

# ALEX STUART AFTERMATH

PRESS BOOK



**“Poetic music without borders that invites us into trance like states and inner journeying”**

— Felix Marciano - Jazz Magazine

**“Undoubtedly one of the most important works of 2017”**

- Sebastien Helary - Nextbop

**“Aftermath is one of the beautiful musical episodes of 2017”**

- Nathalie Piolé - France Musique

**“A panoramic and exotic soundscape that transports us to other places”**

- France Info - Des Mots de Minuits - Michel Mompontet

**“The music almost makes one see oneself hand on colt on the Main Street of Dalton City”** - Citizen Jazz

**“Unifying music”**

- Latins de Jazz... & Cie

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# JAZZ

magazine

2018

4 ÉTOILES



Like many other musicians of his generation, Alex Stuart works with hybridization of musical genres. This Australian guitarist who lives in Paris has been nourished by jazz, rock, pop, groove and world music with which he develops a colorful musical identity. His fourth album is marked by trance like patterns, which refer back to ancestral folk traditions, with asymmetrical rhythms and loop arpeggios, inspired by African grooves, probably inspired by his exposure to Cameroonian music.

Despite the fact that the guitar takes an important place in the construction of the original compositions, Stuart never puts himself before his musical partners, preferring a group dynamic to the juxtaposition of individualities. The stripped harmonic frames and the throbbing modal melodies, take you by the momentum of their spark.

A special mention to Arnaud de Casanove for the expressiveness of his trumpet playing and the always surprising accuracy of his phrases. More than technical prowess, it is the evocative dimension that guides this group, welded in its quest for poetic music without borders, that invites us to trance like states and inner journeying.



## Alex Stuart Aftermath

1 CD Jazz Family / Sacadisc



**Nouveauté.** Comme d'autres musiciens de sa génération, Alex Stuart pratique l'hybridation des genres. Ce guitariste australien résidant à Paris s'est en effet nourri aussi bien de jazz que de rock, de pop, de groove et de musiques du monde pour élaborer un univers bigarré. Son quatrième album est ainsi marqué par des motifs entêtants qui renvoient aux traditions folkloriques ancestrales, avec des rythmiques asymétriques et des arpegges en boucle inspirés des tourteries africaines – l'héritage, sans doute, d'expériences camerounaises. Même si sa guitare occupe une place importante dans la construction de ses compositions originales, Stuart ne se met jamais en avant, préférant la dynamique de groupe à la juxtaposition des individualités. Ses trames harmoniques dépouillées et ses mélodies lancinantes, dans un registre résolument modal, vous emportent par l'élan de ses fulgurances. Mention spéciale à Arnaud de Casanove pour l'expressivité de sa trompette et la justesse toujours surprenante de sa phrase. D'avantage que les prouesses techniques, c'est la dimension évocatrice qui guide ce groupe scudé dans sa quête d'une musique sans frontière dont la poésie invite à la transe et au voyage intérieur. • FÉLIX MARCIANO

Arnaud de Casanove (tp, p, elp),  
Irving Acao (ts, p), Alex Stuart (g,  
elb), Oriel Elart (elb), Antoine  
Banville (dm, perc) + Nicolas Dri  
(org, g, elp). Paris, studio  
Mercredi 9.



Deli Express - January 23, 2018.

Guitarist Alex Stuart develops a hypnotic musical identity at the crossroads of jazz, rock and world music.

He will join us on the Deli Express show for an interview and a live music session, before the release of his new album Aftermath tonight at the New Morning.

Les Matins Jazz - November 27 2017

Album of the Day : Aftermath Alex Stuart



**PROGRAMMES**

**Deli Express**  
mardi 23 janvier 2018

**Alex Stuart - Aftermath**  
Le guitariste **Alex Stuart** développe un univers hypnotique à la croisée du jazz, du rock et des musiques du monde.

Avant de présenter "**Aftermath**", son nouvel album, **ce soir au New Morning**, il passe par la case Deli Express pour une interview et une session live.

**PROGRAMMES**

**Les Matins Jazz**  
lundi 27 novembre 2017

**Les chansons gaies**

- le *Disque du Jour* : "Aftermath" - **Alex Stuart**
- le *Concert du Jour* : **Samuel Strouk** au Café de la Danse
- le *Coup de Projecteur* avec **Bertrand Blier**

Et aussi : le film "**Mudbound**" produit par Netflix déjà candidat aux Oscars, "**Le deuxième souffle**" de Jean-Pierre Melville avec la partition inédite de **John Lewis**, le site **Vinylhub** qui recense les disquaires du monde entier, et cette étude qui montre que la musique produite depuis 2010 est **moins triste** qu'avant...

December 17, 2017.

## **“DES MOTS DE MINUITS”**

Meeting with jazz guitarist Alex Stuart who presents "Aftermath".



**A music of journeying, atmospheres and lights, Alex Stuart's compositions make you travel and should be listened to with a wide open window. The title of the album, is a tribute and also bears a cruel memory. Aftermath was composed in the days after the Paris attacks in November 2015. He will be playing in Paris, where has been living since 2005, on January 23, 2018.**

**In reaction to the violence of the world, Alex Stuart has done what he does best, compose music to fight back barbarism, push it away and leave a chance for optimism. But his album does not just stay there. This consciousness of the dark side of the world never prevents the resonation of joy of life and beauty in the album's harmonious compositions. His presence has already been well noted with his previous albums like " Place to be ", released in 2014.**



Alex Stuart is an anachronistic musician in a world where almost all musicians try to gather the attention to themselves by featuring their solos. As a leader, he never tries to do the same, he prefers to leave space to build the band's harmony, a panoramic and exotic soundscape that transports us other places. His compositions are built in cycles which he changes with a progressive lightness without compromising harmony.

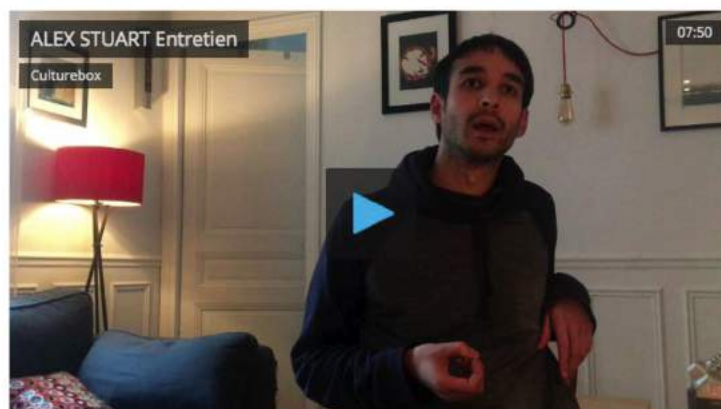
Stuart also has an extremely talented group, he knows the qualities of each one of the musicians playing with him. Irvin Acao (Tony Allen) on saxophone and keyboards, Arno de Casanove on trumpet and bugle, Ouriel Ellert on bass and Antoine Banville on drums. The future of the young French jazz scene.

No matter what Alex has chosen, between jazz, pop, world rock, African sounds, his music remains intuitive, he embraces that fact and he is right to do so.

Alex Stuart welcomed us to his living room for a coffee and played us this beautiful solo piece.

Musicians' words ...

Alex Stuart talk to us about his compositions, influences, concepts and his love for meditation. Alex will be playing live at the New Morning in Paris January 23rd, 2018.



<https://culturebox.francetvinfo.fr/des-mots-de-minuit/discotheque/aftermath-le-nouvel-album-du-guitariste-alex-stuart-rencontre-266803>

**MARCH 11 2018**

**ALBUM REVIEW - AFTERMATH**

Australian guitarist based in France Alex Stuart, offers beautiful things in his latest album *Aftermath*. The opening track "Home", can surprise us and also leave a little doubt - an arpeggio based crescendo in which drummer Antoine Banville releases all his energy - what follows is exciting. "Aftermath" which gives its name to the album, is so powerful that one can hardly imagine that the melody is only being played by trumpet and saxophone, by Arno de Casanove and Irving Acao. A moment must be noted, the magnificent and energy filled trumpet solo on "Steps Backwards", a highlight.

Does this mix of energy and robustness come from the the quintet's approach?

In "An Afternoon With Kiefer", after the initial heavy impact of the intro, the guitar and drums each propose a rhythmic pattern that gives an impression of the inevitable. The music almost makes one see oneself hand on colt on the Main Street of Dalton City. Just to give you an idea.

There are some calmer moments, on "Song for Caroline", but the power that emerges is such that we are not surprised to find a track named "The Invisible Force", the title says it all.

<https://www.citizenjazz.com/Alex-Stuart-3475495.html>

**| CHRONIQUE**



**ALEX STUART**

**AFTERMATH**

Alex Stuart (g), Irving Acao (s, clav), Arno de Casanove (tp, clav), Ouriel Ellert (b), Antoine Banville (d), Nicolas Dri (clav)

Label / Distribution : Jazz Family



**December 3 2017**

**Alex Stuart was born in Australia, lived there until 2005, when he moved to Paris but also spent several months in India to learn new rhythms in 2009.**

**It is a combination of life experiences that inspired "Aftermath", the first composition he wrote for the album, after the attacks in Paris in 2015. Because it is always necessary to believe in a brighter future.**

**The music grooves by itself, never basic or straightahead. Antoine Banville on drums and percussion thinks with his hands and not his feet. Irving Acao is always on fire, but this time he does not sound overtly Cuban. His duet with the trumpeter Arno de Casanove is of a formidable efficiency. A few keyboards are present on the album without taking too much space in the music with its resounding strong Rock and Funk influences.**

**There is an obvious sense of space in this music that comes from Australia. Also found among Russian and American musicians who also come from continental countries. The music is vivid and exciting.**

**This energy is to be enjoyed live at the New Morning in Paris, on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 8:30 pm.**

**<http://lejarsjasejazz.over-blog.com/2017/12/alex-stuart-aftermath.html>**

**November 27, 2017.**

**Alex Stuart & "Aftermath"  
Music and the World in Harmony**

**Australian guitarist Alex Stuart presents "Aftermath", his fourth album. The quintet proposes a musical journey contrasted during eleven original tracks. This journey offers a variety of textures to the listeners.**

**After his past records, "Waves" in 2005, "Around" in 2010 and "Place to be" in 2014, on November 24, 2017, Australian guitarist Alex Stuart has released "Aftermath" (Jazz Family / Socadisc), his fourth album. Eleven original songs, composed and arranged by himself. All pieces are inspired by his own life and travel experiences in India, Asia and Australia.**

**The magnificent cover photo of the album is by Australian photographer Roger Stuart.**

**Joined by trumpeter Arno de Casanove, tenor saxophonist Irving Acao, bassist Ouriel Ellert and drummer and percussionist Antoine Banville, guitarist Alex Stuart moves between the two worlds that fascinate him. His life as a musician in Paris and the lifestyle he aspires to, in connection with nature. It is from the wilderness of his beloved country of origin, Australia, that his love of nature comes from.**

**Aftermath, echoes the energetic vibrations of urban cities and of larger spaces and blends musical traditions. Sounds from Africa, inflections from India or the Balkans, world music but also pop, and jazz that edges towards rock.**





## Latins de Jazz ... & Cie

Alex Stuart's eleven original compositions follow one another like the laps of a journey, that he leads with ease. The saxophone with its powerful and heart-breaking melodies and the aerial and sharp lines of the trumpet illuminate the dense texture, woven by the energetic rhythm section.

"Home" recalls spaces as far as the eye can see. "Perfume River" full of Latin-Caribbean sounds contrasts with the tense rhythms, and haunting lines of the guitar above the disturbing tones of the saxophone and the trumpet on Aftermath.

After the headfirst System Overload, which as its name indicates is not far from having the listener overload himself, "Pluis Basque", the last title of the album, with its refreshing Indian sounds, gives hope to a positive energy that will erase the after-effects of the world's dementia.

Alex Stuart opted to crowdfund part of the production of the album (recording, mixing and mastering). Staying consistent with his ideals, the guitarist has donated 10% of funds raised to the association OXFAM in France, engaged in its fight against poverty around the world.

Alex Stuart believes that music, with its melodies, rhythms and harmonies can help fight inequalities and build a brighter "tomorrow."

His musical approach goes beyond words and that fact is worth being greeted.

On "Aftermath" the guitarist communicates his hope to overcome the darkness that affects the world today. His music makes the dark colors of today coexist with the brighter colors offered by hope. Unifying music.

<https://www.latins-de-jazz.com/clin-doeil-a-alex-stuart-aftermath/>



## **NOVEMBRE 2017**

**Australian guitarist Alex Stuart moved to Paris in 2005. He's since then recorded three albums, won the jury prize at the Jazz à Juan International Jazz Festival, and was nominated for the Freedman Fellowship (awarded to the best emerging Australian jazz artist). His newest opus entitled Aftermath is set to drop November 24 on French label Jazz Family. Aftermath is a response to the November 2015 Paris attacks, "an album inspired by the dark turning point the world is facing today, but also by the omnipresent and evident beauty that surrounds us" in Stuart's words.**

**For this endeavor, Stuart is joined by a stellar cast of musicians, namely Irving Acao on saxophone and keyboards, Arno de Casanove on trumpet and keyboards, Ouriel Ellert on bass and Antoine Banville on drums. This album is a cosmic journey bobbing and weaving through styles, genres and emotions and featuring intuitive music which defies boundaries, blending jazz, rock, pop, groove and world music.**

**The ensemble delivers an opus worthy of the finest New York musicians and spreads its message of hope in a cohesive, compelling and thought-provoking manner. Aftermath deserves all the praise we can give it. It is undoubtedly one of the more important works of 2017. But don't take my word for it, check out the EPK for the album below to decide for yourself.**

**<http://nextbop.com/blog/alexstuartaftermathalbumreview>**



## Albums December 2017

**Jean-Louis Libois heard this band in concert in Caen in January 2017.....**

**The studio work brings a certain brightness to the shaping of this crafted music.**

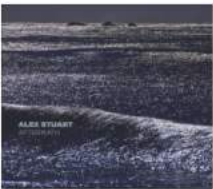
### **> Jazz Family - tip1711 / Socadisc**

**Alex Stuart: guitar, bass guitar (1), compositions / Irving Acao: tenor saxophone, piano on 11 / Arno de Casanove: trumpet, piano on 1, Fender Rhodes on 2 and 11, vocals / Antoine Banville: drums and percussion / Ouriel Ellert: bass guitar / + / Nicolas Dri: organ on 3 and 6, guitar on 5, Fender rhodes on 3, 5, 7, 9.**

**01. Home / 02. Aftermath / 03. An Afternoon With Kiefer / 04. The Stand / 05. Steps Backwards / 06. The Invisible Force / 07. Song For Caroline / 08. Perfume River / 09. Lardy / 10. System Overload / 11. Basque Rain // Recorded in France.  
[www.alex-stuart.com](http://www.alex-stuart.com)**

**<http://www.culturejazz.fr/spip.php?article3230>**

### **Alex STUART : « Aftermath »**



Jean-Louis Libois avait écouté ce groupe (ou quasiment) en concert à Caen en janvier 2017 : lire ici.... Le travail en studio apporte du brillant à la mise en forme de cette musique élaborée.

**> Jazz Family - tip1711 / Socadisc**

**Alex Stuart : guitare, guitare basse (1), compositions / Irving Acao : saxophone ténor, piano sur 11 / Arno de Casanove : trompette, piano sur 1, Fender Rhodes sur 2 et 11, voix / Antoine Banville :**

**batterie et percussion / Ouriel Ellert : guitare basse /+ / Nicolas Dri : orgue sur 3 et 6, guitaret sur 5, Fender rhodes sur 3, 5, 7, 9.**

**01. Home / 02. Aftermath / 03. An Afternoon With Kiefer / 04. The Stand / 05. Steps Backwards / 06. The Invisible Force / 07. Song For Caroline / 08. Perfume River / 09. Lardy / 10. System Overload / 11. Pluie Basque // Enregistré récemment en France.**

▪ [www.alex-stuart.com](http://www.alex-stuart.com)

# The Canberra Times

NATIONAL ACT CANBERRA LIFE

## A Canberran in Paris returns home with his jazz quintet

By [Ron Cerabona](#)

9 October 2018 – 12:00am



***Aftermath.* The Alex Stuart Quintet. The Street Theatre. Saturday, October 20, 2018, 8pm. 62471223 or [thestreet.org.au](http://thestreet.org.au).**



The Alex Stuart Quintet, from left: Irving Acao - Tenor Saxophone and Keyboards ; Alex Stuart - Guitar, compositions; Arno de Casanove - Trumpet, Voice and Keyboards; Antoine Banville – Drums; Ouriel Ellert - Bass.

Canberra-born composer and jazz guitarist Alex Stuart has not been back to his home town since 2014. Some might say that's understandable, given the life he's made for himself in Paris. But that's set to change very soon.

Stuart, 35, will be returning, with his eponymous quintet, as the first stop of the Australian launch tour of his fourth album, *Aftermath*.

Performing with him will be fellow Parisians Irving Acao (tenor saxophone and keyboards, Arno de Casanove (trumpet, voice and keyboards), Antoine Banville (drums) and Ouriel Ellert (bass). Acao is a Cuban now living in Paris - the other three are French-born). Nico Dri also played keyboards on *Aftermath* but is not on the tour.

Stuart says the title track of *Aftermath* was inspired by the November 2015 terrorist attacks on Paris. He wrote the piece a few months later, still thinking about the event.



Alex Stuart

"It felt like a turning point," he says. In the wake of the attack - which followed others around the world in the previous few years - he says the state of the world seemed to change.

With right-wing parties on the rise in Europe and Donald Trump as US president, he says the present feels 'volatile ... and it's getting bigger - it's a bit of a fearful moment.'

The music, while containing drama, is ultimately positive and hopeful in feeling, he says. It's not just fear and uncertainty that surround us - there's beauty too.

Non-musical influences include Paris's urban landscapes and the wild coasts of Australia but these aren't the only geographical touchpoints: among the other tracks are *Perfume River*, named after the river in Vietnam (his mother's homeland ) and *Pluie Basque*, inspired by Basque country.

Stuart came by his Francophilia honestly. As a child, he moved to Paris with his family after his father secured a job there.

"I was there from my fifth year to my ninth year," he says. "I learned to speak French fluently."

The family returned to Canberra and Stuart kept on learning French formally at Telopea Park School until he was 15.

By then he was already well into pursuing another love: music.

He had started learning the piano while in France but dropped it when he was 10.

"My parents were keen to get me playing another instrument," he says.



He considered drums but his parents, he says, weren't keen, thinking of the noise. There was a guitar at home so they suggested he try it. He was 13 at the time.

"I gave it a shot; I really, really liked it," he says.

Stuart started off playing grunge and hip hop but when he was 15, discovered jazz. It became his great passion, although he didn't entirely abandon the genres he had previously played and says they influenced his later music as a composer.

He says he is also inspired by modern jazz including guitarist Bill Frisell, rock musicians like Dirty Projectors, Bjork and Grizzly Bear, and the various music styles and forms of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

After another couple of visits to France as a teenager, he says, "I fell in love with Paris all over again."

Stuart studied at the ANU School of Music with jazz guitarist Mike Price and recorded his first album, *Waves*, in Sydney in 2005. It featured jazz musicians including Eric Ajaye, Miroslav Bukovsky and James Hauptmann.

Although he could have stayed in Australia and tried to pursue a career here, Stuart couldn't resist the allure of Paris. He went there, also in 2005, with a grant from arts ACT to study further wanting to "make something happen". He says, "I was really, really lucky."

Stuart settled into the life of a musician in Paris but was always keen to keep learning. He had a stint in Abakuya, led by Camerounian Francois Essindi, exploring West African music and a 2009 residency in India with sarodist Anindya Banerjee provided immersion in the Hindustani classical tradition.

In 2010 his second album, *Around*, was released: he recorded it with The Alex Stuart Quartet featuring Guillaume Perret on the saxophone, Yoann Serra on the drums and Juan-Sebastien Jimenez on the bass.

In July 2011, the quartet won the competition Jazz A Juan Revelation and received the Grand Jury Prize. Previous winners include American jazz pianist Tigran Hamasyan, South Korean singer Youn Sun Nah and Dutch saxophonist Tineke Postma.

In 2015 he formed another ensemble, The Alex Stuart Group and released his fourth, well-received album, *Place To Be*. The other musicians were Acao on the saxophone, Christophe Wallemme on the bass, Antoine Banville on the drums and special guest Stephane Guillaume on the saxophone.

His Quartet and more recent Quintet have performed at festivals and venues internationally. The current Australian tour will be extensive but the gig in Bermagui will be particularly special: his parents, the people who got him into guitar in the first place, now live there.

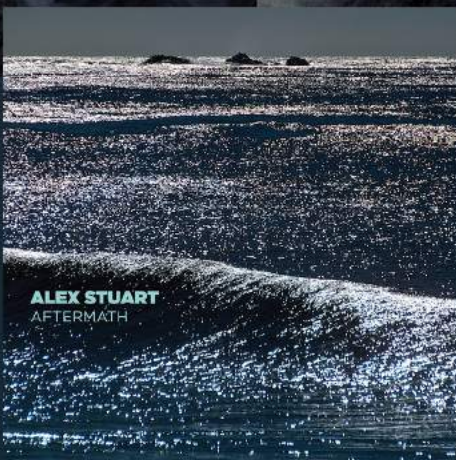


**Ron Cerabona**



Ron Cerabona is an arts reporter for The Canberra Times.

# ALEX STUART QUINTET



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