ARFI
Association looking for an imaginary folklore

Musical collective

Professional musicians Association since its foundation in 1977, Arfi is one of the eldest French collective, maybe European, of jazz and improvised music. Its longevity can be explained by the musicians character, all composers and improvisers, and most of all by the quality of their relationship, based on a common passion:

Research, constantly boosted, for new energies to build music (modelling sounds, shapes, overcoming coincidence...), to open their mind to other arts (cinema, dance, theatre, literature, visual arts, cooking, photography...), and other fields of music traditional (South Africa, Brazil, Ukraine...), popular (brass bands, film music...), contemporary (European improvisers and composers, electronica...).

... for an Imaginary Folklore. They state, despite a so-called compulsory modernity, that they defend popular music (at least those that let imagine something), a difficult yet passionate goal. They rely on diversity and cohesion, anarchy and discipline, doubt and confidence. Many contradictions that one can’t sew up without a strong sense of collective.

Arfi on tour:
each band can propose several repertories to meet your expectations (concerts, theatrical or movie-concerts)

Le Workshop de Lyon
J-P. Autin (sax, bass clarinet), J. Bolcato (bass, voice), C. Rollet (drums), F. Roudet (trumpet, fluegelhorn)
- In concert
- “Cinérir’Arfi” movie-concert (kids & families)

La Marmite Infernale
Arfi large ensemble
- “Les Hommes... maintenant !” theatrical concert
- Smaller setup, marching bands and mobile group
- Various artists’repertories, groups, movie-concerts, shows
Duo Bolcato-Villerd

G. Villerd (laptop, sax, voice), J. Bolcato (bass, voice)
- “Les Fantasmagories de Segundo de Chomón” movie-concert (kids & families)
- “Koko le Clown” movie-concert (kids & families)
- “Félix le Chat” movie-concert (kids & families)

Baron Samedi Percussions

C. Rollet & M. Boiton (perc), J-L. Peilhon (clar, flute, harm.)
- “Chang”, movie-concert (kids & families)
- “Nanouk l’esquimau” movie-concert (kids & families)
- “Avril l’enchanteur” video-concert with C. Gibert, J. Lopez, show (kids & families)

Actuel Remix

G. Villerd, X. Garcia (laptops)
- “#04: Steamboat Bill Junior” movie-concert (kids & families)
- “#03: Ensemble Modern Live Remix” concert
- “#02: Heiner Goebbels’ Remix” with B. Voarick, video-concert
- “#01: Metropolis” electro movie-concert

L’Effet Vapeur

X. Garcia (sampler, sound effects), J-P. Autin (sax, bass clarinet), A. Spirli (drums, toys)
- “Bobines Mélodies 2” movie-concert (kids & families)
- “Nous Mix” with B. Voarick, video-concert

Les Incendiaires

O. Bost (trombone), E. Vagnon (sax), G. Grenard (trumpet)
- In concert
- “Un Autre Kong” video-concert with D. Grange and J. Lopez
- “M. Méliès & Géo Smile” video-concert with D. Grange and J. Lopez (kids & families)

Duo François-Spirli

A. Spirli (musical objects, toys), J-M. François (acting)
- “Les Passants” itinerant show (kids & families)
- “La Souplesse de la Baleine” musical theater (kids & families)
Les Plutériens
Anticipating Poem-Opera (creation 2019)

Creation Arfi / Spirito – Coproduction
Théâtre de la Renaissance, Oullins / Nuits de Fourvière
With the support of Groupe des 20 Auvergne Rhône-Alpes and the fund Beaumarchais-SACD

“Les Plutériens” is a three-act Poem-Opera, for orchestra, three main characters and choir.

A rocket takes off from the Earth to escape a disaster. Its energy is the poetic invention which feeds engines. Its destination is within reach of imagination... Their journey will be long and their mission is a one-way recon.

An opera on the edge of jazz, rock, contemporary music and improvisation, created by Arfi and Spirito.

Original opera libretto: Charles Pennequin
Composers: Jean Bolcato, Olivier Bost, Clément Gibert, Xavier Garcia, Guillaume Grenard, Guy Villerd
Staging: Guillaume Bailliart
Costumes: Coline Galeazzi
Dramaturgy: Romain Nicolas
Villerd / Ayler Project II
Music is the healing of the universe

G. Villerd (tenor saxophone, laptop),
C. Rollet (drums, percussions), O. Bost
(trombone, prepared guitar, sound objects),
B. Santacruz (double bass), Q. Rollet
(sopranino sax)

“The joy, the enthusiasm and the generous public reception when we performed our first work (Villerd/Ayler Quartet) mean that I know for sure that the music of Albert Ayler is universal and wonderful to play and to share. With this new experimental group, I have put together a band that will be able to maximise the energy, generosity and poetry of this fantastically inventive spirit. This new performance will feature our passionate playing of tunes such as Angels, Bells, Spirits, Holy family, Omega, and many others. Ayler invented a new world of music, where themes from New Orleans, military marches and western national anthems are the driving force behind the breath, the exaltation, the desire to communicate joy and love through music. Albert Ayler believed his music to be joyous, simple and easy... and without doubt it is!” Guy Villerd.

Trois, Quat’
Danced concert

Michel Boiton (drums, percussions),
Geneviève Sorin (accordion, dance)

At first as in every departure, we were used to say: one, two, three, four. However, by dint of hard work and repetition, the shortcut imposed itself. It became, THREE, FOUR...

One plays by dancing, the other dances and plays, by accepting one another, close by, ahead of, behind... Several ways to remind us the soft utopia of harmony.
**Steamboat**
Film from B. Keaton & C. Reisner - 1928. **G. Villerd, X. Garcia (laptop)**

**Bobines mélodies 2**
Short animated films (“The Old man and the sea” - A. Petrov..)
*L’Effet Vapeur: X. Garcia (sampler), J-P. Autin (sax, clar), A. Spirli (perc, objects), T. Cousin (sound)*

**Cinerir’Arfi**

**Koko le clown**
Film from The Fleischer brothers. **J. Bolcato (double bass, voice), G. Villerd (sax, laptop, voice)**

**Nanouk l’esquimau**
Film from R. Flaherty - 1922. **C. Rollet and M. Boiton (perc), J-L. Peilhon (harmonica, clarinet)**

**Les contes persans**
Short animated films from Iran. **M. Boiton (perc), S. Sana (keyboards)**

**Un Autre Kong**
Video-concert, inspired by King Kong, M.C. Cooper and E.B. Schoedsack (1933). **O. Bost (tb, sound objects), G. Grenard (tp, tuba), E. Vagnon (baritone sax), D. Grange (acting, lights), J. Lopez (live video, perc)**

**Metropolis**
Electro-movie-concert, based on Fritz Lang’s movie, full version restaured (1927-2010). **X. Garcia, G. Villerd (laptop)**

**M. Méliès & Géo Smile**
Video-concert with the films of G. Méliès. **O. Bost (tb, sound objects), G. Grenard (trumpet, slide trumpet), E. Vagnon (alto, baryton sax), D. Grange (acting, lights), J. Lopez (live videos)**
Arfi’s musicians regularly perform on stages throughout the world (Africa, Brazil, Asia, Europe...). The collective has the advantage of a wide-ranging musical prowess, and is able to offer tours where the same musicians present several different repertoires. Thanks to the meetings with other artists, various collaborative ventures have seen the light of day, thus enriching the collective palette. In previous years, the musicians of Actuel Remix have been involved in a Franco-German collaboration with the Ensemble Modern group, the Spanish festival Jazzaldia hosted Arfi for an exceptional appearance, M. Méliès & Géo Smile made a scandinavian tour.

Reviews of Arfi

“Our musicality full of humanity is the content of joyful fans of life.” Disk Union Jazz Tokyo, Dec. 2016, about “Les Hommes... Maintenant!”

“This group based in Lyon is one of the most original, creative, undefinable and brilliant of the european jazz scene.” Noticias de Gipuzkoa, July 2016, about Le Workshop de Lyon.

“Workshop de Lyon made the delights of the public of San Telmo yesterday, with a surrealist humor and a well-kept musical inventiveness.” El Diario Vasco, July 2016.

“A free music with rhythms and sounds extracted from Life, without prejudices. Freedom is the word which best reflects what takes place on stage. A freedom which, maybe, frightens.” Distrito Jazz, July 2016, about La Marmite infernale.

“Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland”
Jean-Paul Autin
sopranino sax, bass clarinet

Michel Boiton
drum, percs

Jean Bolcato
doublebass, voice

Olivier Bost
guitars, trombone

Xavier Garcia
sampler, sound effects, laptop

Clément Gibert
sax, clarinet, bass clarinet

Guillaume Grenard
trumpet, slide trumpet

Christian Rollet
drums, percs

Alfred Spirli
drums, objects

Eric Vagnon
sax

Guy Villerd
tenor sax, laptop

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d’un Folklore
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