

Presentation of the group: Zsuzsanna

Zsuzsanna is a Hungarian singer and actress, living in Paris for fifteen years now. She has been singing and playing all over Europe, a vast repertory of Hungarian, Gipsy and Yiddish songs with a small accordion.

Since 2003 she has a group of musicians, with whom she creates an original music on the base of her own roots, but searching for a more actual, underground, pop, rock sound.

This music aims to reach beyond the frontiers, keeping the strength of old, traditional music, but taking it further towards an up-to-date journey.

She interprets and writes songs in Hungarian, Rom, French and English, keeping an instinctive, personal expression.

With her musicians: a Hungarian guitarist, a base player from the USA, a French violinist and percussionist,

they create a "great cuisine of new world music", a sound that brings different experiences back to the same source, music that comes from the earth and the heart.

Musicians:

Zsuzsanna Vårkonyi - chant, accordion

Csaba Palotai - guitar, guitar électrique

Jeff Hallam - base

Sylvain Lemêtre - percussion

Biography:

Zsuzsanna Vårkonyi:

Zsuzsanna comes from a family of musicians. Besides her classical piano formation as a child, she has always been singing, learning traditional songs from her mother, and from oral tradition.

She has been playing and travelling the whole world as an actress since the age of 18. Beside her Hungarian troop she was formed by theatres closely related to the work of Jerzy Grotowski, at the Odin Theatre in Denmark, at the Instituto de Arte Scenica in Pontremoli in Italy, at the Roy Hart theatre in Paris and she still works regularly with John Strasberg, from USA.

In the cinema she played in the films of : Michael Winterbottom, first role in "Forget about me", Philippe Garrel: " Sauvage Innocence", Hubert Sauper: " Mes amies de nulles-part".

She co-realised a documentary with Hubert Sauper shot in the rwandese refugee camps in 1997, called "Kisangany Diary" . She composed the music of the films Kisangany Diary, and " Seules avec nos histoires de Hubert Sauper.

At the theatre she played with a lot of companies in Europe, in France as far as New Zealande.

Discography:

" Je pars" (" I am leaving") - Gipsy songs from Hungary, 1998, selection FIP, ARB, Paris

" Ot azoy" - Yiddish songs, FFFF Telerama, 2001 , ARB , Paris

" Valahol " (Somewhere") 2003, auto production

" Bànat" ("Sadness") In-edit , original songs, 2008,

recording a new album in June 2010

Csaba Palotai

Csaba is a Hungarian musician and composer. He studied music at the Liszt Ferenc Music Academy in Budapest, and got his diploma at the National Conservatoire Superior of Paris.

In France he works with the National Jazz Orchestra, Troupe the Phoenix, he has an own group, Grupapalotai, with whom he produces two albums: " Minimyths" 2003, and "Stompytrashy" 2004.

Actually he works with different singers:" Emily Loiseau", "Zsuzsanna", "Wladimir Anselme et les Atlas Crocodiles", "My friend Jeff".

He also composes music for films and theatre pieces.

Frédéric Norel

He studied classical music and jazz at the At the Conservatoire de Strasbourg and got his diploma from the National Conservatoire Superior of Paris with Jazz price in 1996.

He played with Archie Shepp,

L'Orchestre National de Jazz, George Russel, Bernard Struber. He plays regularly with many great musicians de Jazz, touring in Europe and in the USA. He works with an indian singer: Ravi Prasad.

He realised his first solo album as violinist and compositor, called Dreamseakers in 2008, Mélisse production.

He regularly composes music for films and theatre.

He is violin professor at the Centres des Musiques Didier Lokwood.

Jeff Hallam

Jeff started to play music in his native town, Portland Oregon as a base player in different, rock, folk, and jazz formations.

He leaves for 3 years to Tokyo, Japan avec a group of musicians, called: " a.k.a.Dig". and releases a record with Sony Music , called " Japop" which mixes funk and pop music.

Back to San Francisco, and finally settles in Paris in 2001.

He composes and works with different groups and singers: Loane, Brisa Roché, Zsuzsanna, O.G.U.

Since 2008 he starts his own song tour: " My friend Jeff" , with his own songs on indie-folk inspiration.

He regularly composes music for cinema.

Sylvain Lemêtre

He starts to work as percussionist at the Academia de la music de festival of Art Lyric in Aix en Provence, and with different groups: Ars Nova, Troupe de Phénix, Theatre Incarnat. He has been a professor at the Conservatoire de Marcoussi.

Actually he works with different ensembles: " Le sacre du Printemps", La compagnie Deviation, la Compagnie Alinéa etc.

He works with the creation of different clown and theatre, circus, and live performances projects. He is director of an "ambulatory percussion ensemble".He collaborates with many well-known contemporary composers: Nicolas Frize, R. Depraz, Mh Fournier, G. Siracusa etc.