

KAMII OCTET

Spring party

Pascal Charrier composition, direction

WITH

Émilie Lesbros vocals

Leïla Soldevila doublebass

Pascal Charrier acoustic & electric guitar

Yann Lecollaire clarinet

Nicolas Pointard drums

Paul Wacrenier piano

Julien Soro alto saxophone

Léo Pellet trombone



Like a pilgrimage or a journey of initiation, new album SPRING PARTY's music leads us into a voyager's inner universe of imaginary landscapes.

Combining written and improvised forms, KAMI OCTET's repertory transports us to within the depths of intimate climes where voices merge and blend their timbres, re-emerging on a wave of primeval energy born of sensual rhythmic.

High-flying improvisations spring out of moments of orchestral power and fragments of poetry recited over chamber music like a fine, suspended thread.

**Kami Octet's music follows in the footsteps
of the great Jazz and Free Music orchestras.**

SPRING PARTY

***My feet
didn't lie
to me***

***My desires
and fears
were still
speaking
to them***

I was everything

LA MARCHE / THE WALK

***Tonight the moon
didn't look at me
as if I was a stranger***

***Chiaroscuro
was dividing my soul
between beginning and end***

***I suddenly found myself
in front of the "dogtree"***

***Yet I thought I was driving
on subterranean roads
like a huge snake
moving in the sand***

LA MARCHE 2 / THE WALK 2

***The animal came in front of me
then came inside me***

He became my memory

My wounds started to sing

They were calling the water

But it was gone

Kami Quintet has transformed into an ensemble of eight musicians to mark its ten years of existence roaming the jazz scenes of France and abroad. Its original identity, dating from its earliest years, is still detectable in the rhythmic and trance-like aspects, but new soundscapes have opened up through the shake-up in orchestration - the natural timbres of the instruments themselves, like sonic substances recalling organic matter, propulse the group from the electronic to the acoustic.

Kami Octet brings together musicians of different generations hailing from jazz to contemporary music to improvisation who assemble around a poetic aim; a tale within these various repertoires which allows them to deploy their whole personalities. Narrative served by tightly-written language is interspersed with wide-open spaces where the freedom of jazz and improvised music can truly take hold.

Emilie Lesbros' highly skillful voice embodies a character navigating through moving landscapes, opening into an inner world wrought with the dangers of a rite of passage. The main repertory is made up of three suites - Mer, Marches1, and Spring Party - which delineate the exile's physical and emotional journey.

Double bass and piano replace the electric bass and Fender Rhodes while the voice opens up the sonic spectrum to give some breathing space, the bass clarinet meets with the deep tones of the bowed double bass, and the percussive piano engages harmony and rhythm as sharp-edged minerals.



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THE KAMI PROJECT: A PATH

In 2004, **Kami** was born as a quintet driven by guitarist and composer Pascal Charrier. It's made a journey marked by many stages; experiences that have left their impression such as a tour in New York, two albums as a quintet and many strong collaborations, especially with Malik Mezzardi, Stéphane Payen, and Josef Dumoulin.

Talking about the **Kami's** last release (*Colors*, 2014), Pascal Charrier was already thinking about what would be next. «*We can attempt things, sometimes manage to pull them off, but even then you can never be sure what will happen next. The destination is just the next starting point*». Maybe he was already thinking about a larger ensemble - after all, the quintet is already the biggest of small ensembles in itself. «*The idea of a bigger ensemble was already there but I needed time to think through how to write for, orchestrate and conduct such a group. Of course, **Kami's** line-up evolved throughout the years following the development of my musical approach and my ability to make it work.*»

Kami Octet is the result, then, of a logical chain of adventures, a new form awaiting the next mutation. The ear recognizes all the same a common theme running throughout the 13 years of this adventure:

«*Kami embodies what I feel, my political thoughts, what I've lived.*» Pascal Charrier has delved into a new repertory influenced by musicians such as Steve Coleman, Carla Bley, Marc Ducret, Magic Malik and, more recently, Morton Feldman and Gérard Grisey. This is why his music «*is part of the contemporary jazz tradition*». Always serving a double poetic narrative of trance on the one side - playing with long rhythmic cycles and superpositions - and sonic textures on the other - electronic effects and instruments' natural sounds. But how does one go about turning the sound of a quintet into one for an octet? How do you modify, manage and recreate the equilibrium of a group that's already existed for 13 years? New musical situations have to be thought out. «*All this work on orchestration brings about various intensities, a sound which is massive at times and ethereal at others. There's also a theatrical nature in how the pieces lay themselves out, between written and improvised parts; a balance to be found between the different soloists...*»

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8qVAfKng2E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wzcbh54QSaM&t=1223s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIDpGF_m99I

ALBUM KAMI OCTET SPRING PARTY



Production: Naï Nô Record / Neuklang -Distribution Pias / Harmonia Mundi

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Pictures: Jack Burlo and Philippe Clin



BIOGRAPHIES

**Émilie Lesbros: vocals**

Born and raised in Marseille (France) and later in Paris, her career led her from town to town, playing her own music. As of recent she is based in New York. Lesbros worked as a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist (violinist, pianist, guitar player) in various contexts, engaging in eclectic musical projects ranging from rock, classical, jazz, electronic music, experimental, and performing art. Led by an insatiable curiosity of the modalities and sounds of the voice, and writings, Ms. Lesbros' singing and compositions have captivated audiences and music experts internationally.

Her solo album *Attraction Terrestre*, released on the French label DFragment/Full Rhizome in 2011 earned and received considerable acclaim and radio airplay. She produced and released in 2015 a new EP with her band called "Miss Elie Sorbsel Sings Emilie Lesbros", she released the album in March 2015 at Nuyorican Poets Café.

In 2000 she met the American bass player Barre Phillips with whom she collaborates since. After lots of concerts together they created the Company Barre Phillips with EMIR the collective of 8 musicians, in 2014 they created "La Vie Est Songe" a Barre Phillips's contemporary opera where she had Rosaura's role.

When she moved to New-York in 2013 she played her songs and compositions under Miss Elie's name, she kept her real name for performing art, improvised music and her collaborations with musicians, and play under Miss Elie's name her own music, solo or with her band, between Groove-Punk-Soul Music.

Her rock band Rosa (2004 to 2009) has toured extensively in Europe, also her band Single Room with Julia Kent and Rafaella Rinaudo (2011-2013).

In 2013 Emilie Lesbros did a collaboration with Darius Jones quartet, the saxophone player invited her to write lyrics and melodies in his music, the CD came out in 2015: Darius Jones Featuring Emilie Lesbros "Le Bébé De Brigitte" Lost in Translation (AUM Fidelity).

She had played in several festivals all over the world with her own bands, and international musicians; Festival MIMI, the Human Beatbox Festival, Sunny Festival (Taiwan), the Europa Jazz Festival, Pori Festival, (Finland), Zomer Jazz Fest (Nederland), Cerkno Fest (Slovenia), Kennedy Center (DC), Jazz Fest (NYC), Vision Festival (NYC), Atlas Performing Art Center (DC), Banlieues Bleues (Paris), Jazz D'Or... with her master Barre Phillips, Julia Kent, Xavier Charles, MC Tablloyd, Boots Riley, Darius Jones, Ches Smith, Craig Taborn, Carnegie The Executioner, JJ Jungle, Matt Mitchel, Benoit Delbecq, Gerald Cleaver, Bobby Previte, Marc Ducret, Les Percussions de Strasbourg... Recorded with the labels: Nato Records, AUM Fidelity, Full Rhizome, Napalm Records, Alambik Music, Clean Feed, Sorbsel Prod... She also had collaborated with the legendary bass player Barre Phillips on the score for *No Man's Zone*, a documentary by japanese filmmaker Toshi Fujiwara that has been screened at top film festivals internationally, and had composed music for theater play. She performed as an actress and singer song-writer with Thierry Bedard (compagny Notoire), Julie Kretzcshmar (Compagny L'Orpheline), Elise Vigneron (Theatre de l'Entrouvert).

Julien Soro: alto saxophone

Awarded First Prize at the Jazz class of the CNSMDP, Julien Soro is one of the most talented young musicians of his generation, having played in the sextet Inama and winning the young talent showcase for the Saint-Germain-des-Près festival in 2007 (Best Band and Best Soloist categories) and winning a composition award at the Concours National de la Défense in 2007.

He also plays in trombonist Glenn Ferris' quintet as well as Jean-Louis Chautemps and François Jeanneau's well-known saxophone quartet.

In 2009 he started his own quartet, Big Four, whose first release was hailed by critics (CHOC Jazz magazine, February 2010). He also tours with big band Ping Machine led by guitarist Fred Maurin and with which he recorded two disks in Germany at the Bauer studios in Stuttgart. He's a member of Pascal Charrier's quintet-sextet-octet project Kami, with which he's recorded three albums so far. Finally, he takes part in percussionist François Kokelare's projects for unusual places in Paris.



Leïla Soldevila: doublebass

Bassist, composer, music arranger, Leïla Soldevila is currently involved in numerous musical projects in styles as varied as jazz and improvised musics (Loïs Levan Sextet produced by Laurent Carrier of Colore Production, IQ4tet, Simulacre, Tréma Quartet), Kurdish music (Nishtiman), Eastern music (Brin'Tzig, Bazaarium), Russian music (Baïkal Quartet), French chanson (Djazz'elles), pop music (Half Seas Over produced by Gilles Peterson Worldwide), Tango, classical music. She participates in numerous concerts with all her groups and tours in France and abroad (mainly in Canada, India, Bangladesh, Iran, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Austria, in the United Kingdom, in the Netherlands).

She took part in a recording with the Nishtiman group under the Accords Croisés label – the album received 4F in *Télérama* in November 2013 -, then a concert in the « Au Fil des Voix » Festival (filmed by Mezzo, BBC, Arte Live Web). The group performs since March 2013 in concert venues such as the Café de la Danse in Paris, the Espal Theater in Mans, the Docks des Suds in Marseilles for the « Babel Med Music » festival, the Municipal Theater of Rezé, MNEMA Cité Miroir in Liège and the Holland Festival in Amsterdam.

She is interested in artistic realizations that associate different artistic categories. The adventures she shares with the « Altouras » group (melody & painting), and within the shows « Bavardage » (dance show of the « Corps et des Accords » company under the direction of the choreograph Carole Hivet), « Au bonheur des hommes » (Musical produced by Jean-Marie Lecoq), « L'amour Anarchiste Breaking news concert » (theatrical creation with the Underground Sugar company), reflect this momentum.

Leïla Soldevila has played the piano since she was 6 years-old and the bass since she was 18. While pursuing scientific studies, she studied at the CNR of Lyon with J. Regard in jazz and J.M. Verne in classical music. She obtained her Diploma of Musical Studies of classic Bass in 2008. She then continued her studies at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague with H. Van de Geijn and J.P. Everts to get a Bachelor degree in September 2010. Afterwards, she was admitted at the CNSMD of Paris where she worked in particular with R. Del Fra, H. Sellin and F. Theberge, until she obtained her Master's Degree of «Jazz and Improvised Musics» in June 2013. She is supported by the Mécénat Musical Société Générale for the year 2014.



Pascal Charrier: composition, guitar

Guitar player, improviser and composer, Pascal Charrier is an active member of the French contemporary jazz scene. His raw sound echoes his perpetual quest of a new language which would show all the instrument possibilities. Highly influenced by Steve Coleman and Marc Ducret when he was revealed on the French scene, he has now found his own singular voice and his own personal mix of electronic music and an acoustic and pure jazz sound. He graduated and was trained at the Avignon Conservatory of Music and won the 1st prize at the Porquerolles Jazz festival talent contest in 2008. He also works as a composer for theater and visual shows (Théâtre de l'Entrouvert "Impermanence", "Anywhere").

Leader and director of Kami Quintet, he wrote the music of the records : "Les Forces du mouvement", "Human Spirals and « Colors » (4*** Jazz Magazine) and regularly plays on the national and international scene.

COLLABORATIONS: Julien Soro, Rafaël Koerner, Bastien Ballaz, Guillaume Ruelland, Florent Corbou, Fantazio, Émilie Lesbros, Véronique Mula, Julien Tamisier, Stéphane Payen, Robin Fincker, Sylvain Darrifourcq, Frédéric Bargeon Briet, Malik Mezzadri (Magic Malik), Mark Guiliana, Médéric Collignon, Jozef Dumoulin, Thomas Bourgeois, Philippe Lemoine, Maria Simoglu ...



Paul Wacrenier: piano

After years of reflections, work and experiment on the jazz and creative music scene, Paul Wacrenier has developed a sincere and original sound, based on a melodic, rhythmic and percussive approach of the piano. He has deeply studied the musical language and technique of great masters of jazz such as Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Dollar Brand, Mal Waldron, Randy Weston, Cecyl Tayler, Mc Coy Tyner, but also Andrew Hill and Eric Dolphy. He claims his belonging to a typical jazz tradition of piano, which allows the influence of African music, contemporary music, free jazz and traditional melodies, while staying faithful to the blues and the jazz aesthetics and legacy. These interests have led him to broaden his skills by learning classical percussions and especially vibes, but also the traditional Shona (Zimbabwe) repertoire on the kalimba and M'bira.



Nicolas Pointard: drums

Starting out at the age of 9, Nicolas Pointard played in thrash metal bands, traditional music groups and more experimental projects. Later on, lessons with Césarius Alvim, Steve McCraven, Guillaume Orti, Benoît Delbecq and Carlos Zingaro turned him towards jazz and improvised music. Here are a few of his projects : 2002, Kassiopée, free improvisation trio with Frédéric Galiay and Frédéric Blondy; A Cheval dans le Désordre, trio with Christophe Rocher (clarinet) and Stéphane Kérihuel (guitar), becoming a quartet with Claude Tchamitchian (double bass). In 2004, Nicolas conducted and wrote for the sextet Apsis, with Christophe Rocher (clarinet), Antoine Surdon (sax), Philippe Champion (trumpet), Pierre Stephan (violin) and Mikaël Seznes (double bass). In 2005 he created Shampooing with the trumpeter Philippe Champion (2009 release on the independent label Offoron Records). Nicolas also took part in Christofer Bjurström's cine-concerts based on the films of Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd and Alfred Hitchcock.

In 2006 he was part of the Art Ensemble of Brest, a fanfare led by Christophe Rocher with Philippe Champion, Matthieu Letournel and Christophe Lavergne, as well as Oko, electric quartet with Nicolas Peoch (sax), Lionel Mauguen (guitar) and Alex Argouarc'h (bass). In 2007, Dékoeff, theatre piece featuring 14 dancers, Breton musicians and contemporary musicians (touring in Brittany and Poland). In 2010 he worked as part of the Hiatus company which involves theatre, dance and music in its creations.

In 2011, Nautilus, large ensemble of several side-projects including the ARCH exchange program with American musicians, amongst whom he's played with John Hébert, Michael Attias, Taylor Ho Bynum, Corey Wilkes, etc. Release in 2012, concerts at the Dynamo de Pantin, Jazz à Vannes, Atlantic Jazz Festival, etc. In 2012 he played jazz standards with the saxophonist Tony Pagano (in quartet with Jeff Alluin, piano, and Cyrille LePenven, double bass) and joined the pop-jazz-prog-rock band Moger. In 2013, Bonadventure Pencroff premiered at Chicago with Christophe Rocher (clarinet), Jeb Bishop (trombone), Rob Mazurek (cornet), Frédéric B. Briet (double bass) and Alexandre Pierrepont.



Léo Pellet: trombone

Born in 1989 into a family of musicians, Léo Pellet rapidly immersed himself in the performing arts with the Tutti Frutti company where he made his début on stage at the age of 4. Tutti Frutti currently stages shows all over France and Europe (Romania, Ireland, Italy, Spain, etc.).

He began the trombone at 9 years old and completed classical studies with a DEM at the conservatory at Montpellier, while also taking lessons with Serge Lazarevitch. He moved to Paris to join the Jazz class at the CRR with Denis Leloup as trombone teacher, and got his DEM in 2012. Still in jazz, he joined the CNSMDP in September 2013, and since then takes part in various projects such as PJ5, Laurent Cugny's big band le GEPW, the OJB led by Frank Tortiller, Les Rugissants, Ananke, etc.



Yann Lecollaire: clarinet

Born in 1978, Yann played drums for few years in the mountains in Drôme (Fr). Then, he graduated in classical clarinet and jazz at Avignon Conservatory of Music.

He taught clarinet and music theory at PRO MUSICA (le Thor), Arles, St Remy-de-Provence, Couthezon... He composed and recorded 2 albums with the group Fonetic (Benoist Bouvot, Tom Gareil, Benjamin Chaval) and played in Le sens de la marche, the great ensemble lead by Marc Ducret.

Since 2008, he's been living and working in Brussels, collaborating with various artists and in multiples artistic projects : he wrote and recorded music for the silent film *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra* by Ruppert Jullian ; wrote and played the music *La chandelle par les 2 bouts* a cycle of short films for the Short festival Court bouillon (Fr) ; participated in the creation of *88 constellations*, a piece of Thomas Turine, at the Balsamine (Brussels) ; recorded the music for the film *la bataille de l'eau noire* by Benjamin Hennot ; wrote the music for *face bouc*, a performance staged by Fabien Dariel at the VRAC (Brussels) ; made a soundtrack for a show at ESAC (Ecole supérieure des arts du Cirque) ; played with Mangalam, contemporary ensemble with students of the Ictus's school Manama (Brussels) ; wrote the music for *petite narration*, a piece based on a text by the Polish author Wojtek Ziemilski, at la Bellone (Brussels) ; participated to the electroacoustic project *Quadrilatère* ; participated on *Matters*, a Brussel based soundpainting collective. Wrote and played in *21 moineaux* with Sarah Klenes, a song project based on the poems by the english poet William Blake.

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