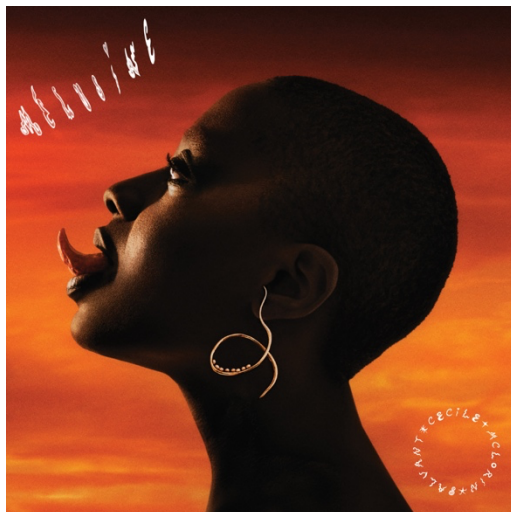


Cécile McLorin Salvant's [Mélusine](#) out Today

Album, sung mostly in French, features new compositions plus songs from a wide range of eras

Live performance video from album track "Doudou" available [here](#)



"Mélusine retains the intellectual curiosity of Salvant's jittery, questing catalogue. As with 2022's Ghost Song, Salvant's imaginative backdrops draw on jazz, blues, folk and vaudeville, double daring her audience to follow her next flight of fancy." –Mojo

Nonesuch Records releases Cécile McLorin Salvant's [Mélusine](#) today: March 24, 2023. The album features a mix of five originals and interpretations of nine songs, dating as far back as the twelfth century, mostly sung in French along with Occitan, English, and Haitian Kreyòl. A new live performance video of the album track "Doudou" is also out today and may be seen [here](#). [Mélusine](#) follows last year's Grammy-nominated label debut, *Ghost Song*, which received tremendous critical praise, including spots on best albums of 2022 lists from the *New York Times* and NPR, among others. Salvant has North American tour dates into the summer, including performances at the Big Ears and SFJAZZ Festivals and at New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center (full schedule below).

The new album was recorded to tape. Its songs tell the story of the European folkloric legend of Mélusine, written by Jean d'Arras in 1393. It tells of a man, Raymondin, who is overwhelmed with grief after accidentally killing his uncle in a boar hunting accident. Wandering in the forest, he encounters three women bathing. The most beautiful of them, Mélusine, sees him and demands justification for his indiscretion. She promises to make him a great lord if he marries her—on the condition that he never sees her on Saturdays.

He agrees, and they are happy until the weekend his brother visits, sharing rumors that his wife is unfaithful. He becomes angry and uses his sword to cut a hole in Mélusine's iron door. She's bathing in her marble tub, and he sees that below the waist, she has the body of a snake. When she realizes that he's looking, she turns into a dragon and flies out the window, returning to visit her descendants on their deathbeds.

"I have a memory from my childhood of being in the dentist's office, waiting to get my teeth cleaned, and hearing this wonderful music from the French Caribbean. I was too young to know what it was called, but it was like zouk. I wrote this five years ago, after Wynton [Marsalis] invited me to sing at the Marciac festival. So I had it around, with only a vague idea of the rhythm," Salvant says.

"For this track I wanted to play with musicians with whom I shared a cultural heritage. Right away when I played it for Godwin [Louis, the multi-instrumentalist who plays saxophone and sings on *Mélusine*] he said, 'I know what kind of song

this is.’ He did a *compas* thing on it, and it just made me smile. All I had was something vague—a sound heard in a dentist office in Miami at age twelve—and he made it specific,” she continues.

“This is the song where she says, ‘Let’s get married but don’t mess with Saturdays.’ It’s classically a song I’d write—a sweet song about people who love each other, but there’s destruction in there too.”

Cécile McLorin Salvant, a 2020 MacArthur Fellow and three-time Grammy Award winner, is a singer and composer bringing historical perspective, a renewed sense of drama, and an enlightened musical understanding to both jazz standards and her own original compositions. Classically trained, steeped in jazz, blues, and folk, and drawing from musical theater and vaudeville, Salvant embraces a wide-ranging repertoire that broadens the possibilities for live performance.

Salvant’s performances range from spare duets for voice and piano to instrumental trios to orchestral ensembles. Her work *Ogresse* is an ambitious long-form musical fable based on oral fairy tales from the nineteenth century that explores the nature of freedom and desire in a racialized, patriarchal world; it was recently announced that she has partnered with French studio Miyu Productions and will co-direct a feature-length film version with Belgian animator Lia Bertels.

Cécile McLorin Salvant
Mélusine

1. Est-ce ainsi que les hommes vivent?

(Louis Aragon and Léo Ferré)

Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)

Aaron Diehl (Piano)

Paul Sikivie (Bass)

Kyle Poole (Drums)

2. La route enchantée

(Charles Trenet)

Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)

Aaron Diehl (Piano)

Paul Sikivie (Bass)

Kyle Poole (Drums)

Lawrence Leathers (Drums)

3. Il m’a vue nue

(Pierre Chagnon, Jean Delabre, François Pruvost, Modesto Romero Martínez, and Georges Thenon)

Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)

Sullivan Fortner (Piano)

Godwin Louis (Alto Saxophone, Whistles)

Luques Curtis (Bass)

Weedie Braimah (Percussion)

Obed Calvaire (Drums)

4. Dites moi que je suis belle

(E. Deschamps/anonymous, 14th century)

Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)

Weedie Braimah (Djembe)

5. Doudou

(Cécile McLorin Salvant)

Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)

Sullivan Fortner (Piano)

Godwin Louis (Alto Saxophone)
Luques Curtis (Bass)
Weedie Braimah (Percussion)
Obed Calvaire (Drums)

6. Petite musique terrienne
(Michel Berger and Luc Plamondon, from the musical *Starmania*, 1978)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)
Sullivan Fortner (Piano, Synths)

7. Aida
(Cécile McLorin Salvant)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals, Synths, Production)

8. Mélusine
(Cécile McLorin Salvant)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)
Daniel Swenberg (Nylon String Guitar)

9. Wedo
(Cécile McLorin Salvant)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals, Synths, Production)

10. D'un feu secret
(Michel Lambert, air de cour, 1660)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)
Sullivan Fortner (Synths)

11. Le temps est assassin
(Veronique Sanson)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)
Sullivan Fortner (Piano)

12. Fenestra
(Cécile McLorin Salvant)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)
Sullivan Fortner (Piano, Kalimba, Vocals)
Godwin Louis (Vocals)
Luques Curtis (Bass)
Weedie Braimah (Percussion)
Obed Calvaire (Drums)

13. Domna N'Almucs
(Iseut de Capio, female troubadour, 12th century, in Occitan)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals, Synths, Production)

14. Dame Iseut
(Almucs de Castelneau, female troubadour, 12th century, in Occitan and translated to Haitian Creole by Alix Salvant)
Cécile McLorin Salvant (Vocals)
Sullivan Fortner (Celeste)
Luques Curtis (Bass)
Weedie Braimah (Percussion)

Cécile McLorin Salvant North American Tour

March 30 - Toronto, ON - Koerner Hall
April 1 - Knoxville, TN - BIG EARS Festival
April 8 - Savannah, GA - Savannah Music Festival
April 12 - Princeton, NJ - Richardson Auditorium (Duo w/Sullivan Fortner)
April 14 - Ann Arbor, MI - Hill Auditorium/UMS
April 29 - Blacksburg, VA - Moss Arts Center
May 5-7 - San Francisco, CA - Miner Auditorium/SFJAZZ
May 19-20 - New York, NY - Rose Theater/JALC
July 8 – Tannersville, NY – Orpheum Performing Arts Center
July 22 – Katonah, NY – Caramoor Jazz Festival
July 26 – Chautauqua, NY – Chautauqua Amphitheater

For more information, please visit publicity.nonesuch.com or contact:

Melissa Cusick, melissa.cusick@nonesuch.com or 212.707.2912

For more international enquiries, please contact:

Katie Havelock, katie.havelock@nonesuch.com

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