



cícero lee  
**light / beyond**

cícero lee . ricardo toscano . joel silva . salomão soares



# cícero lee

Cícero Lee (Cascais, 1982) is a Portuguese composer, double bassist, and producer whose work places melody, memory, and the personality of the musicians at the centre of the creative process. Active professionally since 1999, he has developed a body of work in which jazz functions less as a closed stylistic language than as a framework for listening, dialogue, and collective construction.

His relationship with the double bass began at the age of 18, following several years devoted to the electric bass. A decisive moment came through John Abercrombie's Gateway, and particularly Dave Holland's playing, which revealed a physical and intimate dimension of the instrument that would come to shape his musical thinking.

Over more than two decades, Lee has maintained an extensive career as a sideman, performing and recording with musicians including Júlio Resende, Luís Represas, Dulce Pontes, José Mário Branco, Carlos do Carmo, Ivan Lins, Miguelito Nuñez, Elisa Rodrigues, Salomão Soares, L.U.M.E., José Salgueiro, Desidério Lázaro, and many others. The range of stages on which he has performed reflects the eclectic nature of that trajectory: from major mainstream events such as Rock in Rio and landmark venues such as the Coliseu dos Recreios, to dedicated international jazz settings including the Cairo Jazz Festival and Windhoek Jazz Festival. Moving between popular music, singer-songwriter projects, large ensembles, and contemporary jazz has remained a defining part of his professional life.

Alongside this activity, Lee has gradually established a distinct body of work as a composer and bandleader. Across five albums — Ventos (2013), Those Who Stay (2015), Na Casa da Nuvem (2020), Resilience (2022), and light/beyond (2026) — his writing has developed around a strong melodic centre, harmonic openness, and an ongoing relationship between composition and improvisation. Memory, people, and physical or imagined places frequently become material for the music, while silence, space, and unpredictability play an active structural role.

## cícero lee

musician . producer . composer

Cícero Lee is a double bassist, composer, and producer, with more than two decades of a career on the Portuguese and international music scenes. His work unfolds between original projects and collaborations in diverse contexts, bridging jazz with other musical languages.

### contact

mail@cicerolee.com  
instagram.com/ciceromlee  
cicerolee.com



## cícero lee

musician . producer . composer

Cícero Lee is a double bassist, composer, and producer, with more than two decades of a career on the Portuguese and international music scenes. His work unfolds between original projects and collaborations in diverse contexts, bridging jazz with other musical languages.

### contact

mail@cicerolee.com  
instagram.com/ciceromlee  
cicerolee.com

Central to his approach is the idea of composing not only for instruments, but for particular musicians. Rather than treating the written material as a fixed object, Lee builds it around the individual voices of the performers, allowing their choices, reactions, and personalities to become part of the composition itself. This has led to collaborations across his own recordings with musicians including Júlio Resende, Desidério Lázaro, Carlos Garcia, Salomão Soares, João Frade, Joel Silva, and Ricardo Toscano.

His work has received sustained attention from the jazz press. *Those Who Stay*, his second album, placed fourth in JazzLogical's critics' poll of Portuguese albums of 2015, while subsequent recordings have also appeared in critics' annual selections. Reviews in jazz.pt, Jazz, ese ruido, and All About Jazz have highlighted recurring qualities in his work: melodic sensitivity, harmonic detail, Portuguese identity, collective interaction, and an ability to build atmosphere and narrative through composition. On *light/beyond*, these elements converge in a quartet whose individual musical identities are integral to the project: saxophonist Ricardo Toscano, winner of Portugal's Young Musicians Award in Jazz; Brazilian pianist Salomão Soares, a Montreux Jazz Piano Competition finalist and member of the Latin Grammy-winning Hamilton de Holanda Trio; and drummer Joel Silva, whose extensive jazz career includes collaborations with musicians such as Carlos Barretto, Maria João, Matt Penman, Will Vinson, Perico Sambeat, and Baptiste Trotignon. Together with Lee on double bass, they form a group in which clearly defined compositional ideas coexist with the freedom of four strongly individual voices.

The album extends a process that has become increasingly central to Lee's work: writing the conditions for something to happen, rather than determining exactly what that something should be. The musicians are therefore not simply interpreters of the compositions; their musical identities form part of the writing itself. Lee studied at the Bass Collective in New York, working with Jeff Andrews, Matthew Garrison, Lincoln Goines, and Doug Weiss. He also holds a degree in Social Studies–Education, reflecting a parallel commitment to education that has accompanied his artistic career. Since 2005, he has taught and directed Interartes Music School in Cascais.



## cícero lee quartet | light / beyond

With more than two decades of professional activity, Portuguese composer and double bassist Cícero Lee presents light/beyond, a contemporary jazz project built around melody, interaction, and the individual voices of its musicians. The project brings together Ricardo Toscano on saxophone, Salomão Soares on piano, Joel Silva on drums, and Lee on double bass — four musicians with distinctive artistic identities and extensive international experience. Rather than treating the written material as a fixed framework, Lee's compositions are conceived with these particular musicians in mind, leaving space for their personalities to actively shape the music.

Composition and improvisation therefore operate as part of the same process. Melodic and harmonic structures provide direction, while listening, silence, risk, and real-time interaction continually transform the material on stage. Each performance develops from the encounter between what has been written and what happens in the moment.

light/beyond reflects Lee's broader approach to jazz: music with a clear compositional identity, but open enough for unpredictability, dialogue, and collective invention to become part of its form.

Cícero Lee — double bass

Ricardo Toscano — saxophone

Salomão Soares — piano

Joel Silva — drums

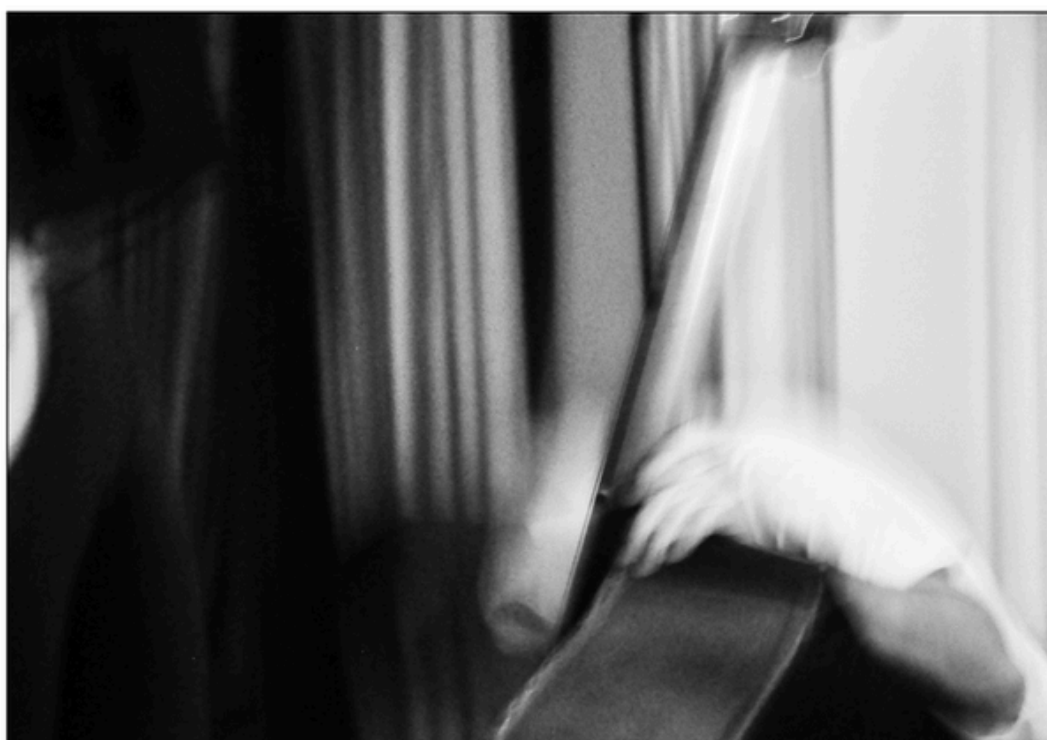


## light / beyond

*"light / beyond is the result of a process of reflection and listening—a search for a personal language where melody and silence coexist with the energy of improvisation. Each piece is born from an idea, an image, or a place, and the quartet becomes the space where that emotion takes on sonic form. I believe that jazz is an art of encounter and freedom—and this project is, above all, a space of sharing and light." — Cícero Lee*

cícero lee

**light / beyond**



cícero lee . ricardo toscano . joel silva . salomão soares

parallax



# light / beyond

Comprising ten tracks, all original compositions by Cícero Lee, light / beyond evokes physical places and places of the soul, intertwined in an intricate and deeply expressive musical discourse.

In “**Amazônia**,” the album’s opening track, the composer establishes an analogy between the presence of the elements and life itself—the act of creation, the vital force that animates the universe.

“**Paris**” presents a dystopian vision of the clichés associated with the City of Light, deconstructing the romantic imaginary in favour of a more raw and contemporary reading. “**Coimbra**,” in turn, is nostalgia: a song-like farewell composition that points to inner landscapes of being and to the desire to return to meaningful spaces and times. “**Fading**,” the album’s only fully assumed ballad, emerges as a deep reflection—a turning point between conformity and the journey toward overcoming. In “**Jonesing**,” an atmosphere of mystery and unease prevails, sustained by rhythmic patterns and tense melodies. Frenetic and incisive, “**Sem Olhar para Trás**” opens space for the soloists’ explosiveness and the quartet’s collective drive. “**8-14**”—a code—proposes a ciphered and intensely rhythmic language, where composition and improvisation merge in a dialogue of precision and spontaneity. “**Hamilton No Castelo**” returns to lyricism, at the crossroads of influences from Portugal and Brazil, evoking fluidity, light, and movement. Finally, “**Light Beyond**,” the title track, functions as the unifying element of all the compositions: lyrical, permeable, and inspiring, with a Lusophone identity. It is a piece inspired by people and created for people, ultimately reflecting the essence and artistic identity of Cícero Lee.

## light / beyond

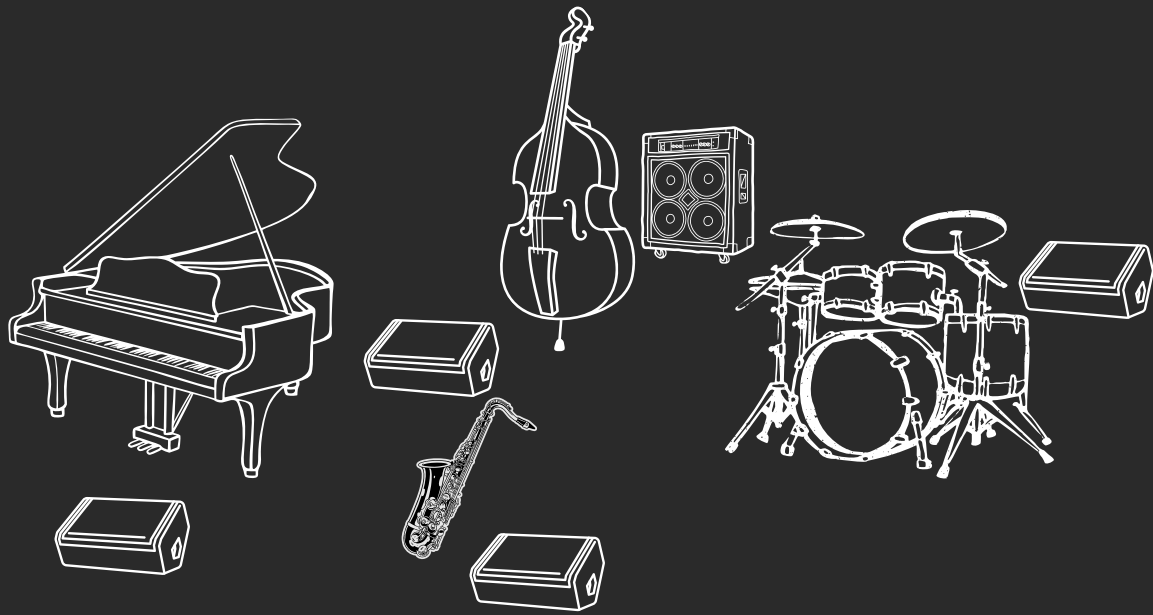
### SETLIST

- amazônia . 1
- light beyond . 2
- jonesing . 3
- paris . 4
- intro do salomão . 5
- fading . 6
- 8-14 . 7
- hamilton no castelo . 8
- sem olhar para trás . 9
- coimbra . 10

### contact

mail@cicerolee.com  
instagram.com/ciceromlee  
cicerolee.com

# Technical rider



## Line-up

Cícero Lee – Double Bass  
Hugo Lobo / Salomão Soares – Piano  
Ricardo Toscano – Saxophone  
Joel Silva – Drums

## Input List / Microphones

1. Double Bass – DI (Radial JDI or similar)
  2. Double Bass – Mic (DPA 4099 / AKG C414)
  3. Piano L – DI (left channel)
  4. Piano R – DI (right channel)
  5. Saxophone – Dynamic mic (SM57 / Beta 98H)
  6. Kick – Dynamic mic (Beta 52 / D112)
  7. Snare – Dynamic mic (SM57 / i5)
  8. Overhead L – Condenser mic (AKG C451 / KM184)
  9. Overhead R – Condenser mic (AKG C451 / KM184)
  10. Vocal talkback – SM58
- Total: 10 channels | Phantom power required on channels 2, 8, and 9.

## Monitors

- 4 independent mixes (1 per musician):
- M1: Double Bass
  - M2: Piano
  - M3: Saxophone
  - M4: Drums

## Backline (to be provided by the promoter as agreed)

- Acoustic piano Yamaha C3 or higher, tuned on the day of the concert
- 3/4 double bass, with Realist or Full Circle pickup, jazz setup, adjustable bridge
- Double bass amplifier Markbass / Aguilar
- Standard jazz drum kit (Gretsch / Yamaha / DW):
- Bass drum 18", snare 14", toms 12", 14" or 16"
- Professional PA system appropriate to the venue

## Stage Requirements

- 4 floor monitors (coaxial preferred)
- Power outlets near the piano and double bass
- Warm ambient stage lighting
- Soundcheck: 60 minutes
- Hospitality: 4 bottles of water, snacks, private dressing room, and small towels

## Notes:

- Quartet positioned in close proximity, maintaining visual contact.
- Double bass slightly centre-right; piano on the left; saxophone front-left; drums on the right.
- Minimum stage space: 6 m width × 4 m depth.

## Sound Notes

- Light reverb on saxophone and piano.
- Double bass sound natural and present, without excessive compression.



# cícero lee

musician . producer . composer

Cícero Lee is a double bassist, composer, and producer, with more than two decades of a career on the Portuguese and international music scenes. His work unfolds between original projects and collaborations in diverse contexts, bridging jazz with other musical languages.

**contact**

mail@cicerolee.com  
instagram.com/ciceromlee  
cicerolee.com

