

"Thirteen Moons"

GrayHawk, from New Orleans & Mezcal Jazz Unit, from France



Thirteen Moons is original musical collaboration featuring New Orleans musician **GrayHawk Perkins**, a Native American of the Choctaw and Houma Nations, and **Mezcal Jazz Unit**, a French Jazz quartet.

This project begins with a residency in New Orleans in June 2012. At the heart of this collaboration is a unique collection of chants in the Mobilian^(*) trade language.

The compositions by GrayHawk, based on traditional songs refer to the thirteen moons of the Native American calendar. To choose to put these songs at the center of the collaboration between musicians of different cultures and musical backgrounds in a language historically used to break down barriers and foster understanding is a deliberate move to restore and honor the language and the people that used it. The music resulting from this unique collaboration will take the audience by surprise; incorporating the Native American chants into the diverse musical realms of the artists.

^(*) Mobilian was used as a *lingua franca* among Native American groups living along the Gulf of Mexico around the time of the European settlement of the region. Mobilian facilitated trade between tribes speaking different languages as well as with European settlers.

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GrayHawk Perkins, a New Orleans-born Native American (Choctaw and Houma Indian), is a well known cultural figure in Louisiana, and has been described as a 21st century renaissance man. In addition to performing music on stage since childhood, he is also an educator, historian, and 'tribal storyteller', recognized as an expert on Native American and American Colonial history. In the film industry, he has worked both as an actor and as historical consultant to numerous films shot in the Southern United States. GrayHawk's songwriting skills, and strong backbeat percussion has been influenced by bands like Coco Robicheaux, the Neville Brothers, The Who and the Kinks, to name a few.

He performs often as a solo artist at both Jazz Fest and the Voodoo Experience Music Festival and has been involved in the Louisiana music industry for decades. Recently, he was honored by St. Tammany Parish as Cultural Artist of the Year for 2010 in

the field of music.

"Mezcal Jazz Unit", lead by **Emmanuel de Gouvello** has been playing out of Montpellier in the South of France since 1986. The band plays its own original music with diverse influences in line with mainstream French Jazz. Here, the word "jazz" should be understood in its largest signification: meaning having no musical conformism, openness, and an ability to integrate other musical trends and adventures...



The band has performed in numerous tours in countries such as France, Austria, Germany, Poland, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Byelorussia, Hungary, Romania, Moldavia, Ukraine, Morocco, USA, Central America, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Azerbaijan, India, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and often collaborates with traditional musicians. Emmanuel de Gouvello on bass and compositions, Christophe Azema on saxs, Vivian Peres on drums, Jean Marie Frédéric on guitar.

www.mezcaljazzunit.com

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