

MONTE-CARLO  
SOCIÉTÉ DES BAINS DE MER

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF H.S.H. PRINCE ALBERT II OF MONACO

OPÉRA GARNIER  
MONTE-CARLO  
FROM NOV. 20 TO DEC. 1<sup>ST</sup>

MONTE-CARLO  
JAZZ  
FESTIVAL

2024

P R O G R A M

[MONTECARLOLIVE.COM](https://montecarlolive.com)

#MCJF





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MONTE-CARLO  
**AJZ**  
 FESTIVAL

18<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

**All roads lead to jazz.**

The Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival, a major international festival, is 18 this year.

These two weeks of live performances at Opéra Garnier in Monte-Carlo have been composed by a duo, giving them a special character. The 2024 edition travels down the most inspiring jazz paths, from traditional to contemporary influences, where big band riffs meet vibrant vocal phrasing.

As they are the future of the profession, we wanted to inaugurate this festival with the talented students from the Rainier III Academy. The following day sees the opening of a legendary evening with the Count Basie Orchestra, a big band at the origin of the Kansas City style, and the Dal Sasso Big Band, for a tribute to Chick Corea. In this multi-layered programme, we meet up with long-term friends, such as the iconic Dee Dee Bridgewater and the saxophonist Stefano di Battista, icons who will come together on the same date. By envisaging the origins of jazz, which has been enriched by so many styles, AYQ and the Cape Verdean singer, Mayra Andrade, take us on a sensual journey with moments suspended in time.

The richness of these musical territories is also illustrated in the pop-funk of British band, Level 42, and the youth of Emile Londonien, a trio fed on jazz made in London. The festival really gets going with the Cuban rhythms of Cimafunk, which fuse with Seun Kuti's Afrobeat during a world music night. As for vibrations and emotions, the festival culminates with the instrumental meeting between -M- & Thibault Cauvin, and the strings of harpist and singer, Sophye Soliveau. Two charismatic voices will also be performing: Stella Cole, a Tik Tok revelation, and the crooner Mario Biondi.

These live concerts can be experienced at Salle Garnier, together with before and after events in the rotunda of Casino de Monte-Carlo, which has been specially fitted out for the occasion, and two brilliant moments of cinema focused on jazz with the screening of the film, *Ascenseur pour L'échafaud* (Lift to the Scaffold), with the complicity of the Monaco Audiovisual Institute, followed by the Whiplash film-concert.

Book your tickets and join the adventure of the Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival.

**Artistic Direction**

<b>WEDNESDAY NOV. 20   8.30 PM</b>	FREE ENTRANCE
CONCERT ACADEMIE RAINIER III   JAZZ & MODERN MUSIC	Reservations recommended
<b>THURSDAY NOV. 21   8.30 PM</b>	<b>80 €</b>
DAL SASSO BIG BAND   <b>THE LEGENDARY COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA</b>	
<b>FRIDAY NOV. 22   8.30 PM</b>	<b>90 €</b>
STEFANO DI BATTISTA   <b>DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER</b>	
<b>SATURDAY NOV. 23   8.30 PM</b>	<b>90 €</b>
<b>MAYRA ANDRADE</b>   <b>AYO</b>	
<b>SUNDAY NOV. 24   6.00 PM</b>	<b>12 €</b>
<b>JAZZ &amp; CINÉMA</b>   <b>ASCENSEUR POUR L'ÉCHAFAUD</b>   SCREENING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MONACO   AUDIOVISUAL INSTITUTE	
<b>WEDNESDAY NOV. 27   8.30 PM</b>	<b>90 €</b>
ÉMILE LONDONIEN   <b>LEVEL 42</b>	
<b>THURSDAY NOV. 28   8.30 PM</b>	<b>80 €</b>
<b>SEUN KUTI AND EGYPT 80</b>   <b>CIMAFUNK</b>	
<b>FRIDAY NOV. 29   8.30 PM</b>	<b>90 €</b>
SOPHYE SOLIVEAU   <b>THIBAUT CAUVIN &amp; -M-</b>	
<b>SATURDAY NOV. 30   8.30 PM</b>	<b>80 €</b>
STELLA COLE   <b>MARIO BIONDI</b>	
<b>SUNDAY DEC. 1<sup>ST</sup>   6.00 PM</b>	<b>60 €</b>
<b>WHIPLASH</b>   <b>CINÉ-CONCERT</b>   BY DAMIEN CHAZELLE	





## OPÉRA GARNIER DE MONTE-CARLO

### Close to artists and creativity



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A gem of Casino de Monte-Carlo, the Salle Garnier illustrates the excessiveness and audacity that went into the building of the gaming establishment. Designed by the architect Charles Garnier to host opera and dance shows, and inaugurated in 1879, Opéra Garnier of Monte-Carlo bears witness to the special links that Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer has with the arts and its unwavering support for creative work. From the Russian ballets of Diaghilev to the ballets of Monte-Carlo today, the excellent acoustics of this opera house, which has successfully extended its legend into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, also makes it ideal for hosting world famous musical events, like the Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival, which brings the giants of jazz together in this architectural gem every autumn. Many international artists have performed within its ornate setting, such as Sonny Rollins, Marcus Miller, John McLaughlin, Manu Katché, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Diana Krall and many others.

# RAINIER III ACADEMY CONCERT

## JAZZ & MODERN MUSIC

Specialised in music and theatre for the younger generation, the Rainier III Academy is honoured to once again be invited as part of the Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival in order to perpetuate jazz trends in the Principality.

This concert will spotlight students from the institution's Jazz and Modern Music department, which has a wide-ranging educational, cultural and artistic remit for a variety of audiences.

For around 30 budding musicians from the Academy, it is the opportunity to perform in professional conditions, accompanied by their teachers, in the prestigious Opéra Garnier.

The audience will be able to discover new talent through a varied programme, ranging from jazz to pop music, with revisited classics.







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**CHRISTOPHE DAL SASSO**  
FLUTE, ALTO FLUTE,  
DIRECTION

**DAVID EL-MALEK**  
TENOR SAX

**STÉPHANE GUILLAUME**  
TENOR SAX  
AND SOPRANO, FLUTE

**RICK MARGITZA**  
TENOR SAX

**THOMAS SAVY**  
CLARINET,  
BASS CLARINET

**NICOLAS FOLMER**  
TRUMPET, BUGLE

**CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ**  
TRUMPET

**DENIS LELOUP**  
TROMBONE

**JERRY EDWARDS**  
TROMBONE

**VINCENT LAFONT**  
PIANO

**MANUEL MARCHÈS**  
DOUBLE BASSE

**KARL JANNUSKA**  
DRUMS

## DAL SASSO BIG BAND

**C**hristophe Dal Sasso, one of France's finest arrangers, revisits Chick Corea's "Three Quartets" with three extraordinary saxophonists.

Born in 1968 in Hyères in south-eastern France, Christophe Dal Sasso began his career as a trumpet player. He was trained in the music schools of La Londe-les-Maures and Solliès-Toucas by Yvan Belmondo, father of saxophonist Lionel Belmondo and his trumpeter brother, Stéphane, who would soon include him in most of their orchestral projects. He was introduced to jazz by Tony Petrucciani and took classes with the arranger, Ivan Jullien, at the Centre d'Informations Musicales, a private jazz and contemporary music school in Paris. Winner of the Orchestra Prize at the Heineken Jazz Competition at La Villette, in 1996 he created a big band, which played regularly

in Parisian clubs. A musician and teacher who has performed numerous reinterpretations of John Coltrane classics, such as "Africa/Brass" and "A Love Supreme", a suite whose four movements are transposed to the scale of a big band, here Christophe Dal Sasso tackles "Three Quartets", recorded by pianist Chick Corea in 1981. Expertly guided by the arranger, his big band, named group of the year at the Victoires du Jazz awards in 2020, revisits this legendary album characterised by its open-mindedness, through the meeting of jazz and classical music. In the front line, under the musical direction of Christophe Dal Sasso, three extraordinary saxophonists revisit the role of Michael Brecker: David El-Malek, Stéphane Guillaume and Rick Margitza. A vibrant and spectacular tribute to the great Chick Corea, who died in 2021.

# THE LEGENDARY COUNT BASIE ORCHESTRA

## DIRECTED BY SCOTTY BARNHART

**F**ounded in 1935, the Count Basie Orchestra is an institution in the history of American jazz. A band that embodies Kansas City and the traditional big band style.

His orchestra continues to perform sold-out concerts all over the world, with members personally chosen by him, 40 years after his death. His name? William James "Count" Basie, a big name in swing, personifying the grandeur of American jazz. The Count Basie Orchestra, today directed by Scotty Barnhart, has won 18 Grammy Awards - including Best Large Instrumental Jazz Ensemble for "Basie Swings the Blues" in 2024. The big band appears at every major jazz festival, has played in major concert halls and for Kings, Queens and other world royalty, as well as appearing in films and television shows. Some of

the greatest soloists, composers, arrangers and vocalists in jazz history, such as Lester Young, Billie Holiday, Thad Jones, Snooky Young, Frank Wess and Joe Williams, became international stars once they began working with the Count Basie Orchestra. Today, this great 18-member orchestra is still continuing the excellent history started by Count Basie of stomping and shouting the blues, as well as refining those musical particulars that allow for the deepest and most moving of swing. One of the secrets of the orchestra's longevity: the fact that Basie encouraged his musicians to compose and arrange especially for the band and its soloists. Marked by its impressive longevity, the Count Basie Orchestra has thus created a unique sound and way of phrasing, that is now known as "the Basie way".

**FRANK GREENE** (LEAD TRUMPET)  
**SHAWN EDMONDS**  
**JOHN MOORE, JR.**  
**ENDRE RICE**  
TRUMPETS

**CLARENCE BANKS**  
**ISREA BUTLER** (LEAD)  
**MARTIN McCAIN** (BASS TROMBONE)  
**MARK WILLIAMS**  
or **WILLIE APPLEWHITE** (TBA)  
TROMBONES

**JOSH LEE** (BARITONE)  
**DOUG MILLER** (TENOR)  
**DAVE GLASSER** (LEAD ALTO & FLUTE)  
**DOUG LAWRENCE** (TENOR)  
**STANTAWN KENDRICK** (ALTO & FLUTE)  
SAXOPHONES

**ROBERT BOONE** (DRUMS)  
**TREVOR WARE** (BASS)  
**WILL MATTHEWS** (GUITAR)  
**REGGIE THOMAS** (PIANO)  
RHYTHM SECTION

**DENISE THIMES**  
VOCALS

©Andy Lindsay



**21** THURSDAY  
NOV.



# STEFANO DI BATTISTA

**STEFANO DI BATTISTA**  
SAXOPHONES

**MATTEO CUTELLO**  
TRUMPET

**ANDREA REA**  
PIANO

**DANIELE SORRENTINO**  
DOUBLE BASS

**ANDRÉ CECCARELLI**  
DRUMS

**A**n iconic artist rooted in tradition, the Italian saxophonist Stefano di Battista demonstrates his passion for his Italian roots in the album "La Dolce Vita".

Stefano di Battista began playing the saxophone at the age of 13. Born in Rome in 1969, this fan of Art Pepper and Julian Cannonball Adderley took his first steps in variety music. After meeting Massimo Urbani, his desire to become a jazz musician was even stronger, and on the advice of Jean-Pierre Como, co-founder of the jazz-rock band, Sixun, he moved to Paris. That was where he met the drummer Aldo Romano, with whom he worked on two records, and the conductor Laurent Cugny, who took him on as a soloist in his new Orchestre National de Jazz. After several

albums characterised by his neo hard bop style, Stefano di Battista brilliantly took on the great Ennio Morricone in a tribute album to the Italian composer with whom he had the chance to work. Called "Morricone Stories", it was released in 2021. Building on his public success with over 30 concerts in France with his quartet, in 2024 he unveiled a new album with his transalpine group, this time focusing on Italian songs. A lover of melody and a magician of tone, Stefano gives new life to the themes made famous by Paolo Conte, Andrea Bocelli and Lucio Dalla, while paying tribute to composers such as Renato Carosone and Nino Rota. Here he reunites with his high-calibre partners and adds the Italian trumpeter, Matteo Cutello, to his quartet.



FRIDAY  
NOV. 22





© Hernan Rodriguez

# DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER

**W**inner of three Grammy Awards and one Tony Award for acting, Dee Dee Bridgewater is one of the greatest performers and singers in the history of modern jazz.

Born in 1950 in Memphis, Tennessee, where her father taught the trumpet, Denise Eileen Garrett grew up listening to blues, jazz and rhythm & blues on the radio. By joining the female vocal trio, Les Iridescentes, she became known in the clubs of Michigan with her powerful and deep voice, and then sang in her university group in Illinois. When she moved to New York, she joined the famous Thad Jones/Mel Louis Big Band, where she sang with jazzmen such as Sonny Rollins, Dizzy Gillespie and Max Roach. Her career was launched. Rewarded by a Tony Award for her role in the musical "The Wiz", she moved to Los Angeles where she starred in many musicals and off-Broadway/West End

productions such as "Lady Day", for which she was nominated for the Olivier Awards. It was in Los Angeles that she fell in love with France. After a number of pop, funk and rhythm & blues albums, she began to self-produce before creating DDB Records in 2006 with Universal Music Group. Her self-produced recordings, "Dear Ella" in tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, "Eleanora Fagan" and others have received a number of Grammy Awards, nominations and acclaim from critics. In this multi-faceted career, Dee Dee Bridgewater has made a name for herself as a great jazz vocalist. The star is also a goodwill ambassador of the United Nations, a Jazz Master of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), champion of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Doris Duke Artist and inducted in the Memphis Music Hall of Fame, which honours musical icons from Memphis.

- DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER**  
VOICE
- CARMEN STAAF**  
PIANO
- ROSA BRUNELLO**  
BASS
- EVITA POLIDORO**  
DRUMS



© DR

## MAYRA ANDRADE

**MAYRA ANDRADE**  
VOICE

**DJODJE ALMEIDA**  
GUITAR

**M**ayra Andrade, a singer from Cape Verde, takes us back to the origins of jazz with finesse, and blends the popular music of Santiago with Afrobeat and Portuguese electro.

Mayra Andrade's silky rhythms, lively melodies and delicately peppery vocals make it seem as if the Europe of pop had always been a warm sea archipelago. Born in Cuba in 1985, she began singing at the age of 14. Mayra comes from the island of Santiago, where funana and batuque - percussive, rhythmic African music - were frowned upon by the colonial elite and were not exported. Yet these are the styles that the singer is passionate about. After finding her own uniqueness on stage, she decided to release her first album, "Navega", in 2006. A roots opus,

recorded at the rate of three songs per day, before "Stória, stória", with which she went on tour with eight people. Embracing eclecticism as a woman of her time and open to a host of inspirations, her album, "Lovely Difficult", is more varied. Mayra speaks and creates "in four and a half languages", as she says: Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, French and - for the half - English. Her new album, "Manga", entirely in Creole, unites the rhythms of modern African music (it was recorded in Abidjan) and her Cape Verdean roots. It features Kim Alves, the famous Cape Verdean musician, and a new generation of musicians from West Africa. Here, she revisits her repertoire in an acoustic version, accompanied by guitarist Djodje Almeida, and reveals some delicious surprises.



# AYO

**B**e careful not to forget the dot under the O when writing the artist's name. The German-Nigerian singer, whose name means joy in Yoruba, sensitively and gracefully blends soul, folk and reggae to delicious acoustic music.

Joy Olasunmibo Ogunmakin, known as AYO, is an artist who is immediately compelling with the inflections of her suave and luminous voice. Born to a Nigerian father and a German mother in Frechen in 1980, she discovered the violin and later the guitar, which would become one of her favourite instruments. With roots in soul, folk and reggae, she was revealed in 2006 by the album "Joyful", which sold more than one million copies with the hit "Down On My Knees". Living between Paris and New York, AYO is winning over an ever-growing international audience with her raw talent and the sincerity of her message. A singer, songwriter and performer, she has enjoyed success after success

with albums such as "Gravity at Last" (2008), "Billie-Eve" (2011) - named after her daughter, born in 2010, and created with the participation of -M-, Saul Williams and David Bowie's bassist, Gail Ann Dorsey - and "Ticket to the World" (2013) and "Royal" (2020), an opus characterised by its soul, folk and very pared-down arrangements. Each of the singer's albums is an invitation to go on a musical journey, where she humbly delivers her emotions about life through catchy melodies. AYO, an accomplished artist with a passion for travelling, reveals her seventh album, called "Mami Wata", inspired by her move to Tahiti. This powerful and introspective album, which marks a new chapter in the artist's career, is available from 20 September 2024. AYO is a voice that resonates, sounds that caress the soul and lyrics that speak plainly. She is one of these magical artists whose grace seems to make time stand still.

## AYO

VOICE, GUITAR

## VINCENT BIDAL

PIANO

## LAURENT VERNEREY

BASS

© DR



23 SATURDAY  
NOV.

# JAZZ & CINÉMA

## "LIFT TO THE SCAFFOLD"

### BY LOUIS MALLE

### MUSIC MILES DAVIS

**SCREENING**  
IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH THE MONACO  
AUDIOVISUAL  
INSTITUTE

**T**his year, the Monaco Audiovisual Institute has decided to screen "Ascenseur pour l'échafaud" (Lift to the Scaffold) as part of the 18th Monte-Carlo Jazz Festival.

#### Story

Julien Tavernier and his mistress, Florence Carala, devise a plan to murder her husband, Simon, a powerful businessman for whom Julien is the right-hand man. Julien cleverly stages the crime as suicide, but as he reaches his car, he realises that he has forgotten the rope that he used to get from one floor to another on the outside of the building. He rushes into the building and gets stuck in the lift because the caretaker, thinking that the offices are empty, has turned the power off.

#### Critique

"Ascenseur pour l'échafaud" received the Louis Delluc award in 1957 for its artistic qualities. Louis Malle created a contemporary atmosphere through the realistic sets, neon lighting, slot machines and the "geographical" itinerary. The dialogues by Roger Nimier and the music by Miles Davis add to this modernity. And the direction of the actors is remarkable. With this exercise in style, Louis Malle transformed a genre that flirted, at the time, with the conventional *série noire*.

*Jacques Siclier, Télérama n° 2225,  
2 september 1992, p. 123.*

#### Louis Malle (1932-1995)

Born in the north of France, Louis Malle grew up in the upper middle classes; his mother was heir to one of France's largest fortunes, the Béghin sugar company. His family settled in Paris in 1939, impervious to his teenage passion for cinema and sent him to study at the Polytechnique engineering school. He went to Sciences Po business school, and then the IDHEC business school. He didn't

finish his second year, however, because due to a turn of events, he set off on the Calypso, Captain Cousteau's ship, who asked him to make a documentary with him, *Le Monde du Silence* (The Silent World), which was awarded with a Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1956. He worked for a while as the assistant for a film-maker he admired, Robert Bresson, on "Un condamné à mort s'est échappé" (A Man Escaped - 1956). He was 25 when he produced "Lift to the Scaffold", which won the Louis Delluc award in 1957, and led some to associate him with the burgeoning New Wave. It is not easy to define the stylistic coherence of his cinema, as he himself repeatedly said that he wanted to make each of his films by breaking ties with the previous one. In a book on the director, Pierre Billard attempted, however, to sketch out a hidden motif (an odyssey of guilty conscience) and certain recurring themes: a relentless struggle with his origins and, at the same time, an autobiographical path; lost paradises ("Le Souffle au Cœur" (Murmur of the Heart), 1971; a love of jazz; memories of studying with the Jesuits and the rejection of anti-Jewish behaviour during the war ("Lacombe Lucien", 1974, "Au revoir les enfants" (Goodbye, Children), 1987); collusion with the theatre of the absurd and Raymond Queneau ("Zazie dans le métro", 1960); provocative anarchism ("Le Voleur" (The Thief of Paris), 1967); dandyism, a taste for women and scandal ("Les Amants" (The Lovers), 1958, "La Petite" (Pretty Baby), 1978). His numerous public and critical successes on both sides of the Atlantic were sometimes tinged with scandals: sexual relationships in "The Lovers", incest in "Murmur of the Heart". They are based more on the strength of the ideas or subjects than on the direction, which barely goes beyond the more or less skilful production of the script, apart from a few moments when a certain sensitivity can shine through.

*Jacques Kermabon*

SUNDAY  
NOV. 24









## ÉMILE LONDONIEN

**NILS BOYNY**  
KEYBOARD  
**MATTHIEU DRAGO**  
DRUMS  
**THÉO TRITSCH**  
BASS

**O**n keyboard, bass and drums, the French collective, **Emile Londonien**, infuses their house and broken beat hits with a strong London jazz flavour.

The Emile Londonien trio, which results from the Strasbourg scene and the vast Omezis collective, based its name on two of its main influences: the French saxophonist Émile Parisien – who founded one of the most inspired French jazz quintets 20 years ago – and London jazz. Nils Boyny, the keyboard player, Théo Tritsch, the bassist, and Matthieu Drago, the drummer, all trained at the Strasbourg conservatory and have a background in the clubbing culture. They define their modern style as an ode to jazz, drawing on house, broken beat and hip hop. Regularly played on the BBC,

their productions have been enthusiastically received, particularly in the UK, where praise has been prolific, starting with the influential DJ and producer Gilles Peterson himself, who sees them as heirs: *"I recently saw these musicians live. They are creating a space for the celebration of jazz from the British scene of the past 10 to 15 years [...] it's a real crossroads."* Their first album, "Legacy", was acclaimed by critics and established the group as one of the leaders of the new jazz generation, thanks to this unique and successful fusion of tradition and contemporary music. Today, the trio is back with its new album, "Inwards", recorded between Strasbourg and London with several high-calibre guests, which hints at a live performance in keeping with their image.



# LEVEL 42

**T**he British band found success during the New Wave period, releasing very elegant jazz-funk, then its pop-rock hits which became very popular.

Level 42 was formed in 1979 by Mark King on bass, Phil Gould on drums, Boon Gould on guitar and Mike Lindup on keyboards. Encouraged to add vocals to this instrumental part, the musicians made King their lead singer and released their first self-titled album of soul rhythm and blues, before recording "The Early Tapes" in 1980. With their instantly recognisable sound, featuring Mark King's thumb-slap bass technique - which creates an impressive wall of sound called slapping bass - and the synthesiser flourishes of Wally Badarou - a partner from the beginning - Level 42 made a name for themselves as a jazz-funk fusion band, contemporaries of fellow British funk

groups such as Atmosfear, Light of the World, Incognito and Beggar & Co. Having crossed over into sophisticated pop and dance-rock, Level 42 broadened their audience with the release of the album 'World Machine' in 1985, which placed them at the top of the charts in Britain and around the world. After the Gould brothers left the band, the group evolved over time, and were replaced by drummers Gary Husband, Pete Ray Biggin, as well as guitarists Alan Holdsworth and Nathan King. In 2010, Level 42 celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a major international tour. The band continued to tour into 2016 with performances at festivals across Europe and Latin America. Watching Level 42 means diving back into the hits of an emblematic pop rock band, which was one of the pioneers of the Brit-funk movement.

**MARK KING**  
BASS

**PETE RAY BIGGIN**  
DRUMS

**NATHAN KING**  
GUITAR

**MIKE LINDUP**  
KEYBOARD

**MARK KING**  
VOICE

**MIKE LINDUP**  
VOICE

**SEAN FREEMAN**  
SAXOPHONE

**NICHOL THOMSON**  
TROMBONE

**DAN CARPENTER**  
TRUMPET



**27** WEDNESDAY  
NOV.

# SEUN KUTI AND EGYPT 80

## SEUN KUTI

SINGER, SAX, KEYBOARD

## VALENTIN PELLET

TRUMPET

## KUNLE JUSTICE

BASS

## MOHAMMED

## CHERIF BENHALLAK

RYTHM GUITAR

## NICOLAS JULIEN

## SAKELARIO

BARITONIST

## BALOGUN CYNTHIA

## ABIMBOLA

DANCER, SINGER

## YETUNDE SOPHIA

## ANIKULAPO-KUTI

DANCER, SINGER

## FABRICE FILA

TENOR SAX

## MARIO ORSINET

DRUM

**T**he Nigerian musician and son of the pioneer of Afrobeat, Fela Kuti, is continuing this musical heritage with his energetic groove, alongside his father's former group, Egypt 80.

Seun Kuti was born in 1983. From the age of 9, he was the opening act for Fela Kuti's concerts, enthusiastically performing a handful of songs with Egypt 80. Two years later, the budding saxophonist and drummer officially joined the group. When Fela Kuti passed away in 1997 and following his father's wishes, Seun took over as head of the band, which he has managed since. The high-spirited concerts of Nigerian music always blend his father's songs with his own creations, nourished by a variety of African traditions to reflect the struggles and cultures of the continent. After his first recording, the singer excited audiences in Detroit, New York,

Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Paris, London, Tokyo and especially Lagos. The release of the album, "From Africa with Fury: Rise", co-produced with Brian Eno and John Reynolds in 2011, propelled him both onto Billboard magazine and the international digital charts. In the performances of Seun Kuti & Egypt 80, improvisation is as essential as composition, and there is always a political aspect. Proud of the musical legacy of Fela Kuti, Seun extends and transforms Afrobeat with his infectious groove and the committed lyrics that he writes. His EP, "African Dreams", in 2022, created with the frontman of Roots and the extraordinary MC Black Thought, consists of three remixes of songs from the album "BlackTimes", nominated for the Grammy Awards in 2018.



e Kola Oshilusi

THURSDAY  
NOV. 28





© DR

## CIMAFUNK

**A** veritable Afro-Cuban rock star, CimaFunk mixes warm Afro-Caribbean rhythms with the spirit of funk and hip-hop, sometimes flirting with dance and electro music.

Erik Alejandro Iglesias Rodríguez was born in 1989 in Pinar du Río in Cuba. He started out as an arranger for Cuban artists and in the group, Interactivo, which he left after two years in 2016. The singer, musician and songwriter became known as CimaFunk, in reference to the cimarróns - named after the fugitives who managed to resist and escape slavery during the colonial era. What's the essence of the artist's music? Strong roots in traditional Cuban rhythms, subverted with Afrobeat, funk and hip-hop. Following his album "Terapia" in 2017, CimaFunk went on several acclaimed tours in Europe and the United States with La Tribu, his group of nine musicians from Havana. His musical style and stage presence

creates a veritable whirlwind, and the singer with the stylish shirts and dark glasses has become one of the leading showmen on the Cuban scene today. His electric concerts are a celebration of groove and an exhilarating physical experience. The artist is thus revolutionising contemporary Cuban music. He is redefining the Afro-Latin identity and the heritage of black cultures. His second to last album, "El Alimento", which features special guests such as Georges Clinton, Lupe Fiasco and CeeLo Green, was nominated for the Grammy Awards in the Best Latin Rock or Alternative category. With "Pa' tu cuerpa", his latest opus released on 23 August this year, CimaFunk continues to form great collaborations, in particular with the performer Big Freedia, the reggaeton singer Wampi, and Camille Guevera. An album with an emancipating groove that calls for the liberation of the body, just in time to prolong the summer.

**CIMAFUNK**  
LEAD & VOCALS

**DR ZAPA**  
DRUMMER

**BIG HAPPY**  
MINOR PERCUSSION,  
VOCALS, HYPE MAN,  
DANCER

**MACHETE**  
PERCUSSION

**EL WAO**  
KEYS, PIANO

**HILARIA CACAO**  
TROMBONE, VOCALS

**MONIQUE**  
SAX, VOCALS

**SMOKES**  
BASS

**FREAKY**  
GUITARIST



© Élodie Martiniel

## SOPHYE SOLIVEAU

**SOPHYE SOLIVEAU**  
HARP, VOICE

**ERIC TURPAUD**  
BASS

**ANDY BERALD-CATELO**  
DRUMS

**SLIGHTY MAITREL**  
VOICE

**DAVID TSHIMANGA**  
VOICE

**ROSANNE JOSEPH**  
VOICE

**A** wonderful satellite in the RnB and soul world, the singer, harpist and choir director, Sophie Soliveau, plays the harp and sings with sensitivity.

Sophie Soliveau writes during the night, in the silence that allows her to listen to her inner self. Born in Clamart in the Paris region, she studied the classical harp at Bourg-La-Reine Conservatory. This education, combined with her lifelong passion for Afro-American music, enabled her to develop an impressive, modern and organic musicality, resulting in a creative approach that pushes back the limits of the academic harp. Passionate about vocal harmonies, by Francis Poulenc, Angie Stone and Rachelle Ferrell, Sophie also sings

in her compositions. She has directed or directs vocal ensembles, like the Chœur Oshun, a vocal collective of professional female singers with a soulful repertoire, and Maré Mananga, and Afrofeminist choir that explores Afro-diasporic songs. Her approach is therefore founded on collective creation, improvisation and involvement of the body in voice and music work. Always seeking intense sound experiences, as a solo, trio, sextet or octet, with a fusion of jazz and Cuban tradition, in which she recently made her mark, in her first album, "Initiation" released in spring 2024, Sophie Soliveau explores a repertoire with soulful roots, against a backdrop of ethereal backing vocals and the groove of bass-drums.



# THIBAUT CAUVIN & -M- L'HEURE MIROIR

**T**he two guitar virtuosos, electric in the case of Matthieu Chedid, alias -M-, and classical for Thibault Cauvin, are creating a stir with their record "L'Heure Miroir".

This two-guitar recital is a high-level meeting between the multi-instrumentalist and electric guitar virtuoso, -M-, 13-times award winner at the Victoires de la Musique, and Thibault Cauvin, one of the most successful classical guitarists of his generation with his universal style. After a collaboration in 2018 on the album "Cities", where Thibault Cauvin invited artists from a variety of universes, such as -M-, Didier Lockwood, the master of kora, Ballaké Sissoko, and the electronic music prodigy, Thylacine, the two friends come together for an unprecedented instrumental

journey, on the borders of classical and pop music. An open-hearted duo with a rare complementarity, guided by authenticity and the desire to create unique moments. The album, which expresses the virtuosity of these two guitars - the 1964 L-series electric Stratocaster belonging to -M-, and the 2018 Jean-Luc Joie 2018 acoustic guitar belonging to the "Prince of the six-string" Thibault Cauvin - was released in June 2024. Composed exclusively of instrumental pieces, this 16-track album brings together new pieces, some revisited hits by -M- ("Qui de nous deux" and "Je dis aime", among others), as well as remakes of classical and pop works. Accompanied by a series of exceptional concerts in venues selected with the utmost care, "L'Heure Miroir" arrives at Opéra Garnier in Monte-Carlo for an exceptional event.

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29 FRIDAY  
NOV.

# STELLA COLE

**STELLA COLE**  
VOICE

**BASTIEN BRISON**  
PIANO

**MALTE ARNDAL**  
DRUMS

**LUCA FATTORINI**  
DOUBLE BASS

A viral phenomenon on social media, the American jazz singer is reinventing the hits of the greatest female crooners in the tradition of Judy Garland and Barbara Streisand.

With her endearing personality and her precise and captivating voice, Stella Cole has the incredible ability to share the treasures of the "Great American Songbook" with fans of all ages. Born in 1997, the singer grew up in a small town in the American Midwest. Enchanted by musicals like "The Wizard of Oz" or "Singing in the Rain", she became known by sharing her vocal performances on social media, particularly Tik Tok. Living in New York, in 2024 she recorded her first album thanks to her fans' support, on which

she performs a collection of classics, most of which with an orchestra, to arrangements by Alan Broadbent (multiple Grammy Award winner) and with the participation of sound engineer, Chris Allen, and the producer Matt Pierson. Covering the greatest hits by Barbara Streisand ("When the Sun Comes Out"), Judy Garland ("The Boy Next Door"), Audrey Hepburn ("Moon River" of course!) and Billie Eilish ("My Future"), the American artist transcends the generations. Her performances have such presence because she draws from herself what resonates with these timeless stories. Her extraordinary vocal control and the richness of her tone make her one of the greatest performers of the repertoire.



©Sherwin Lainez

SATURDAY  
NOV. 30





© DR

## MARIO BIONDI

**F**rom the very first notes, the groove and sensuality of the charismatic Sicilian singer's voice recall the great interpreters of soul and rhythm and blues music.

Born Mario Ranno in 1971 in Catane, Sicily, he developed his passion for music since childhood by listening to his father, the singer Stefano Biondi, before taking his name to pay homage to him. Passionate about soul music, the Japanese release of his single "This Is What You Are" marked a turning point, after a meeting with the famous BBC1 DJ Norman Jay, who launched it on European radios. In 2006, the crooner released his first album "Handful of Soul", recorded with the High Five Quintet. After a double album with the Duke Orchestra entitled "I Love You More" and "If", which climbed the charts and became triple

platinum, Mario travelled thousands of kilometres with his 15-person orchestra for a sold-out tour. The albums and prestigious collaborations followed one after the other, and success was worldwide for the singer who performed his first concert at the Royal Albert Hall in 2013, and appeared at the most prestigious European and Italian jazz festivals. With "Best of Soul" released in 2016, Mario Biondi celebrated his 10 years in the business in a powerful tribute to this musical genre. Mario uses his distinctive voice, with its deep and carrying notes, to honour the Italian singer-songwriters of the 1960s but also those of Brazilian bossa nova who have always inspired him. His new album "Crooning Undercover" and the tour will end with over 100 concerts across Italy and in 22 other countries around the world, between 2023 and 2024.

**MARIO BIONDI**  
VOICE

**MASSIMO GRECO**  
PIANOFORTE

**DAVID FLORIO**  
DRUMS,  
GUITAR, FLUTE

**MAX LAGANÀ**  
BASS, DOUBLE BASS

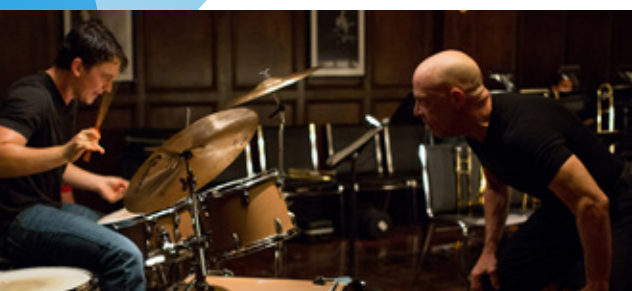
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DRUMS

**FABIANO PETRULLO**  
SAX

**FABIO BUONAROTA**  
TROMBONE



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# WHIPLASH

## FILM-CONCERT

### BY DAMIEN CHAZELLE

### MUSIC JUSTIN HURWITZ

Immerse yourself once again in the sometimes ruthless universe of a great jazz school in New York and rediscover Damien Chazelle's masterpiece on the big screen, with music by Justin Hurwitz. During this musical screening, the original soundtrack will be played live, in perfect synchronisation with the images, by the brilliant Multiquarium Big Band of Benoît Sourisse and André Charlier. Like Andrew (Miles Teller), a promising young drummer seeking perfection and who has to deal with incessant criticism from his instructor, M. Fletcher (J.K. Simmons), André Charlier will have the difficult task of following every movement of the drumstick with absolute precision! The art of the film-concert is at its apogee here.

#### Synopsis of the film

Andrew, 19 years old, dreams of becoming one of the best jazz drummers of his generation. But competition is fierce at the Manhattan Conservatory where he trains relentlessly. His goal is to join the leading orchestra conducted by Terence Fletcher, a fierce and uncompromising instructor. When he is finally noticed, under his leadership Andrew embarks on a quest for excellence.

#### Justin Hurwitz

Justin Hurwitz is an American film composer and television writer. His collaboration with Damien Chazelle on "Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench" (2009), "Whiplash" (2014), "La La Land" (2016), "First Man" (2018) and "Babylon" (2022) earned him worldwide recognition and many awards. In particular, he won two Oscars® - Best Original Score and Best Original Song for "City of Stars", as well as Golden Globe Awards.

#### Damien Chazelle

Damien Chazelle is a French-American film-maker, screenwriter and producer. His filmography includes "Whiplash" (2014), "La La Land" (2016), and "First Man" (2018), for which Justin Hurwitz composed the music. He has received many awards, including an Oscar® for the Best Director for "La La Land", his dream project, making him the youngest person to receive this award, at the age of 32. He also took part in a project for a Netflix series, "The Eddy", which takes place in Paris. Damien Chazelle's most recent film in 2023, "Babylon", takes place in the 1920s in Hollywood.

**FILM SCREENING**  
ORIGINAL VERSION  
WITH FRENCH SUBTITLES



philip.lucap@2016.fineartphotography



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