

# MEZCAL JAZZ UNIT

## CONCERT



### Contact:

**MEZCAL PRODUCTION**

*Licences Entrepreneur de spectacles n° 2-1036556 / 3-1036557*

**Res. Le Mandrous P, 3 rue de Clairval**

**34170 Castelnau-le-lez**

**e.mail: [elyzabeth.riley@gmail.com](mailto:elyzabeth.riley@gmail.com)**

**site : [www.mezcaljazzunit.com](http://www.mezcaljazzunit.com)**

**MEZCAL JAZZ UNIT** was founded in 1986 in Montpellier and is led by the bass player and composer, Emmanuel de Gouvello. The music reflects the singular and diverse identity of the group and its relevance to current European jazz streams

**MEZCAL JAZZ UNIT's** music is defined by the Mediterranean temperament of its musicians, the reminiscences of traditional melodies, an unabashed attraction for the Orient, a rock like energy and a sense of humor. The music goes from cool and reflective to joyous and explosive connecting to the audience with rare complicity.

**MEZCAL JAZZ UNIT** has performed in the following countries: France, Austria, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belorussia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Hungary, Romania, Moldavia, Ukraine, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Nigeria, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, China, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and USA.

Creative jazz projects were born from their travels and encounters with talented musicians from Eastern Europe, India, Asia, Africa or USA. Four of their ten albums are collaborations with some of these gifted artists, such as Bickram Ghosh the renowned tabla maestro with whom the group released the album, “ One,” in 2008 on the famed Saregama label. A second album will be recorded in 2018 as part of a new creative project with Bickram Ghosh including a tour in India and France organized by the French Cultural Services.

Two of their current projects are set in Asia with traditional musicians from Cambodia and Vietnam, the later featuring UNESCO designated gong players from Vietnam’s Central Highlands. For these projects Emmanuel de Gouvello arranges and composes melodies taking into consideration the specificity of the traditional instruments. The longest running collaboration, begun in 2011 with Native American musician and educator, Grayhawk Perkins has had seven tours to date in the USA and France. This cultural and educational project represents **MEZCAL JAZZ UNIT 's** commitment to education and cultural diversity through music.

But above all, **MEZCAL JAZZ UNIT** is a quartet that excels in live performances with the expertise and generosity of the musicians and the compositions that resonate with the composer’s myriad experiences from both *ici et ailleurs*, (here and afar.) A notion captured in the title of their last album of the same name.

# Concerts and tours

- 2018: Residency & Concerts in India featuring Bickram Ghosh for "Bonjour India" with the French Embassy in India
- 2017: European Music Festival, Hanoi, Vietnam  
"Mango Dream" tour in France. CD recording sessions.
- 2016: Residency & creation "Mango Dream" in Cambodia (Angkor, Phnom Penh) with Khmer musicians  
" Thirteen Moons" Tour, Louisiana, USA
- 2015: Tour in India (Bombay, Calcutta, Goa, Pondicherry, Bangalore, Chennai)  
" Thirteen Moons" Tour, Oregon & Washington, USA  
" Thirteen Moons" Tour in France (Languedoc, Paris, Reims)
- 2014: Tour in South East Asia & Indonesia ( Bali, Java, Bornéo, Cambodge, Vietnam)  
" Thirteen Moons" Tour USA (Louisiana, New York)
- 2013: Creation "Gap Lai Ban" in Vietnam (Hanoi, Saigon)  
Creation "Thirteen Moons" MJU + Grayhawk Perkins (USA)  
Residency & concerts in France. C.D recordings.
- 2012: Residency & creation "Thirteen Moons" with Grayhawk Perkins in Louisiana (New Orleans).  
Concerts in France. C.D "Ici et ailleurs"
- 2011 : Creation Franco-Lao in Laos (Vientiane).  
Concerts in China (Chengdu, Chongqing)  
Tour in USA & Central America (Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, San Salvador )
- 2010 : Residency in Fès, Morocco, creation « Mezcal Jazz Unit meets Morocco in Fès, Agadir, Paris
- 2010 : Tour in Russia (Oural, Sibérie). Residency & creation at Ekaterinbourg with Russian artists.  
Festival "Jazz on Baikal", Irkoutsk (Sibérie), festival "Izumrud Village", Ekaterinbourg (Oural)  
Residency & concerts in Paris & south of France with E'Joung-Ju, Korean artist
- 2009 : Residency & creation in Morocco  
Creation & C.D. recordings « Mezcal Jazz Unit / Shantu » at Kano Kamfest Festival 2009
- 2008 : Kano Kamfest 2008 (Nigéria). Concerts in Nigéria.  
Concerts in India (Calcutta, Delhi)
- 2007 : French tour « Tim Gio » (Paris, Languedoc, PACA, Bretagne)
- 2006 : Festival « Jazz à Vienne » (France).  
Hué Festival, Vietnam. Tour « Tim Gio » au Vietnam. Concert in Cambodia (Phnom Penh)  
Residency & creation "One" in India with Bickram Ghosh (Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Chenai)  
C.D. recordings for Saregama India
- 2005: 5°European Jazz Festival, Vietnam.. Creation & CD recordings « Tim Gio » with vietnamese artists  
Tours in Slovaquia, Tchek Republic
- 2004: 4°European Jazz Festival, Vietnam (Hanoi, Saigon).  
Rakosi Var Artistic Festival, Szerencs, Hongrie.  
Festival "Jazz à Ouaga, jazz à Bobo", Burkina Faso
- 2003: Concerts in Minsk, Biélorussia: Fête de la musique  
Tour in Hungary, Slovaquia, Germany
- 2002: Tour in Vietnam with AF de Hanoi (14 concerts), International Jazz Festival of Hanoi  
& Saigon. Residency in Hanoi.  
Kaunas Jazz Festival, Lithuania. Tour in Lithuania, Biélorussia, Latvia.  
Jazz Karnival Festival, Odessa, Ukrainia
- 2001: Concerts in Germany . Concert in Azerbaïdjan (Bakou).
- 2000: Residency in Cluj, Romania. Tour in Romania, Hugaruy et Austria.
- 1999: Tours in Germany, Poland, Tchek Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia (25 concerts incl. festivals)
- 1998: CD "in concerto" recorded live in Paris
- 1997 : Concerts in Paris (1 semaine), Espace Hérault
- 1996: Tour "Ignalina" South of France
- 1995: Creation "Ignalina" at Vilnius International Jazz Festival (Lithuania) + tour in Lithuania  
CD recordings "Ignalina" in Vilnius with Petras Vysniauskas. Tour in Morocco
- 1994: Tour Germany, Poland, Lithuania. Kaunas Jazz Festival, Lithuania & Torgau (Eastern Germany)  
Concerts in Paris (1 semaine), Espace Hérault
- 1993: Tour en Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Eastern Germany (13 concerts)
- 1992-90: Concert in France & Germany

# International music creations

## Cambodia / February 2016: "Mango Dream"



Artist's residency and concerts with Cambodian musicians from Cambodian Living Arts. New creative work based on Khmer melodies and original compositions. Made possible by grants from the Spedidam and the CNV

## Vietnam / December 2014: " Bahnars Gongs "



Musical encounter with traditional Bahnar ritual gong players from the Central Highlands. An Artist's residency and concert in Saigon.

## Vietnam / November 2013: "Gap Lai Ban"



Artist's residency and concerts in Vietnam with traditional Vietnamese musicians. Made possible with grants from the Institut Français and SPEDIDAM

## USA / France / June 2012 - Nov 2016: « Thirteen moons »



Artist's residencies and concert tours in Louisiana and France with Grayhawk Perkins, Muskogee Nation. Songs in the Mobilian Trade language. Made possible through grants from SPEDIDAM, ADAMI, the Languedoc Region and the US Embassy in Paris

## Laos / November 2011 : « Mezcal jazz Unit meets Laos »



Week long artist's residency at the Institut Français in Vientiane with traditional musicians and professors, Kamsuane et Khompeung. A musical creation combining traditional Laotian melodies and original compositions. The project made possible by grants from the Institut Français, the Languedoc Region and the SPEDIDAM

## Morocco / October 2010 : « Mezcal jazz Unit meets Maroc »



After an initial meeting in 2008 with Fez violinist Aziz El Achhab, a residency was held in Fez for a new creation project along with the darbouka player Mohamed Mouhib. Performances in Morocco, (Fez, Agadir, Ifrane) and in Paris France. With the support of the SPEDIDAM, and the IF of Fez

## Russie / May-June 2010 : Creation in Russia with « Izumrud »



While touring in Russia in 2010, Mezcal Jazz Unit meets the group Izumrud for an artist's residency at the Théâtre Académique de la Comédie Musicale in Ekaterinbourg (Oural). The work ended with a concert by the two groups in a world music festival "Emerald City" With the support of the SPEDIDAM

## France / January-December 2010 : Creation with « E'Joung-Ju »



After a residency in January in Montpellier, the group gives concerts in April and December 2010 in Paris and in the South of France. . E'Joung-Ju is a South Korean musician, who specializes in the "Gomounggo," a traditional Korean instrument.

## Nigéria / February 2009 : « Shantu »



After a first meeting in 2008, at the Kano Music Festival, under the direction of François Jeanneau, Mezcal Jazz Unit and « Shantu » composed of 8 Nigerian woman singers and percussionists in the Hausa tradition created a new piece for the 2009 edition of the same festival. A C.D. "Shantu" was recorded and produced during the residency in Kano. Made possible by grants from the SPEDIDAM and numerous Nigerian and French sponsors.

## Inde / April 2006 -March 2008 : « One »



“ One” is the result of a two-week artist’s residency in Calcutta with 3 Indian musicians, directed by Bickram Ghosh , Ravi Shankar’s well-known tabla player. “ One” was given in concert across India from 2006- 2008 (Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta. ) The C. D. was recorded in the prestigious HMV Studio in Calcutta on the famous Indian label, « Saregama India ». The label organized a promotional tour in 2008. With the support of the Languedoc Region and SPEDIDAM.



## Vietnam / December 2005 –October 2007: « Tim Gio »



Following 2 tours and residencies in Vietnam in 2002 and 2004 ,Mezcal Jazz Unit decides to make a C.D, « Tim Gio » with the celebrated Vietnamese saxophonist Tran Manh Tuan and three Vietnamese traditional music virtuosos. Created in 2005 for the Saigon Jazz festival, the concert was also performed at the famous Hue City festival in 2006, with a French tour in 2007. Made possible through grants from SPEDIDAM, FCM, JAM and the SCAC , Saigon.

## Vietnam / December 2004: « Siu Black & Mezcal Jazz Unit »



At the initiative of Dominique Lhuillier, director of the Espace, the French Cultural Center in Hanoi, Mezcal Jazz Unit is joined in residency by Siu Black a Vietnamese singer from the central Highlands for a special project to close the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Jazz festival in Hanoi. Siu Black is especially appreciated in Hanoi for her strong and bluesy voice. With the support of the SPEDIDAM and the ADAMI

## **Vietnam / December 2002: « Mezcal Jazz Unit invites Ngoc Dai»**



In the first trip to Vietnam in December 2002, Mezcal Jazz Unit meets up with the controversial Vietnamese composer Ngoc Dai. A first part of our concerts is created with a repertoire composed especially for Mezcal Jazz Unit by Ngoc Dai and including the pianist Vu Van Tien. Concerts in Hanoi, Hue, Hoi An, Da Nang. Made possible by grants from the SPEDIDAM and the FCM

## **Romania / May 2000: « Residency in Cluj-Napoca »**



During a tour in Romania and Moldavia in 2000, we were in residency in Cluj-Napoca where we had the opportunity to meet up with several young and talented Romanian musicians, one of them the flutist Cezar Cazanoi, an expert in Romanian Music, but also very open to improvisation and has since become a recognized master. A creation was planned but hasn't yet taken place. Made possible by grants from the Hérault District, FCM, and the SPEDIDAM

## **Lithuania / November 1995 – March 1996: Creation « Ignalina »**



The first big international adventure; After 2 tours in the Baltic States, a creation for the Vilnius International Jazz Festival takes place with the enormous Petras Vysniauskas (sax soprano) and the very inspired guitarist Augis Jonavicius.

At the same time the C.D. « Ignalina » was recorded in a studio in Vilnius.

The « Ignalina » tour in the South of France in March 1996. Made possible by a grant from the Hérault District, the SPEDIDAM, ADAMI, and the FCM.

*Several C.D. have come from these international encounters: « Ignalina » (1995), « Tim Gio » (2005), « One » (2008), « Shantu » (2009), « Thirteen moons » (2014).*



# The Band

**Emmanuel de GOUVELLO** : composer & band leader

*Fretless Bass*



**Christophe AZEMA**

*Saxophones*



**Jean Marie FREDERIC**

*Guitars*



**Daniel SOLIA**

*Drums*



## Discography:



« THIRTEEN MOONS » 2014



« ICI ET AILLEURS » 2012



« SHANTU » 2009



« ONE » 2008



« TIM GIO » 2006



« BEST OF #1 » 2005



« MOT HAI BA BON » 2004



« IN CONCERTO » 1998



« IGNALINA » 1996



« 'ATCHE DE ! » 1992