

## WHAT THE PRESS HAS SAID ABOUT:

LE REX

WILD MAN

CUNEIFORM RECORDS 2015

“...Wild Man is lively, at times almost rambunctious, yet the pieces, primarily composed by Marc Stucki, are poignant as well as playful, sober as well as celebratory. While ‘The Dwarf’ has elements of New Orleans and the album as a whole is indebted to the Chicago tradition of AACM, opener ‘Mole’s Dream of the Prairie’ is reminiscent of Ellington while ‘Riff Raff’ verges on calypso. Also worthy of mention is...’Mr Richard Keil’..because there should be more jazz tunes named after actors best known for playing Bond villain henchmen. **4 stars.**”

- Marcus O’Dair, *Jazzwise*, October 2016

“*Wild Man* consists of 13 vibrant, upbeat jazzy tracks... Not a conventional jazz ensemble...considering the lack of piano or upright bass, but the tuba seems to take over the role of the bassist here, with the drummer holding down the rest of the rhythms and the saxes & trombone firing off the lead melodies. ... A great thing about *Wild Man*, and Le Rex in general, is hearing the tuba in such a prominent role... Marc Unternährer is a joy to listen to throughout. ... This is ultimately a fun album, and another great release from the folks over at Cuneiform. [**4.5/5 Stars**]”

- Pete Pardo, *Sea of Tranquility*, Dec. 26, 2015, [www.seaoftranquility.org](http://www.seaoftranquility.org)

“**Pete’s Picks of 2015 ...here is my top 15... Le Rex – Wild Man (Cuneiform)** ... They’re effectively a mini brass band, but with jazz chops and a great sense of humour. They mix old school with the new, referencing everything from New Orleans to Chicago. ... A band that must be great to hear live, the sort to get you dancing in the aisles”

– Pete Butchers, “Pete’s Pick of 2015”, *Jazz Today*, December 28, 2015

“Swiss quintet Le Rex... followed up their US tour with a sojourn in one of the centers of ree jazz, Chicago, to make *Wild Man*. ...a wonderful variety of influence and inspiration, from New Orleans second-line and the AACM to Swiss clockmakers and alpine dwarves. ...we get everything we’d expect—and more—from a band called Le Rex on an album called *Wild Man*: playful, energetic music free of self-serious pretensions. Or as they themselves describe it, “a kind of cunning adventure jazz.”

Piece by piece, and even within individual pieces, the adventure unfolds as a series of constantly shifting stylistic strategies, with a dedication—and ability!—to groove that both grounds the listener in each moment and dramatizes each redirection. ...

The overall effect is surprise that comes off as both sure-footed and spontaneous. ... The album features Tschopp’s excellent trombone playing throughout; see the dueling solos on the free-leaning title track, or the open-ended introduction to the leaden swinging final cut, “Be in Shape!,” one of my favorite moments on *Wild Man*. ... [**4 stars**]”

- Eric McDowell, *The Free Jazz Collective*, November 25, 2015, [www.freejazzblog.org](http://www.freejazzblog.org)

“**Best of 2015: Honorable Mentions – New Releases: Le Rex – Wild Man (Cuneiform)**”

- “Best of 2015,” *New York City Jazz Record*

“The band moniker Le Rex is culled from an abandoned theater, discovered on the island of Corsica, but there's nothing bleak or dusky about this quintet's musicality. ...these young lads convey remarkable maturity from a compositional perspective, and keep things novel or fresh amid a host of blossoming developments and tightly enacted grooves. ...

One of the strongest works on the album is "Sugar Maple," which is offset by a rather magnetic, drifting melody line... Other tracks offer popping horns and blustery hooks, counterbalanced by the soloists' impassioned and vociferous exchanges. Lots of talent on the loose here... [4 stars]”

- Glenn Astarita, *All About Jazz*, February 1, 2016, [www.allaboutjazz.com](http://www.allaboutjazz.com)

“There’s one trend in music...that I’m really enjoying...: the proliferation of groups with unconventional instrumentation... Switzerland’s Le Rex is a perfect example, with two saxes (alto and tenor), a trombone...a tuba...and a drummer. They draw on various traditions of horn music, like New Orleans, klezmer, and so on, but add a lot of twists... The adventurousness of the arrangements...reminds me of the Tiptons, who have done similar things in an all-sax context. Le Rex’s combination of catchy melodies, bouncy tuba bass lines, and offbeat harmonies is infectious... Highlights are too numerous to detail... The trombone solo on “Riff Raff” is outstanding... That tune’s rhythm part, reminiscent of soukous, is joyous... Le Rex has hit upon a new twist for jazz, and deserve a listen. Seriously fun music.”

- Jon Davis, *Exposé*, March 9, 2016, [www.expose.org](http://www.expose.org)

“Le Rex... develops a highly unique and dynamic sound which reaches from experimental structures to hymn-like passages and uptempo brass groovers - and sometimes all put together in one track. ... **truly progressive jazz music.**”

- *Mos Eisley Music*, December 14, 2015

“ACOUSTIC LEVITATION, BEST OF 2015... A Swiss quintet of two saxes, trombone, tuba and drums, create a very second-line sound that will have your face grinning and your ass moving.”

- Steve Koenig, *Acoustic Levitation*

“HEAVY on the horns... Alto saxophonist Benedikt Reising, trombonist Andreas Tschopp, tuba player Marc Unternährer, drummer Rico Baumann, and the primary composer, tenor saxophonist Marc Stucki, join together in a most powerful demonstration of just what those horns can do. Tunes like the bouncing/jouncing “Le Clic“, where the horns lead a most percussive backbeat, will blow you totally away. ... I give Le Rex a **MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, with an “EQ” (energy quotient) rating of 4.98** for this release.”

- Dick Metcalf, *Improvjazzation Nation*, Issue #159, [www.rotcodzzaj.com](http://www.rotcodzzaj.com)