



paris combo living-room

- 1 Living-room 4:10
- 2 Terrien d'eau douce 3:01
- 3 Señor 4:14
- 4 Homeron 3:29
- 5 Je suis sourde 4:08
- 6 Pas à pas 4:11
- 7 Ubiquité 3:20
- 8 Sous la lune 4:13
- 9 L'avenir incertain du Titanic 3:32
- 10 Si mon amour 2:52
- 11 Chez nous 3:18
- 12 Mobil'homme 5:10

Paris Combo
Living-Room
 42860882 / CD

Paris Combo combines jazzy improvisation with a style that pays tribute to cabaret singers of the past. This Parisian quintet's clever compositions, clean arrangements and inspired lyrics is an exploration in the league of flamenco and gypsy guitar riffs a la Django Rheinhardt, music of the orient, French pop, Spanish and Italian melodies. Paris Combo delivers with the freshness and vitality of modern swing.



file under: **France / Swing**



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paris combo living-room *biography*

Inspired by jazz, latin and gypsy music, Paris Combo reinvents the sound of acoustic French music and street musette. Contrary to the name, Paris Combo is contrived of musicians from all over the world, rather than just France. Paris Combo is: French Belle Du Berry (vocalist / accordionist), Australian David Lewis (piano / trumpet), Madagascan Mano Razanajato (contrebass / guitar / percussion), Mediterranean Potzi (guitar) and French François-François (drums / percussion / xylophone). The musical input of such diverse cultures and talents creates a sound much grander than French cabaret chansons. Paris Combo uses each members' own cultural influences and rhythms. With the experience of their work in the Cabaret Sauvage (a show involving singers, clowns and acrobats with a six-piece band as centerpiece in the French capital) behind them, the band grew in talent and creativity by focusing purely on the music.

Paris Combo truly believes in the simplicity of traditional music, and is not distracted by the modern technologies of synthesizers and altering devices. Their acoustic sound is classic, with a modern edge, rather than computer generated. Vocalist Belle Du Berry is the pivot of the band's music, and has been justifiably compared to Edith Piaf, or at times, to Marlene Dietrich. Du Berry has been in the forefront of the neo cabaret movement for many years. As a singer and accordionist in Cabaret Sauvage and the Parisian revue, "Champetre de Joie", Du Berry maintained the avant-garde cabaret style in her work and gained a reputation of a prolific songwriter. Paris Combo originated in 1995 when Belle, Potzi and Francois played together in a number of different projects before being joined by David and Mano. In 1997, the group released its eponymous American debut album representing some of their most popular recordings. This self-titled album "Paris Combo" exposed their musical maturity, and received a wave of favorable reviews throughout Europe and America. The quintet's clever compositions, precise arrangements and inspired lyrics are an exploration of flamenco, mediterranean music, gypsy sounds, latin rhythms, American jazz, swing, and occasionally French musette.

"Living Room" is a follow-up to their critically acclaimed "Paris Combo" album, yet it steers away from the cabaret tradition. "Cabaret is only an aspect of what we're doing now", horn man Lewis said. The idea is to include what each member brings rather than just one predefined style. Swinging with gypsy sounds, Django Reinhardt guitar riffs, French pop and Spanish and Italian melodies, "Living Room" is far too eclectic to be bunched into one category. The title track opens the album with chanteuse Belle Du Berry's sensual vocals transcending any language barrier. Potzi's guitar licks (a la Django Reinhardt) boasts his musical and mediterranean influences. Bassist Mano effortlessly swings his way through "Pas à Pas", a song of his own composition. Drummer François-François admirably carries most of the rhythm section playing with passion and intensity, and trumpeter David Lewis' Miles Davis-sounding muted trumpet on some of the tracks adds a jazzy ambiance. Paris Combo's music not only connects with the revival of swing, but takes it to another level with freshness and vitality. You may not have a clue what they are singing about, but "Living Room" speaks volumes about the universality of the group's sound and appeals to all cultures.

Paris Combo is the classic sound of Edith Piaf, the swankiness of the Cherry Poppin' Daddies, the jazz genius of Stan Getz, the energy of Brian Setzer, the timelessness of the Gypsy Kings, the talent of Django Reinhardt and the pop crossover of Big Bad Voodoo Daddy. They truly are a musical celebration of the rich diversity of contemporary Paris. Allez-y! Sacré Paris Combo.



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