

Spring 2021 - René Lussier; Erick d'Orion; Robbie Kuster; Martin Tétreault

Written by Stuart Broomer

Published: 03 February 2022

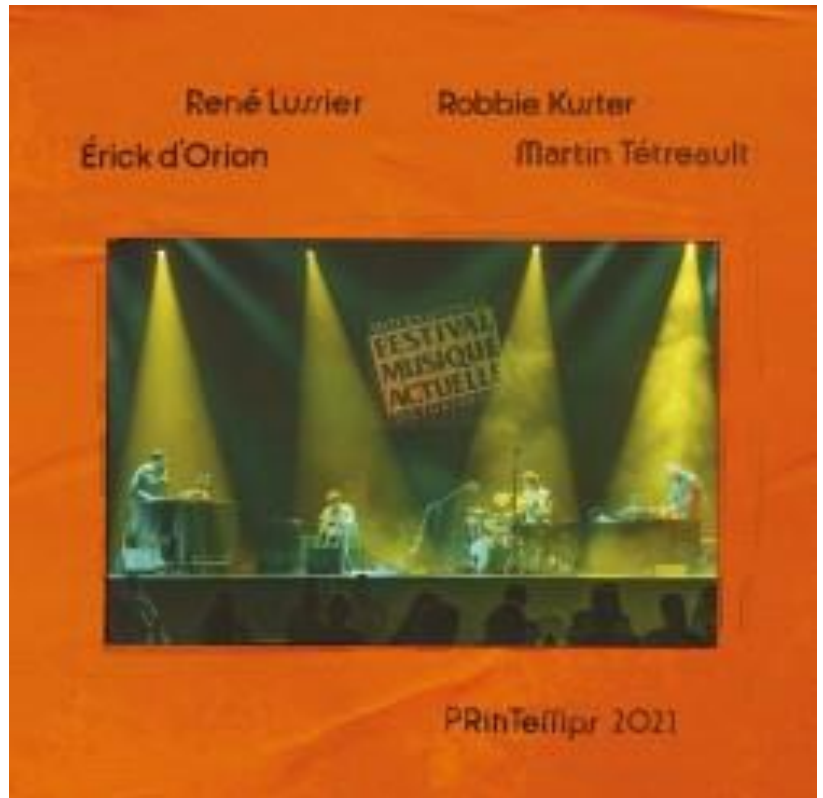
Spring 2021

René Lussier; Erick d'Orion;

Robbie Kuster; Martin Tétreault

Victo CD 134 (victo.qc.ca)

The Victo record label is almost as venerable as the Victoriaville, Quebec FIMAV festival that gave it birth, and this disc is a signal moment in the history of both. The performance comes from the May 2021 festival, a hardy, insistent edition with a Quebec focus following the pandemic-cancelled 2020 festival. The recording marks the label's 35th anniversary with special significance: the first recording issued was a guitar duet that also featured René Lussier, then in the company of Fred Frith.



In keeping with the festival's ideal of *musique actuel*, current music, this resists classification, a collective improvisational, combining Lussier's electric guitar and daxophone (a bowed, fretted instrument), Robbie Kuster's drums, Erick d'Orion's computer and electronics and Martin Tétreault's turntables. It blurs categories of electronic music, free jazz and anarcho-rock, the latter sometimes suggested by Kuster's steady beat anchoring disparate elements.

The music's aim is neither clarity nor easy consumption; its strengths are in its vision, energy and a palpable sense of resistance. Lussier's guitar is often the central voice, hard-edged, icy, sometimes distorted, at times limpidly lyrical. He can supply a focal element whether creating a keening, electric wail or shifting to the barely amplified wandering of *L'avant dernière. L'autre*, a nine-minute segment near the temporal centre of the work, develops mysterious and distinct layers and events that are almost sculpturally arrayed in the sound field, the seemingly independent parts ultimately evolving into part of a collective vision.

<https://www.thewholenote.com/index.php/booksrecords2/jazzaimprovised/31579-spring-2021-rene-lussier-erick-d-orion-robbie-kuster-martin-tetreault>