

# Imagery Converter



Constellation, Chicago, 2019

## Imagery Converter

***NPR Jazz Critics Best Of 2019 Debut Albums***

***"...Red has named his quartet Imagery Converter, and the group does create sublime sonic abstractions. Ephemeral Certainties is absorbing and attractive thanks to its cohesive nature and sophisticated grace. Red's creative vision and his synergy with his sidemen gives the record its superlative attributes"; Chicago Jazz Magazine***

***"...the group plays with disciplined energy and a respect for the unexpected, always leaving room for new directions...points to a promising future to these four Chicagoans.."; All About Jazz***

## Band Bio

This music invited a different set of assumptions and insights to be discovered, manifested, and woven into my band's sound. We've had to explore an organic rhythmic approach not tied to conventional meters or recognizable jazz grooves. Achieved through several years of dedicated collective studying, the result is music that is intuitive but also, seductively puzzling. It is like re-discovering musical intuition, that is what makes listening to this band so exciting.

We have performed within Chicago and several other venues in the Midwest, having a very positive reception from the audience. Our first album "Ephemeral Certainties" was selected in NPR Jazz Critics Best of 2019, within the debut category. We had our first tours scheduled for this past 2020 to the Midwest area as well as to Mexico, however, both were postponed due to COVID. Nowadays we are working on our next Album titled "Life & Umbrella".

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## Personnel

Javier Red; Piano

Jake Wark; Tenor Sax

Gustavo Cortiñas; Drums

Ben Dillinger; Bass

## Work samples:

- [Minimal Expansion, Album Ephemeral Certainties, 2019](#)
- [Cycles, Live @ Constellation Chicago 2019](#)

## Videos

**EPK:** <https://youtu.be/UBRbtP9JzbE>

[Youtube Channel](#)

## Music Platforms

Delmark Records Streaming: <https://promo.theorchard.com/onwFUEscdzl54TnQm6Yo>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/5HhG87VTTsMULmjOuwD2ln>

Apple: <https://music.apple.com/us/artist/javier-reds-imagery-converter/1476856206>

GoogleMusic: <https://play.google.com/music/m/Bgnqpll4pqzx645evm33dnvw2zm?t=q>

## Photos

<https://imageryconverter.com/photos>

## Social Media and contact

[Facebook](#)

[Webpage](#)

[Email contact](#)

## Creative Achievements

### Nation-wide selection polls

The band has been selected in two distinguished nation-wide jazz polls. Within the NPR 2019 Jazz Selection Poll the album was selected as third place in the DEBUT category, while because of the album produced, Javier Red was selected as the 5th NEWCOMER in the Intruso International Writers Selection Poll. Here are both links:

NPR 2019 Jazz selection poll:

<https://www.npr.org/2020/01/14/795888693/the-2019-npr-music-jazz-critics-poll>

El Intruso International Writers:

<https://elintruso.com/2020/01/06/encuesta-2019-periodistas-internacionales/>

### Press reviews

All About Jazz:

<https://www.allaboutjazz.com/ephemeral-certainties-javier-red-delmark-records-review-by-troy-dostert.php>

Chicago Jazz Magazine:

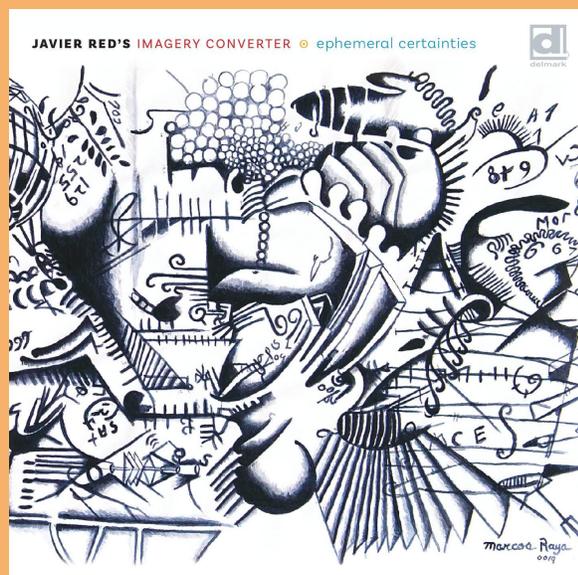
<https://www.chicagojazzmagazine.com/post/cd-review-javier-red-s-imagery-converter-ephemeral-certainties>

La Jornada (page 15): <https://issuu.com/lajornadaonline/docs/semanal24112019>

Jazziz releases selection: <https://www.jazziz.com/new-releases/ephemeral-certainties/>

## Productions

### CD



### Release Date

September 2019

### Album Bio

This is music for the time after. After so many trends and the aftermath of the 20th century's aesthetic propositions this is music that reflects into itself and contemplates itself on a historical mirror without recurring to the alibi of the "tribute". This is music that, as poet Ezra Pound said, assumes "the tradition is a beauty we preserve and not a set of fetters to bind us. In this music the form is reinvented for each composition and where shifting time signatures and bi-tonal or poly-tonal passages bring the complexity of Igor Stravinsky, Bela Bartok, and the Mexican genius Silvestre Revueltas right into the 21st century jazz alchemy.

## Band Members Bios

### Javier Red:



Javier was born and raised in Mexico City, and in 2015 he moved to Chicago. Although he has had key musical mentors in his career, Javier is

mainly self-taught. He believes that music inspires, connects people with themselves or with each other, and is a never-ending journey of self-discovery, exploration, challenges, creativity, and growth.

In 2001 he founds -together with Jose Gurria (L.A. *Gurrisonic Orchestra*)- Ethos Trio, with whom they were enrolled in several international performances, such as the International Festival *Meet in Beijing* in China, and the Washington Kennedy Center *Celebrating Mexico* among others. They also frequently had Michael Caldwell (California State University senior faculty fellow) as a special guest with whom they performed in Mexico and USA.

He was part of *Papabetos*; Mexican Big Band, with featured invited artists such as Kiyoshi Kitagawa in the bass.

In 2006 he met Matt Davis (NY based Guitar player & Manhattan School of Music guitar faculty member). They started creating and presenting their music in New York, Philadelphia and Mexico City, recording a Duo Album *En Nuestros Viajes*, which was ranked as one of the best 2011 Albums by *Tome to the Weather Machine*.

He has played in some of the most important venues in Mexico, such as Palacio de Bellas Artes and CENART, as well as important venues around the world such as Beijing Haidan Centre, Washington Kennedy Center, and Notre Dame University DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

He has been invited for multiple festivals such as Eurojazz, Festival Cervantino, Havana-Cuba Jazz Festival, and Lima Jazz Festival among others. His Chicago-based band *Imagery converter* has performed in several Chicago and Midwest Jazz venues, been very well received. In 2019 they released their first album *Ephemeral Certainties* with the iconic Chicago label Delmark. Javier was recognised as newcomer of the year by El Intruso 2019 International Poll, as well as the new album was selected by NPR 2019 Jazz Writers as the third Debut album of the year.

*Cerebral and stimulating music..lyrical and wistful*  
(Chicago Jazz Magazine)

*Outstanding Musician...*  
(La Jornada Mexico)

*Awesome soloing skills...*  
(Tome to the Weather Machine, US)

*Deep sensitivity ...*  
(All About Jazz)

## Jake Wark:



Jake Wark is a saxophonist, composer, and improviser based in Chicago. Jake was born and raised in Rochester, New York, where he resided until completing his undergraduate studies at

*"Fullness and projection.."*  
(All about Jazz)

*"sinewy and passionate.."*  
(Chicago Jazz Magazine)

## Ben Dillinger:



*"lithe and eloquent.."*

(Chicago Jazz Magazine)

Nazareth College. Upon moving to Chicago in 2014 to pursue a graduate degree in music at DePaul University, he quickly became immersed in the city's vibrant improvised music scene. Jake can be regularly heard with his own quartet and as a collaborator in Four Letter Words, Bowlcut, and Javier Red's Imagery Converter. Jake has appeared as a bandleader and collaborator at many prominent venues and festivals across the northeast and midwest, including the Chicago Jazz Festival, Constellation, The Green Mill, Elastic Arts, The Hungry Brain, The Bop Stop, The Jazz Showcase, and the Rochester Fringe Festival.

Ben Dillinger is a bass player born and based in Chicago. He completed his undergraduate studies at Roosevelt University and pursued a graduate degree in music at DePaul University. Ben can be regularly heard with Jake Wark's quartet, Kyle Madsen's trio, Astro Samurai band, and Javier Red's Imagery Converter. Ben has performed at many prominent Chicago venues, including the Constellation, The Green Mill, Elastic Arts, Tonic Room and The Hungry Brain, among others.

## Gustavo Cortiñas:



A graduate of Loyola University New Orleans (BM Jazz, Minor in Philosophy, Magna Cum Laude, 2011), and Northwestern University (MM Jazz, 2013), Gustavo Cortiñas has developed a successful career in the US for over a decade, leading and accompanying ensembles in renowned stages and festivals in North America, Latin America, Asia, and Europe. "Cortiñas'

During his time in Chicago, Gustavo has become one of the most sought out drummers, performing and recording with Kitt Lyles' Real Talk, Erik Skov's Liminality, Imagery Converter, Emily Kuhn's Helios, Roy McGrath Quartet, and the Carla Campopiano Trio, among other ensembles. Cortiñas is a member of the Chicago Jazz Composer's Collective, performing regularly for their monthly residency at Chicago's very own Green Mill. Currently, with a grant from the Mexican National Endowment of the Arts (FONCA), Gustavo is working on his third and most ambitious project as a leader: a musical journey which traces through thirteen compositions, the poetic and tragic history set by Eduardo Galeano in his book: "The Open Veins of Latin America".

*..uplifting, robust, melodic..*  
(Jeff Potter, Downbeat)

*An emerging drummer to watch..*  
(Greg David, Modern Drummer)

*..dynamic performer, agile bandleader and brilliant composer..*  
(Hrayr Attarian, Chicago jazz Magazine)

music is uplifting, robust, melodic, and gets your body moving; it's an exciting blend of the artist's musical influences from jazz and Latin American, including his native Mexico"(DOWNBEAT MAGAZINE). This can be heard on his records as a leader, "Snapshot" (2013), "a Smörgåsbord of the moods and nuances that make up the human experience... an idiosyncratic album that intrinsically fuses the personal to the universal" (Lisette Corsa, Jazziz Magazine); and "ESSE" (Origin Arts 2017): "With the cohesive and captivating Esse, Cortiñas has created superb work that balances refreshingly inventive ideas with high-caliber musicianship. This exquisite and continuously gripping record is a testament to Cortiñas' triple threat of skills as dynamic performer, agile bandleader and brilliant composer." (Hrayr Attarian, Chicago Jazz Magazine).

## Show Paragraph

The following paragraph is suggested to be included at the show:

*"...the group does create sublime sonic abstractions.."; Chicago Jazz Magazine*

*"...the group plays with disciplined energy and a respect for the unexpected, always leaving room for new directions.."; All About Jazz*

*NPR Jazz Critic's Best Of 2019 3rd place under Debut Albums*

*When forming this band, Javier, Jake, Gustavo, and Ben put their usual musical abilities aside. The music invited a different set of assumptions and insights to be discovered, manifested, and woven into the band's sound. The result is a music that is intuitive but also, seductively puzzling.*

## Rider

