

## Editorial

**In memory of Rodrigo, Rohic, Cazals, Calvel, Bailles, Copans, Bousquet, Stephant ...**

### **Size XL for the 40<sup>th</sup> Souillac Jazz Festival!**

In 1976 the Jazz Festival wrote its first score in which local musicians, French musicians and Afro-American musicians were invited to perform in the first edition. Memphis Slim was one of the pillars of blues music while Marie Knight epitomised gospel songs. The Swing Machine Big Band, a regional orchestra, stood for everything that was considered to be the golden age of jazz.

From 1976 to 2015 the Festival has always kept pace with the infinite variations of jazz and has always been receptive to innovating musicians, to the rare gem and to new emotions.

In 2015 the **Swing Machine Big Band** returns to Souillac for a special “40<sup>th</sup> anniversary” concert and is inviting **Sara Lazarus** to perform with it. The American singer will pay tribute in particular to Billie Holiday whose centenary is being celebrated this year.

You will discover young and talented female musicians in the person of **Lisa Cat-Berro**, who was dubbed a “revelation” in the 2013 Jazz Victories event and **Isabelle Olivier**, who has ushered the harp into temple of jazz.

The sun will reach its zenith in Souillac and Sun Ra will shine through the music of **Thomas de Pourquery** and his **Supersonic** band, who won the Jazz Victories award in 2014. The music the poet composed was a true delight which permeates the history of jazz. Come and bathe in the sunlight and recharge your batteries in this voyage through the universe of jazz.

The Festival has always been on the lookout for new talent and the pianist **Jerry Leonide** is a musician who deserves to be better known. A prize winner at the Montreux Jazz Festival, his jazz is coloured with the sound of chants from his native country, Mauritius. The evening will continue with a performance by one of France’s elite jazz groups – the **Moutin Factory Quintet**, a driving force in the world of jazz. The players are exceptional and include the young pianist Thomas Enhco, winner of the Jazz Victories award in 2014, Manu Codjia, a guitarist who has in the past been given an enthusiastic reception in Souillac, and the effervescent saxophonist Christophe Monniot.

**Kenny Garrett**, nominated in the 2014 Grammy Awards, is honouring us with his presence in this special anniversary year and will symbolise the main theme of the Souillac Jazz Festival, starting with the swing of the Duke Ellington Orchestra and progressing towards Miles Davis, taking in Art Blakey on the way. Souillac is reconnecting with the Afro-American dimension of jazz.

**2015** will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to all the Festival’s volunteers and partners from both the public and private sectors who have worked for it for 40 years and without whom the Souillac Jazz Festival would not be what it is today.

**The 40<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival has been written across the lines of a long score, as long as the endless expanse of jazz, a score which transcends geographical and temporal boundaries, a vintage to be savoured to the full!**

Robert Peyrillou, President