

DESCARTES

2021 Press Kit



JESSICA HEAVEN /
JAKE MCINTYRE - PAUL

" I WAS ABSOLUTELY RIVETED "

- Karin Plato,
Juno-nominated vocalist

Descartes expresses the complexity of the mind and heart duality, the opposites, the light and dark – Jessica Heaven and Jake McIntyre-Paul's duo embodies this living juxtaposition through music. Diving into jazz repertoire from across the decades and pulling from 70's singer songwriters, their duo reimagines the jazz bass and voice concept with an electric bass.

Jessica's vocal work and creative improvisation is in one moment avant-garde, and the next rocky vocal fry – she's no stranger to vocal gymnastics and bold choices. Jessica uses her vocal prowess freely and tastefully, making for meaningful music. Jake's melodic and technical bass arrangements use harmonic and alternative fingerings to create lush soundscapes. The two make music for both the mind and the heart, listening closely to each other to create pockets where the real magic can happen. This is a duo to be listened to in an intimate setting for fear that you might miss out on every delicious detail.

Descartes' debut album is a live recording and presents an honest performance of a young band with old souls. The album is named for Sheila Jordan. The pioneer of the acoustic bass and voice duet and a



"INTERESTING MINIMALIST THING"

- Jodi Brak,
Salmon Arm Observer



marvelous improviser, Sheila utilizes language, scat, and melodic sensibility to create engaging and enthusiastic solos and improvised tunes. Jessica saw Sheila live thanks to her jazz teacher Kate Hammett-Vaughan who was always exposing Jess to important voices in jazz. Jess would not be the ferocious vocalist and improviser she is today if not for Kate's enthusiasm and support. Both Jake and Jessica collectively listened to Sheila and Cameron Brown's "I've grown accustomed to the bass" album while road tripping to and from their hometowns. Other music the two listened to on this trip included that of Jaco Pastorius, Bobby McFerrin, and their teachers Jennifer Scott and Rene Worst – also playing duo bass and voice. This album would not be possible without Jen and Rene's guidance and generosity as musicians and educators.

Descartes, formed in 2018, is an unapologetically Canadian duo (well maybe just a little bit apologetic - they are Canadian). Their relationship to the land that their ancestries are immigrants of yet they were born to creates a pressing political awareness, and this shows up in their music and songwriting. In short, this is a duo of young lions that one should keep their eye and ear on, not only because they've already achieved a personalized sound, but because they have something to say with it as well.