

# dusted

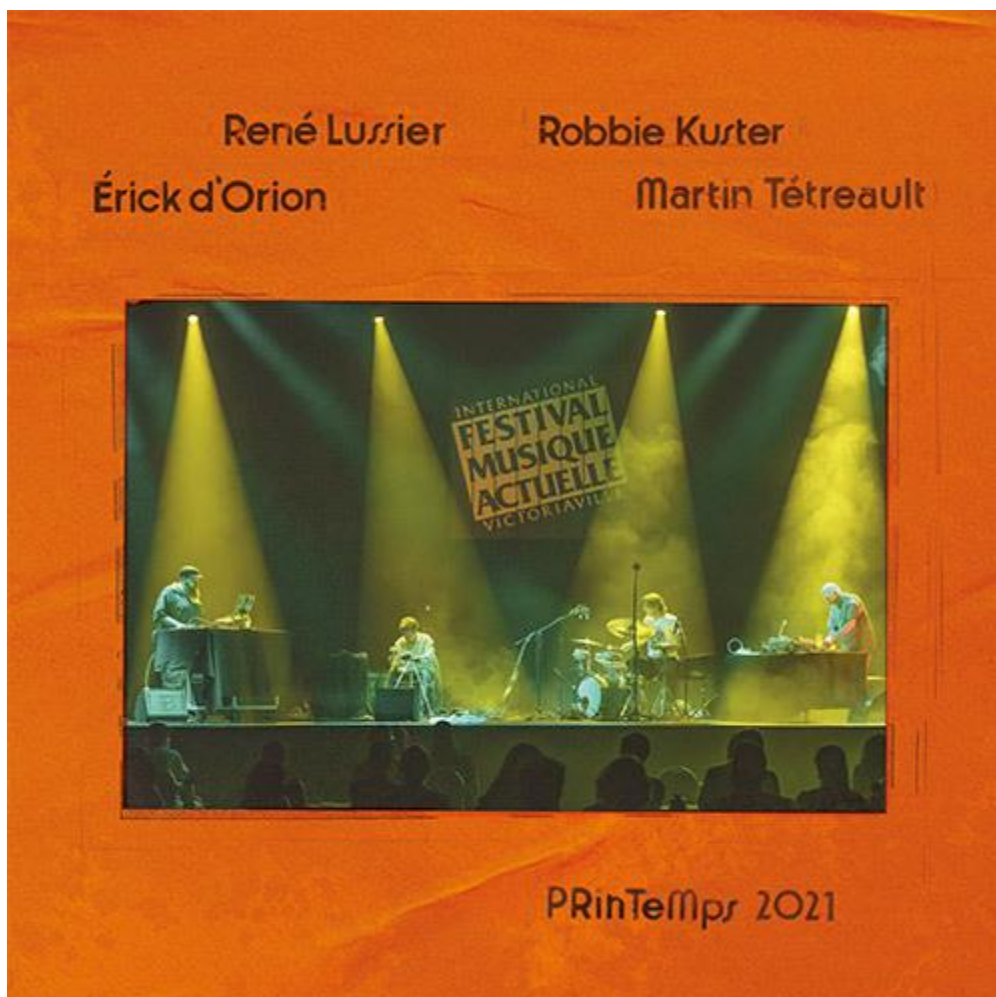
René Lussier / Érick D'Orion /  
Robbie Kuster / Martin Tétreault —  
Printemps 2021 (Victo)

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Dust Volume 8, Number 3

March 18, 2022

Ah, springtime 2021. That brief moment when we thought that shots might set us free. In May of that year, the 37<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Musique Actuelle convened in Victoriaville, Canada, braved the pandemic and convened for an all-Canadian edition. *Printemps 2021* documents an iteration one of the festival's mainstays — a convergence of players with varying degrees of acquaintance with one another for an improvised set. René Lussier (guitar, daxophone), Érick D'Orion (electronics), Robbie Kuster (drums), and Martin Tétreault (turntables) come from sufficiently different backgrounds that cohesion was by no means assured, but a combination of assertiveness and care resulted in a performance that never went off the rails, and a diverting listen that makes one wonder, “who mixed some instant This Heat in the musicians’ Ovaltine?” Kuster’s jazz-rock drumming creates a structural overlay, and when Lussier gets heroic, they lock into grooves that bring to mind “Horizontal Hold.” Tétrault and D’Orion do their part by avoiding anything overtly disruptive, preferring to swoop in and out of the action like hawks that happen to trail sound effects in their slipstreams.



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