semi-final stages at the prestigious US International Songwriting Competition (ISC); the album also got great reviews worldwide in musical european press (*Guitarist Magazine, Guitare Xtreme, Highlands Magazine...*), musical websites (*GuitarNoize, Arlequins, Jazz-Rock.com, AbstracLogix...*) and web Tv-shows such as [JazzRockTV](#) (Germany). On radios, the song 'Gimmick' reached number #1 for several days on [Latch Radio](#) Top-20 listeners' playlist (Fort Wayne, IN) with other tracks like 'Dom' and 'Chani' also ranking very well.

Quotes:

"What an amazing album...!!! Thanks a lot..."

- PATRICK RONDAT

"Very nice album, I like tracks 5, 7 and 9 the best:)"

- BUNNY BRUNEL

"Iluna illustrates both the chemistry and trust between the talented group's members, allowing Louis-Servais to wear his formidable rock and fusion influences on his sleeve.

-ABSTRACT LOGIX, Sep 05, 2011

"Iluna is a masterpiece!"

-JAZZ-ROCK.COM, April 05, 2012

BIOGRAPHIES

RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS

Born in 1972, he started playing the guitar at the age of 8 thanks to his father, a classic guitar player. Growing older, he played many gigs in Paris clubs with rock cover bands, and progressively his musical influences became many and varied (metal, jazz, fusion, prog-rock...). **Yes** and **Weather Report** are two major influences for him, and listening to various guitar players such as John McLaughlin, Pat Metheny and Allan Holdsworth fed his own guitar-playing style.

Found of musical pedagogy, Renaud Louis-Servais is usually asked by music schools and festivals to give some guitar master-classes in numerous domains like improvisation, harmony and musical theory...

Renaud Louis-Servais is endorsed by Tom Anderson Guitarworks and Two Notes Audio Engineering

ALAIN BIDOT-NAUDE

Alain Bidot-Naude tried different instruments before finding his path at 13 when he picked up his first drum sticks. Initially taught by local music teachers, he then studied at **Ecole Supérieure Agostini** in Bordeaux, where he graduated with a **first prize**. His influences at this point are John Scofield, Chick Corea, Weather Report, Steps Ahead, Uzeb... He played in several groups, including Irrintzina with which he toured his native Basque country for five years. Having moved to Paris at the end of 1999, he joined Renaud Louis-Servais in the **ILUNA** project, coming up with the band's name which is a reference to its Basque origins. Alain plays too in several projects like **Macqueen**, **AfterBeat**, **Destination Woodstock**...

Alain Bidot-Naude plays on Premier "Genista" drums

HENRI DORINA

Having tried the guitar, Henri Dorina finally settled for the bass at 20. His influences are many: Caribbean music – where his roots are – jazz, blues, funk then jazz-rock, listening to Stanley Clarke in particular. During the last twenty years, he has worked in studio with a large number of artists (**Rido Bayone**, **David Koven**, **Peter Kingsberry**, **Bill Deraime**, **Art of soul**...) and supported a wide range of others on stage – **Rachid Bahri**, **Charlérie Couture**, **Moktar Samba**, **les Natives**, **Romane**, **Princess Erika**, **Manu Dibango**... He regularly hosts jam-sessions at the Baiser Salé jazz bar in Paris.

Henri Dorina is endorsed by Vigier basses

FRANCK GUICHERD

Franck comes from a family of musicians. His father Yves is a recognised saxophonist and composer, and his brother Jérôme a percussionist with the Paris Philharmonic Orchestra. Franck started playing the **piano** at 5 and the **trumpet** at 9. After following classical musical studies in piano and trumpet at the Conservatoire national in Cergy (Paris), he decides to play jazz. He listens to trumpet players like Chet Baker and Lee Morgan, Big Bands, then later to fusion – Yellow Jackets, Sixun, Weather Report... He has played the **piano** and the **trumpet** with many artists including **Eddy Louiss**, **Mory Kanté**, **Michel Leeb**, **Laurent Gerra**, **Gérard Badini's Big band**, **Fred Manoukian** and **Laurent Mignard** (Duke Orchestra)...

Franck Guicherd plays Conn "Vintage One" trumpets and Conn "Vintage" bugles

PRESS REVIEWS

September 2011



(USA)

Renaud Louis-Servais Group: Iluna (#324)

2011-09-05

Ablx Staff



A 25-year veteran of the European touring circuit despite not yet being 40 years old, French guitarist Renaud Louis-Servais shows inherent seasoning on his self-titled quartet's new *Iluna* debut. The crafty leader most recently performed and practiced with his rhythm section of Henri Dorina (bass) and Alain Bidot-Naude (drums) for 10 years before adding keyboardist/trumpeter Franck Guicherd and entering the studio.

Iluna illustrates both the chemistry and trust between the talented quartet's members, allowing Louis-Servais to wear his formidable rock and fusion influences on his sleeve. His opening three-song cycle spans 24 minutes, with "Theme d'Iluna" leading off. Guicherd's atmospheric synthesizer intro leads to several rhythmic shifts by Dorina and Bidot-Naude as the guitarist's use of sustain echoes Gary Moore and Steve Vai.

"Euria," part two of the cycle, downshifts into a 6/8-timed cadence that showcases Louis-Servais' clean-toned rhythm playing and soloing. Guicherd shows his dexterity by playing a trumpet solo (as well as keyboard parts on both acoustic and Fender Rhodes electric pianos), and Dorina effortlessly switches from fretless bass back to fretted for part three, the classically-influenced "Chani" (with a chanted intro by Djamil Ghilani, the only vocal on an otherwise instrumental disc).

Guicherd sticks to acoustic piano on "Pat," since Louis-Servais provides the plugged-in textures on guitar synthesizer in a salute to Pat Metheny. The leader also shows glimpses of John McLaughlin, Allan Holdsworth and Scott Henderson throughout, yet still manages to display his own style as both a player and composer. "Gimmick" is anything but, featuring a rollicking rhythmic undercurrent, boogie-woogie piano accompaniment by Guillaume Roussel, and banner solos and trades between Louis-Servais and saxophonist Alessandro Nocco.

The saxophonist returns for the tranquil "La Quete de Roland," which spotlights Louis-Servais' acoustic guitar finesse, and also for the closing "Dom." After the core quartet lures the listener into a fiery, 7/8-timed "Magnet 7," and hints at Jeff Beck on the atmospheric "Pulse," Nocco rejoins the lineup to take Louis-Servais' final influential nod even further into the stratosphere.

On "Dom," the guitarist's clean-toned chords introduce an insistent rhythmic pattern by Dorina and Bidot-Naude, plus accompanying textures by Guicherd and Nocco -- all of which help to build the thematic, whammy bar-driven epic. The feel here is reminiscent of Beck's 1980 CD *There and Back*, an appropriate theme for Louis-Servais' initial lunar mission.

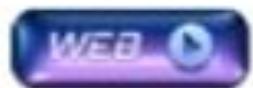
PRESS REVIEWS (continued)

November 2011



(USA)

Renaud Louis-Servais Group



10

Renaud Louis-Servais was born in **France** in 1972. Thanks to his father, a classic guitar player, he started playing the guitar at the age of 8. Growing older, he played many gigs in Paris clubs with rock cover bands, and after several years, his musical influences became many and varied (metal, jazz, fusion, prog-rock...). Listening to guitar players such as John Mc Laughlin, Pat Metheny, Scott Henderson, Frank Gambale or Allan Holdsworth helped him build his own guitar-playing style. He created the fusion band ILUNA in 2000 where he met Alain Bidot-Naude (drums) and Henri Dorina (bass). The band was semi-finalist in 2008 and 2009 in ISC(International Songwriting Competition) with three of their original tunes. In 2010, Franck Guicherd (keyboards / trumpet) joined the band, which became the **RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS GROUP**. In 2011, the first album *Iluna* was released.

Renaud Louis-Servais Group



PRESS REVIEWS (continued)

December 2011

GUITARE XTREME LE MAGAZINE DES GUITARISTES (FRANCE)



RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS GROUP

Iluna

Musea Records

Heureusement, il y a encore des artistes parfaitement intègres, qui pratiquent la musique avec passion, malaxant les genres musicaux sans arrières-pensées, uniquement pour l'amour de la musique. Ce groupe hors norme est le fruit d'une rencontre heureuse entre *Renaud-Louis Servais* (guitare), *Alain Bidot-Naude* (batterie), *Henri Dorina* (basse) et *Franck Guicherd* (clavier/bugle), quatre fondus de jazz, de rock et de fusion. Les morceaux du quatuor, extrêmement aboutis et travaillés ont, d'ailleurs, été nominés au fameux concours américain ISC (International Songwriting Competition). Un disque surprenant et magnifique !

PRESS REVIEWS (continued)

January 2012



(ITALY)

RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS
GROUP

Iluna

autoprod.

2011

FRA

Renaud Louis-Servais è un musicista che calca le scene musicali europee da circa 25 anni, spaziando attraverso Hard Rock, Pop, Jazz e Fusion, ma solo con questo "Iluna" arriva all'agognato debutto discografico assieme alla sua band. Ad accompagnarlo in questa avventura sono la sezione ritmica composta dal bassista Henri Dorina, il batterista Alain Bidot-Naude, il tastierista trombettiere Franck Guicher, più una serie di session man tra cui spicca l'italiano Alessandro Nocco al sassofono. Renaud e la sua band sono stati forgiati da una lunga ed estenuante gavetta, basti pensare che hanno suonato per decenni in giro per l'Europa o sapere che questo album ha avuto una genesi di più di 10 anni. Tutto ciò si tramuta in qualità e professionalità che sono facilmente riscontrabili in "Iluna".

Il disco è prevalentemente fusion, una fusion guitar oriented molto armonica che non disprezza sonorità folk mediterranee come nel brano "Chani". E' facile riscontrare tra i principali riferimenti Weather Report, il Jeff Beck di Blow by Blow, i primi UZEB, ma soprattutto Pat Metheny. Quest'ultimo è addirittura omaggiato esplicitamente nel brano "Pat". Non mancano degli spunti progressive che, oltre ai Soft Machine del dopo Wyatt e il Canterbury più Jazz, si possono individuare in gruppi come Yes e Pink Floyd. Ne è un esempio lo splendido brano finale "Dom", dal retrogusto *floydiano* e terminante con l'assolo più bello dell'album. Altri momenti da segnalare sono i primi tre brani che compongono la mini suite "Trilogie d'Iluna" o il boogie woogie di "Gimmik" con il chitarrista francese in bell'evidenza che ricorda il grande Allan Holdsworth.

E' possibile rivedere nello tecnica di Louis-Servais, qua e là, rimandi a grandi chitarristi, dai già citati Beck, Metheny, Holdsworth ai vari Vai, Satriani, Moore fino Gilmour e Santana. Detto ciò Renoud ha fatto proprie tutte queste influenze, senza essere l'epigono di nessuno. Si è creato un suo stile chitarristico molto personale, molto lirico e di rara potenza espressiva. Pur possedendo una tecnica davvero notevole non si ingolfa mai in fraseggi onanistici o meri esercizi ginnici. Altresì i musicisti della band non sono da meno, preparatissimi e ma mai sopra le righe.

Tanta perizia e bravura ci regalano quindi un disco estremamente godibile e raffinato. Trovare dei difetti è molto difficile, forse potrebbe uscire fuori un po' di ruffianeria o forse manca di qualche scheggia di sana follia, ma è davvero ingeneroso stare a cercare mancanze in questa opera. Che altro aggiungere... speriamo di non dover aspettare altri 10 anni per un nuovo album.



SHARE

Francesco Inghima

PRESS REVIEWS (continued)

March 2012



(USA)

Renaud Louis-Servais – French Fusion Guitarist

March 15, 2012 at 8:17 am | Posted by Jon in [News](#)



RLSG (Renaud Louis-Servais Group) is the story of four French musicians with a common passion for jazz, rock and fusion brought together to play Renaud Louis-Servais's music. Their album "Iluna" (2011) mirrors what has always been driving them musically: the pleasure to move freely between 'metal', progressive music, jazz and rock, with a lot of attention paid to compositions and sound quality. It was recorded and mixed by Steve Prestage (Gino Vannelli, Gary Moore, Peter Gabriel, Marc Bolan...) who provided is incredible experience. Three tracks from this album reached semi-final stages at the prestigious International Songwriting Competition (ISC), and the album was very well reviewed in USA, Holland, Italy and France. "We've taken great pleasure in creating this 'unidentifiable musical object', and now we cannot wait to play it for people. This is when the adventure will really begin..." says Renaud Louis-Servais.

As you can hear in the video above Renaud is a very tasty player wielding a lovely [Tom Anderson guitar](#) that he endorses. If you like what you hear head over to Renaud's website to hear more samples from the album and information on where to purchase.

PRESS REVIEWS (continued)

April 2012

jazz-rock.com

(USA)

ILUNA IS A MASTERPIECE!

April 5, 2012 - JAZZ-ROCK.com REVIEW by John Pritchard

This new album of phenomenally tasty and exceptionally engineered music is a great debut for the Renaud Louis-Servais Group (R.L.S.G.). I love how the album starts with such a solid rockin' beat by drummer Alain Bidot-Naude over the pulsing synth of Franck Guicherd. Soon the solid basswork of Henri Dorina comes in and then on the 45th second, the pure sonic guitar sound of Renaud Louis-Servais lays down the opening theme. What a breath of fresh, French, fusion air! Renaud himself is wonderfully expressive, articulate, clean, and free of pretense. Nothing is under or overplayed. [check out [his YouTube Channel](#) for a closer look]

Like their leader, every band member is also a superb musician. Every track on the album is an inspiration. "ILUNA" is an amazing collection of original music that draws from almost every school of music in the jazz and rock genres. It is full of surprises. If you are a long-time jazz-rock aficionado, you are in for a true treat.

The guitar-legend influences are particularly noticeable if you are a fan of Jeff Beck, John McLaughlin, Allan Holdsworth, and Scott Henderson. I even hear a little Terje Rypdal in some of those long, soaring sustains during the trilogy of opening tracks. Speaking of which, what a great way to start an album. It is as if Renaud is giving us a mini-25 minute lesson in the history of electric and acoustic jazz-rock music. It is all so very cohesive and balanced.

While Renaud clearly embraces all his heroes, he also ingeniously presents us with his own unique voice and point-of-view. He is extremely fluid. Hugely emotional. You really feel it! I am particularly blown away by his acoustic guitar playing!

Renaud's creativity (and, dare I say, gratitude) is particularly noticeable on the fourth track of the album, simply called "Pat." It is perhaps the greatest tribute to guitarist, Pat Metheny, ever recorded. He uses the trademark Metheny synthesizer sound to not only create 3 great minutes of music, but it is like he is giving thanks to one of his favorite master teachers. And my oh my has Renaud learned his lessons well.

Every track on "ILUNA" features a wide spectrum of talent from each and every band member. Not one weak link. Everyone complements one another and plays his heart out. Just what we all hope every album should be.

While there is a huge variety of compositional styles, inventive time signatures, and flawless playing by the entire band, it is ultimately the masterful guitar work of Renaud Louis-Servais that unifies it all into a single masterpiece called "ILUNA."

Can't wait to see these guys live! Highly recommended. 5 stars.

- John Pritchard | [jazz-rock.com](#)

PRESS REVIEWS (continued)

May 2012



(USA)

RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS GROUP

Iluna

(RLSG Music)



Recording over in France, Renaud Louis-Servais Group released a masterful album of jazz-rock fusion entitled *Iluna* in 2011. Featuring the extraordinary guitar chops of **Renaud Louis-Servais**, the nine track *Iluna* CD features Renaud and his band performing a daredevil cross-section of jazz, rock and fusion instrumentals. 21st century fusion music at its best, *Iluna* travels all over the musical map and comes across as state of the art instrumental rock in the spirit of 1970's music legends such as Return To Forever with guitarist Al DiMeola plus an added dose of Weather Report. Renaud's music is quite intriguing and overall, *Iluna* makes for some amazing listening for jazz-rock fans and guitar fans in general. Commenting on the making of *Iluna* during his May 2012 interview with

mwe3.com, Renaud adds 'In fact, for me, there are no real frontiers between styles, and this is the main concept of the album. I'll say that my purpose is to fuse the classical harmony and the jazz harmony with the energy and sound of rock music.' www.rlsq.fr

PRESS REVIEWS (continued)

June 2012

HIGHLANDS

L'Actualité du Rock Progressif.

(FRANCE)

RENAUD LOUIS SERVAIS

ILUNA

(Autoproduction, Franco, 2011)



Cocorico ! Un nouveau venu français dans la sphère dite progressive est toujours une bonne nouvelle ! Le guitariste et compositeur **RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS** a pris le temps pour nous proposer son 1^{er} album, entouré d'**ALAIN BIDOT-NAUDE** à la batterie, **HENRI DORINA** à la basse, **FRANCK GUICHERD** aux claviers et à la trompette et d'**ALESSANDRO NOCCO** au saxophone en tant qu'invité.

Pour définir la musique proposée ici, il suffit de citer **RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS** lui-même : C'est le plaisir de naviguer sans contraintes entre le « métal », la musique progressive et le jazz. Certains trouveront le résultat inclassable... tant mieux ! Ce disque s'adresse à un public peu sensible aux étiquettes ou aux styles cloisonnés... Tout est dit pour un programme plus qu'alléchant !

Et à l'écoute de *La trilogie d'Iluna* qui ouvre cet album, reconnaissons qu'il n'y a pas tromperie sur la marchandise ! Le thème d'*Iluna* démarre en trombe l'opus par un instrumental musclé à tendance métal (pour reprendre le mot) façon Steve Vai. Un bel exercice de style réussi, en dépit d'une fin un peu décevante. *Euria* (Cycle de la

pluie) contrebalance ce côté énervé pour un jazz-rock dans la plus grande tradition. Un beau moment de fraîcheur remarquablement servi par l'ensemble des musiciens, avec une mention spéciale pour l'excellent **HENRI DORINA** à la basse enjouée et soyeuse. Notons également que la prise de son et le mixage de **STEVE PRESTAGE** sont parfaits, apportant un son clair et propre mettant bien en avant chaque soliste. Un très haut niveau pour une autoproduction ! *Chari* (Cycle du désert) clôt cette trilogie de fort belle manière, toujours dans un jazz-rock savamment dosé entre ses 2 styles, juste un peu gâché encore une fois par une fin approximative. On se doute que ce sera différent sur scène... *Pat* est une sorte d'intermède centré cette fois sur le clavier et en dépit de sa courte durée, le résultat est très enthousiasmant ! *Gimmick* poursuit cette quête d'un jazz-rock de haut-vol, largement influencé par John McLaughlin ou Pat Metheny et ce n'est pas un mince compliment ! Le jeu de guitare de **SERVAIS** s'y inscrit sans avoir à rougir de la comparaison ! Le saxophone d'**ALESSANDRO NOCCO** vient en renfort sur l'aérien. La quête de *Roland* pour une partition subtile et juste. Encore une réussite... *Magnet 7* rehausse le ton pour un jazz-fusion-rock électrique et fiévreux, enrobé d'un clavier aussi discret que bien venue. *Pulse* porte bien son nom, tant le rythme est à la fois marqué par la batterie, la basse mais aussi un piano au riff en forme de ritournelle, le tout pour soutenir une guitare plus galopante que jamais. *L'épuré Dom* vient conclure de manière un peu contrastée ce *ILUNA*, car le rythme plus binaire de ce titre affadit la force mélodique mais heureusement, la guitare enjouée réussit quand même à relever le tout, même si on aurait souhaité encore mieux !

Pour un premier album, c'est un coup de maître ! En lieu et place d'un rock progressif pur, **RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS** nous propose un jazz-rock-fusion dans la lignée d'un John McLaughlin et il réussit l'exploit de se hisser quasiment à sa hauteur par sa fraîcheur et un groupe solide et talentueux. Tout n'est pas parfait pour autant : le premier titre détonne un peu avec le reste et les morceaux ont tendance à se terminer faiblement, souvent en fade-out. Pour autant, on sent un véritable talent émergent et il ne fait pas de doute que la scène apportera une dimension supplémentaire à cette musique, tel est le souhait de **SERVAIS** et on le partage ! Une découverte à ne pas manquer ! Vivement la suite... 16/20

Axel SCHEYDER

PRESS REVIEWS (continued)

October 2012

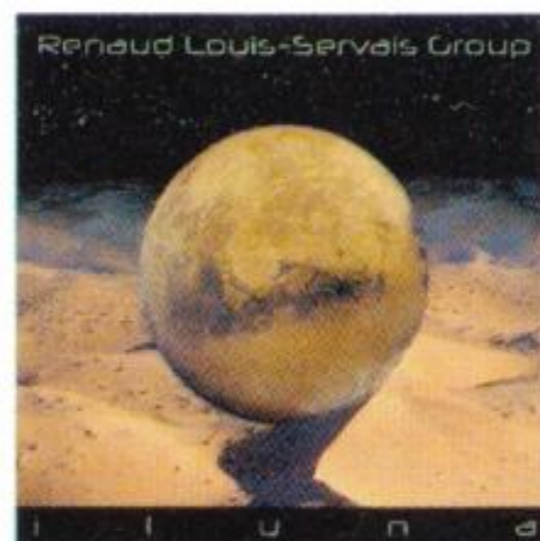


(FRANCE)



RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS GROUP

Suite à l'album "Iluna" sorti en 2011, le quatuor du guitariste français Renaud Louis-Servais sera



en concert au festival Jazz et Blues D'Ozoir le 10 novembre, au Baiser Salé le 23 novembre et au Hangar le 23 janvier 2013. Démonstrateur Tom Anderson pour la France, Renaud possède

un beau toucher, avec une large palette de sons, alliés à une maîtrise technique mise en valeur par ses compositions fusion prog. A écouter ! www.rlsg.fr
Et pour le découvrir en vidéo, scannez ce flashcode ou rendez-vous sur notre site guitaristmag.fr.

CONCERT PICTURES

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RENAUD LOUIS-SERVAIS

PRESS PICTURES (continued)



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ALAIN BIDOT-NAUDE

PRESS PICTURES (continued)



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HENRI DORINA

PRESS PICTURES (continued)



FRANCK GUICHERD

TOUR DATES

Juill.2012 FESTIVAL **EJAMSLIVE**
(NINA ATTAL, FREAK KITCHEN, MORGBL...)

Nov. 2012 FESTIVAL **JAZZ ET BLUES D'OZOIR**
2012
(JEAN-MARIE ECAY, RICHARD GUINAINE...)

Nov. 2012 CONCERT **Le Baiser salé**

Jan. 2013 CONCERT **LE HANGAR**
(PACO SERY opening act)

Dec. 2013 FESTIVAL **THE FUSION CARNIVAL**
(TRIVANDRUM, SOUTH INDIA)

AND MORE TO COME...

LINKS

Website

www.rlsg.fr/en

YouTube Chanel

www.youtube.com/rlsgmusic

Facebook fans page

www.facebook.com/RLSGroup

Twitter

twitter.com/RenaudLS

CONTACTS

Infos

WEB www.rlsg.fr

✉ info@rlsg.fr

Booking

ANTOINE BOCQUIER

☎ +33 633 122 211

✉ acclame@acclame.org