

## YOSVANY TERRY & BAPTISTE TROTIGNON'S ANCESTRAL MEMORIES



**Yosvany Terry**, alto & soprano saxophones, chekere // **Baptiste Trotignon**, piano // **Yunior Terry**, bass // **E.J. Strickland**, drums

*"This is a special opportunity to express my grandmother's Haitian heritage with people who speak the same language."* —**Yosvany Terry**

With grant support from the French-American Jazz Exchange Program, Cuban-American saxophonist/percussionist/composer **Yosvany Terry** and French pianist **Baptiste Trotignon** present a unique and exciting program inspired by the rich and diverse musical traditions that emerged from the African Diaspora in the United States and former French colonies in the Americas.

Named **Ancestral Memories**, the project captures the rhythms, melodies, and harmonies of the Caribbean, New Orleans and French Louisiana, re-imagined through 21<sup>st</sup> century aesthetics and a jazz sensibility. The current ensemble personnel also features the extraordinary rhythm section of Terry's brother, bassist **Yunior Terry**, and drummer **E.J. Strickland**. **Ancestral Memories'** eponymously titled debut album was released in October 2017 on Okeh/Sony Records, followed by an East Coast tour concluding with a 4-night run at New York's Jazz Standard.

Nominated for a Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album, Yosvany Terry's previous album **New Throned King** (5Passion, 2014) was based on a similar concept and seamlessly blended modern jazz with the ceremonial music of the West African and Cuban Arara culture.

(Press quotes on page 2)

## ANCESTRAL MEMORIES | PRESS QUOTES

“Mr. Terry, a deft and blistering alto saxophonist hailing from Cuba, recently partnered with Mr. Trotignon, a French pianist of rippling sensitivity. The result was “Ancestral Memories,” an engaging album that explores the African diaspora through the lens of French colonial incursion. Mellifluous and buoyant, these tunes dance with a well-plotted grace.” —**The New York Times**

“The notion of diaspora rings clearly throughout Ancestral Memories, a new album from the Cuban-born saxophonist and percussionist Yosvany Terry and the Parisian pianist-composer Baptiste Trotignon. It’s a successful outcome of transatlantic cultural exchange, and a persuasive statement about the borders that can be elided with the tools of postbop modernism.” —**Nate Chinen, WBGO.org**

“Cuba meets France via Haiti and West Africa as two formidable 40-ish world musicians encounter, align their influences, cross metaphorical épées and make sparks fly. Camaguey-born saxophonist Yosvany Terry and Paris-based pianist Baptiste Trotignon parlay polymath musical interests in this cross-cultural project, as thoughtfully researched and collaborated as it is daring and delightful. The outcome is a brain-rattling potpourri that entices with its suavity, charm and complexity. Both protagonists pack drama and daring polyrhythms into their tunes and sparkling intelligence, humor and energy into their improvisations.” —**New York City Jazz Record**

“On this propulsive and profound CD, Terry and Trotignon - inspired by the music of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Haiti, New Orleans and Cuba’s Oriente Province - show that jazz can swing with a French-Caribbean accent, too. The leader’s piercing and poignant saxophone lines and Trotignon’s elegiac and engaging pianism imbue the album’s 10 selections with island-breezed joie de vivre.” ★★★★★ —**Down Beat Magazine**

“...a new body of material inspired by musical traditions that developed out of the African Diaspora in the U.S. and former French colonies in the Americas. The richness of research and material here doesn’t squash the group dynamic; instead, it infuses what comes off mostly like an exalted quartet club set.” —**The Wall Street Journal**

“Une osmose où chacun amène sa pierre à l’édifice et conjugue ses influences plurielles avec ferveur et inspiration” (“An osmosis where everyone brings their stone to the edifice and combines its multiple influences with fervor and inspiration”) —**Jazz Magazine**

“Un cocktail aussi inédit qu’exceptionnel” (“A cocktail as new as exceptional”) —**Rolling Stone France**

“La complicité virtuose des deux leaders fait merveille” (“The virtuosic complicity of the two leaders is marvelous”) —**Ouest France**