

During his uniquely executed quarter-century as a professional musician, pianist Christopher Marsceill, aka Rev Chris, has stirred the pot and pushed genre classification to new levels. Rev upholds that reputation the 2023 release by his Les Garçons Crasseux project, *Lingua Franca*.

The title refers to a language systematically used to make communication possible between groups of people who do not share a native language or dialect, particularly when it is a third language that is distinct from both of the speakers' native languages. But the album's larger point is about universal love, and ignoring social norms – such as bills and credit card interest – in order to focus on love of one's neighbor.

Never supported by a major label, Rev has performed over 200 gigs a year since 2010 and assembled a group of musicians who perform his compositions to delighted audiences. Honing his skills in New Orleans and performing with Bill Iuso (Wild Magnolias, Tab Benoit), George Porter Jr (the Meters), Ted Hefko, Ellen Rogers, New Orleans Juice, Jimmy Herring (Widespread Panic, Aquarium Rescue Unit), Mark Van Allen (Blueground Undergrass), Ani DiFranco, in addition to many other talented people shaped the music education of his blues based style.

His current ensemble, Les Garçons Crasseux, boasts alums from the Dorsey Big Band (Thomas Razler), Philly hip hop greats Fathead (Bart Miltenberger), Ensemble Novo (Claudio de Pujadas), guitarist Joe Ryan, and (last but not least) the Keith to his Mick, the Stanley to his Chick: bassist Rich Curtis (Dukes of Destiny).

In 2023 Rev also reconnected with his roots as a trio pianist, and began a residency that continues to this day in two locations of the Eddie V's Prime Seafood restaurant chain. Weekly performances in both Cherry Hill, New Jersey and King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, marked the first time he has returned to the piano trio format that he had performed in three days a week on Bourbon Street in New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina forced his relocation in 2005. His trio rotates with his long time collaborator Rich Curtis on bass, who shares the spot with Kyle Tither and Flourtown Fats (Jeff Michael). On drums is Tony Green, Byron Landham, or Gusten Rudolph. He also performs in a trio led by drummer Bill Avayou.

Rev's multifarious leader and collaborative projects also include working with songwriter Emmett Drueding on various projects. Add songstress Daisy Royce and alt-reggae rockers Humbleman Band, along with a Ray Charles Tribute project with Deb Callahan to that list and we have only touched the surface on his musical appearances on record.