

Light Blazer - Sunday 20 July 2014 at 21.15 in the church square at Pinsac

A newcomer in the Grand Format federation which brings together the major bands in the world of French jazz, Light Blazer is a young group led by the saxophonist Jonas Muel, who has written all its pieces. Its members are young musicians used to playing in well-known groups – the saxophonist Julien Soro and vibraphonist Stephan Caracci, for example, are also part of Ping Machine. Similarly to other groups of its generation, Light Blazer's music bears the stamp of jazz-fusion. Full of colourful groove and penetrating bass tonality, it happily blends jazz and rock with Zappien fervour particularly when the vibraphone escalates into a frenzied contest with Yoann Kempst's guitar crescendo in the central part of "V.G. (Papillomavirus)", a piece in which the trumpeter Julien Silvand also excels.

While Light Blazer's style can be compared with that of a group such as LeBocal, especially when the rhythmic base – with bass player Guillaume Marin and the amazing percussionist Gulien Goepp – reaches a climax marked by vibrating funk (Stick Up), the musicians throw an unexpected ingredient into the melting pot in the form of hip-hop. The presence of the Central African rapper Edash Quata sheds brightness and light on The Laboratory. The start of the track "Kickback", definitely the most interesting piece in the album, is a throw-back to the beginning of the century and reminiscent of the English groups The Herbaliser or Nightmares on Wax. A remarkable flowing sound of great musicality. Light Blazer's Master of Ceremonies is the driving force behind the group's latest album.

Jonas Muel , Julien Silvand, Julien Soro, Julien Goepp, Guillaume Martin, Yoann Kempst, Stephan Caracci, Edash Quata, Barbara Diôme, Lucie Lambert, Alexandra Vilain, Catherine Robert, Pierre Alam

Philippe Léogé– Tuesday 22 July 2014 at 20.30 in the caves at Lacave

(Reservations are essential and tickets are available at the Souillac Valley of the Dordogne Tourist Office, telephone 05 65 33 22 00)

Pianist, arranger, composer, singer, creator and conductor of Big Band 31, Philippe Léogé is currently devoting most of his time to playing piano solo. "My French Standards Songbook" is a shared experience in which the pianist evokes singers and musicians who have dipped French songs into the waters of jazz. Songs such as "The good life", "What now my love" and "If you go away" are examples. With his immense talent as an arranger, Philippe Léogé takes these songs, which have become jazz classics, and adapts them as the whim takes him. The musical phrases of an inspired pianist supplant the words while retaining shades of the songs of Brel, Trenet or Bécaud. The spectator smiles knowingly on hearing these tunes, reminiscent of well-loved songs which take on new hues. At what will be an exceptional concert in the caves at Lacave, popular French songs, brought to new life by the pianist as his fingers fly across the keyboard, will float down to the audience from the majestic folds of the rock walls.

Bonus: spectators at the Souillac jazz festival have been captivated on a number of occasions by solo pianists: Martial Solal (1988), Marian Petrescu (1991), Carlos Maza (1993), Bojan Z (2000), Stefano Bollani (2010). Each time the concerts were hugely successful. Philippe Léogé will be making an old dream of his come true: "After all the years I have spent doing arrangements, orchestrating and conducting large bands, I very much wanted to be alone with my piano".

Short biography

Studied piano, harmony and clarinet.

1982 – period of study at the Berklee School of Music in Boston
1992-1995 – orchestrator and pianist for the TV programme “Sacrée soirée”; works with many variety artists including Gilbert Bécaud, Charles Aznavour, Henri Savador and Barry White.
1996 – Claude Nougaro appoints him as musical director of his show “Chansons fleuves”
1999 – takes part in the creation of Alain Louvier’s “Missa de Angelis” as solo baritone.
2004 – concentrates mainly on piano solos and improvisation.
2007– in residence at the Stuttgart Academy of Music.
2009 – creates Big Band 31; artistic director of the festival “Jazz sur son 31” and founder and organiser of the festival “Aux frontières du jazz” in Perpignan.

Francesco Bearzatti Tinissima Quartet – Thursday 24 July 2014 at 21.15 – Place Pierre Betz

At the end of the concert he gave in Souillac in July 2011, the Italian saxophonist Francesco Bearzatti announced that the Tinissima Quartet was preparing a project on Thelonius Monk and promised that the public “would not be disappointed”. It is with great pleasure that the Souillac jazz festival has again been able to include Francesco Bearzatti and the Tinissima Quartet in its programme and we are absolutely sure that this will be an outstanding concert. It is an amazing project full of energy and excitement: rock without a guitar and Monk without a piano, with the music of the pianist coalescing into the traditional themes of the greatest rock groups. It is not a simple reappropriation but the most brilliant syncretism that is both scintillating and lyrical. The airs of Monk, impregnated with those of The Police, Michael Jackson, Queen or Pink Floyd, take on a new power and ride on a series of heady riffs. Joy and pleasure explode on stage and the playful mood of laughter and jazz spreads through the audience.

Prizes and awards

Best Band (Tinissima) 2010 Musica Jazz
InSound Prize Best Wind 2011
Jazz it Award Best Tenor Player 2011
Best European Musician 2011 Académie du Jazz

Bonus: after dedicating its music to emblematic revolutionary figures (Tina Modotti and Malcom X) the Tinissima Quartet has turned to those who revolutionised music in the second half of the 20th century. Since the *X Suite for Malcolm* concert which the group gave in Souillac in 2011, all the aficionados of the Souillac jazz festival have been waiting to hear Bearzatti’s latest project.

Francesco Bearzatti – short biography

1966: born in the Friuli region of Italy
Studied the clarinette
1990: leaves for the United States
1998: first album as leader of the *Suspended Steps*
2000: moves to Paris and works with drummer Aldo Romano and organist Emmanuel Bex; founds the *Bizard Trio*; takes part in the recording of the *Gianluca Petrella Quartet*
2006: leader of the *Sax Pistols*
2008: founds the *Tinissima Quartet* with Giovanni Falzone (trumpet), Danilo Gallo (bass) and Zenon de Rossi (drums) with the *Suite for Tina Modottii*

The Bad Plus - Friday 25 July 2014 at 21.15 – Place Pierre Betz

Two piano/bass/drums trios have stood out in the last decade: EST and The Bad Plus. After transforming the most emblematic pop music into something completely different, the American trio The Bad Plus is now engaged in a passionate battle of musical creativity, never ceasing to break with convention and tradition. It is producing a new musical genre with elements borrowed from electronics, rock, country and classical music and punk. The group bubbles over with energy and imagination, captivating the spectator with its jazz. But its melodies remain simple while the manner in which they are developed, and occasionally sustained by repetitive rhythms hammered out on the piano, inspire the musicians to produce the most original sounds. Caught up in the melody, the spectator unthinkingly fits into the universe of a group which has no single leader and in which the three musicians improvise their creativity in a whirl of melody and rhythm.

Ethan Iverson piano, Reid Anderson bass, David King drums

The Bad Plus – biography of a trio

1990: the composer and drummer **Dave King**, from Minnesota, bassist **Reid Anderson** and pianist **Ethan Iverson** form “The Bad Plus” trio which performs at free jazz events.

2000: recording of the group’s first album *Motel*.

2003: *These are the Vistas* includes pieces composed by each musician as well as cover versions (*Smells like Teen Spirit*, *Heart of Glass*).

2003: The Bad Plus goes on tour and then records the album *Give*, which came out in spring 2004.

2009: the three musicians are accompanied by the singer Wendy Lewis in their album “*For all I care*”. Their next album *Never Stop*” is the first one featuring original compositions alone. This is also the case of the following album *Made Possible* (2012).

Youn Sun Nah – Saturday 26 July 2014 at 21.15 – Place Pierre Betz

Youn Sun Nah left South Korea to study jazz in Paris in 1995 and ever since audiences have been surprised, captivated and stirred by her performances. She sings songs from her own country or demonstrates scat singing in the purest jazz style, singing sometimes slowly, sometimes excitedly, tenderly or humorously but always with a voice which is deeply moving. Young Sun Nah is not sentimental or pretentious and has none of the vanity of a star. She explores the vocal range to the full and her pitch can vary from the quietest of notes to the unexpectedly strident, with her voice sliding from the highest notes in the register to the lowest. She can produce a pure classical or raspy rock sound but always with a huge range of pitch. An astounding and outstanding performance full of emotion is guaranteed.

Youn Sun Nah quartet: Youn Sun Nah (vocal) is accompanied by three musicians – Ulf Wakenius (guitar), Vincent Peirani (accordion), Simon Taileu (double bass).

Youn Sun Nah – short biography

1969: born in Seoul, South Korea

1993: first experience as a singer with the Korean Symphony Orchestra in a programme featuring gospel

1995: chooses to study music and singing in Paris

1996-97: sings in jazz clubs in Paris

2001: first album *Reflections*

2009: records her album *Voyage* with European musicians. Goes on tour in over twenty countries in Europe, Asia and Canada. Wins the French award of *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres*

2011: her album *Same Girl* wins a gold disc in France after topping the list of sales of jazz CDs in France in 2011

2013: release of her new album *Lento*. New international tour starts in France and continues through Europe, Asia and North America.