

# Workshop de Lyon

1967-2017

The half-century tour

ARFI



# Workshop de Lyon

## 2017 - tournée du micentenaire

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Jean Aussanaire (alto and soprano saxophones)

Jean-Paul Autin (alto and sopranino saxophones; bass clarinet)

Jean Bolcato (double bass, voice)

Christian Rollet (drums, percussion)

+ special guests !

**Since 1967**, the Workshop de Lyon has been singing, inventing, re-thinking, playing about with, blasting out, taking apart, reconstructing, analysing, innovating, exploring...and improvising its musical output. Dozens of compositions, hundreds of concerts, international touring, sessions with other musicians, long-term and short-term projects, and numerous discs... here are some to remind you :

« **Inter fréquences** » 1973, « **Transit** » (Colette Magny) 1975, « **La chasse de Shirah Sharibad** » 1975, « **Mirobolis** » (Steve Waring) 1975, « **Tiens les bourgeois éclatent** » 1977, « **Concert lave** » 1981, « **Musique basalte** » 1981, « **Anniversaire** » 1987, « **Fondus** » 1997, « **Chant bien fatal** » 1991, « **Côté rue** » 1998, « **Les chants d'Edith** » 2002, « **Lighting up** » 2005, « **Slogan** » 2007, « **Chants photographiques** » 2008, « **Arzana** » 2010, « **Lettres à des amis lointains** » 2014...

**And now in 2017**, yell it from the roof-tops, shout it out in the streets... **the Workshop de Lyon has devised a real treat**, involving founder members, short-term collaborators, special guests, recent collaborators and anyone else connected with this exceptional group, to celebrate their 50th anniversary, in a programme featuring several stand-out tracks: Chant bien fatal, Anniversaire, Marcello, Doppo il fulmine, Moulin noir... the event aims to revive the spirit, the freedom and the energy of the "Free jazz workshop de Lyon" improvisations of the end of the 1960's.



## The Workshop de Lyon "AABA"

Intro. There's often an intro. Bolcato and Guyon lead the way. Mereu, Merle and Vollat improvise the first flashes of musical brilliance. Rollet discreetly takes over from Guyon and the whole group launches into a first frenetic **A**. When the theme returns (the second **A**), Vollat and Mereu take a back seat, while Sclavis joins with Merle in a lyrical passage. Hardly has Louis finished this exposition than Autin rejoins Merle in a moving rendition of **B** where the two instruments combine together to create a single sound. When the **A** returns, Aussanaire takes over from Merle and gets involved in that sound so typical of WdL: two reed instruments, double-bass and drums. This is the essential, unmistakable sound of the band, and its impact is rather like that of a wise old man about to celebrate his fiftieth birthday. The Workshop de Lyon is above all a **sound**. Whatever the project, the basic format consists of two wind instruments, a double-bass and drums. Although the reed players have changed (not that often actually), the sound remains readily identifiable, a kind of visiting card, or rather the band's DNA. But the WdL is also an adventure, speaking of the group as a whole, and of every individual piece which is performed, where the unforeseen and the surprise factor avoid any possibility of sclerosis, and where both the soloists and the rhythm section are liable to embark on wild flights of musical fancy before returning to earth again, often to the sound of shared laughter.



Here is a list of those musicians who have been involved with the Workshop de Lyon, whether just for a day or over a longer period: *Louis Sclavis, Patrick Vollat, Jean Mereu, Didier Levallet, Michel Portal, Jean-Luc Cappozzo, Georges Lewis, Jacques Di Donato, François Tusques, Thomas Heberer, Noël Akchoté, Claude Barthélemy, Steve Waring, Yves Robert, Ken Carter, Ernst Reijseger, Claude Tchamitchian, Thierry Maucci, Patrick Charbonnier, Michel Mandel, Alfred Spirli, Guy Villerd, Red, Richard Raux, Michel Saulnier, Eric Brochard, Paul Vranas, Gershwin Nkosi, François Corneloup, Anna Kupfer...*all of these may turn up as guests - with other recent additions to the group - on this fiftieth birthday, Jubilee, Golden Wedding Anniversary, half-century...whatever you want to call it - the **Micentenaire of the Workshop de Lyon**.

# The Workshop de Lyon

They've been playing together for fifty years, sharing their sense of fun with audiences everywhere. Their music is still surprising. They construct and de-construct, with real humour, the kind of humour that makes drama pleasurable. Theirs is a joyous dance, though we sense a bit of a limp - it's joy soaked in melancholy. A striking Aylerian song full of strangled tenderness; a tale of departure, where the sails flap, someone shouts, sirens are heard, and the boat sets out to sea...

**ARFI**



Association  
à la Recherche  
d'un Folklore  
Imaginaire

ARFI is a company of professional musicians based in Lyon since its creation in 1977, and is one of the most successful collective ventures in the European jazz scene. Based around the Workshop de Lyon and the Marvelous Band (groups which were at the origin of the ARFI project), as well as the Marmite infernale, its big band, the collective's repertoires evolve within a vast musical sphere. From contemporary jazz to (especially) improvised music, ARFI's music has many diverse colours: it is contemporary, serious and yet popular; it is traditional and very much of our time; it is inspirational, playful, and performed in all kinds of circumstances.

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