

OPEN | WAYS

PRODUCTIONS



Photo: Jérôme Prébois

LOTUS FLOWERS

An evocation in music and homage to the extra-ordinary women and men who stand as beacons and fight for our world's social, political, environmental, artistic and scientific causes.

ARTISTS' LINE-UP



ANGELIKA NIESCIER
Alto Saxophone



BRUNO ANGELINI
Piano, Compositions



SAKINA ABDOU
Tenor Saxophone

NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER

WAYNE AND THE LOTUS

Following the passing of my favorite musician, Wayne Shorter, I saw a very beautiful documentary devoted to him on the 'Arte' tv channel. Wayne Shorter has always accompanied my artistic journey. I intensely adore his music, his depth, his atypism, his taste for risk when he goes on stage. As a listener, I had my most beautiful emotions of music thanks to him.

At the start of the documentary he says, "The lotus flower is the only one to grow in the marsh, which is like the world, troubled and muddy, populated by dangerous creatures. It is the only flower whose stem and flower, that is to say the mother and the child appear at the same time: the cause and the effect are simultaneous. And above all, when the flower blooms in the muddy marsh, all around the stem, the water clears up! The lotus is a symbol of light!"

EXEMPLARY WOMEN AND MEN

This allegory joined my current reflections with beautiful synchronicity on the state of our world, and made me think that among us, there are exemplary women and men who are our guiding lights or have been our "lotus flowers" , and that we need them, more than ever.

Indeed, faced with the damage caused by decades of ultra-liberal policy, I have the feeling that we are in danger, socially, ecologically, economically, culturally, not to mention the extreme right at our doors. The solutions needed for living well and together no longer seem to come from the political fields but rather from social, political, environmentalist activism, artistic expression, the work of scientists, the words of certain intellectuals...

We must therefore rely on ourselves and our "lotus flowers" to try to protect our planet, share the resources fairly, pacify the relationships between men so as not to let ourselves be drawn into sterile antagonisms.

I think we can recognize the "lotus flowers" when they interact among us. Wayne Shorter was one for me, as his art was deep, of great spiritual dimension. Also Jane Addams of Chicago, a pioneer in the defense of the rights of women and children; Berta Cacères who lost her life, murdered, and her daughter Laura who resumed the fight against a project to build a harmful hydraulic dam in Honduras; Nelson Mandela who came to power with no hatred after having been imprisoned for so long, the scientists of The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) who continue to alert us and give us solutions to avoid global warming...

A DEDICATION THROUGH MUSICAL REPERTOIRE

It is by thinking of them that I write my new repertoire, in order to contribute, however little be it, to the dissemination of their message. In music.

- BRUNO ANGELINI

Wayne Shorter



Bruno Bollaert [imaginary JAZZ . net]

Rosa Parks



Jane Addams



MISS JANE ADDAMS SPEAKING FROM THE CAR PLATFORM
At every station between Chicago and Springfield one of the women on board the "Special" addressed the people.

Nelson Mandela



Berta Cacères



Laura Cacères



THE MUSIC

I chose two magnificent musicians to create this project with me: Sakina Abdou on tenor saxophone and Angelika Niescier on alto saxophone (**WINNER of the Deutscher Jazzpreis 2024, WOODWINDS category**).

The heart of our repertoire comprises of committed melodies, interpreted with a raw lyricism, a lot of freedom, sometimes unstructured, with a sound and an aesthetic close to free jazz imbued with Blues.

REFERENCES AND ARTISTIC CONTINUITY

My musical references for this creation are for example the duo Archie Shepp/Dollar Brand, The ballad of the fallen by Charlie Haden and Carla Bley, the quartet by Don Pullen, Crescent by John Coltrane, Lost in a dream by Paul Motian, Cecil Taylor , the solo of Sakina Abdou, the New York trio of Angelika Niescier...

This work is also part of an artistic continuity for me with certain themes addressed in my thematic disc "Transatlantic Roots" where I evoked in music the destiny of Rosa Parks (Rosa and the thorns) or the social commitment of Jack London (From one continent to another).

VIDEO LINKS

[Concert extracts - Lotus Flowers trio, live at Le Comptoir de Fontenay.](#)

[L'art de la paix - Lotus Flowers trio](#)

AUDIO LINKS

[Elevation, Les Sens](#)

Elevation is dedicated to the great musician Wayne Shorter; Les sens is dedicated to the French poet and resistant Paul Eluard.

[Race for the Earth](#)

Race for the Earth is dedicated to Bert Bolin, one of the founders of the GEIC, and to Wangari Maathai "The mother of trees."

[L'art de la paix](#)

L'art de la paix (The Art of Peace) is dedicated to the immense Nelson Mandela.

CALENDAR 2024-25

- **ARTIST RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

March 18 to 21, 2024: Silo, Méréville, France

January to March 2024: Workshops with the Conservatoire d'Étampes, France

From June 3 to 5, 2024: L'Osons jazz club, Lurs, France

- **CONCERTS**

March 22: Le Silo, Méréville

April 5: Le Comptoir, Fontenay-sous-Bois

June 6: AJMI, Avignon

June 7: Jazzdor festival, Berlin

June 8: L'Osons jazz club, Lurs

November 15: Jazzdor festival, Strasbourg

- **RECORDING**

June 10 and 11, 2024 at Studios La Buissonne, Pernes-les-Fontaines

PARTNERS

Production: Association SolAnge

Co-production: Le Silo

Artist residence: Le Silo; The Osons jazz club of Lurs



PRESS REVIEWS



BRUNO ANGELINI Trio “Lotus Flowers”

Fontenay-sous-Bois, Musiques au Comptoir, April 5, 2024, 9 p.m.

The Halle Roublot club is hosting a world creation this evening: it is the very first concert of this new project with unusual instrumentation. A native from Lille, Sakina Abdou, nourished by influences of the AACM in Chicago (Association for the advancement of creative musicians), she was also noticed both in Ève Risser's Red Desert Orchestra and in a duo with Raymond Boni. And the German saxophonist has New York connections to Ralph Alessi and Tyshawn Sorey. Two ideal partners for music committed to freedom, expressiveness and lyricism. In the first track we hear the memory of Shorter, but also a mixture of gentle expressiveness and daring flights, of infinite nuances and supercharged bursts. Further on in the music, the voice of Rosa Parks will emerge. Each new figure will bring out this mixture of offensive music, which does not hesitate to rise to the level of audacity, and also sometimes tense harmonizations, improvised counterpoints or dizzying nuances, which is enough to tell us that we are in the sphere of Great Art. A formidable dramaturgy is discovered in the unfolding of each of the pieces of music. Audience won over, just like the columnist, and some musician friends who clearly did not want to miss this event. As an encore it will be The Art of Peace, an evocation of Nelson Mandela, with the voice of the South African leader.

A beautiful story was born at the Comptoir de Fontenay, a story whose following pages will be written from June 3 to 5 in residence at L'osons Jazz Club de Lurs (Alpes de-Haute-Provence), then in concert on June 6 'AJMI in Avignon, on the 7th at the Jazzdor festival in Berlin, on the 8th at L'osons Jazz Club, and on the 10th at the Studio de La Buissonne, in Vaucluse, to record a disc. What a joy to have been able to witness the blossoming of this magnificent adventure!

-Xavier Prévost / JAZZMAGAZINE

<https://www.jazzmagazine.com/les-news/actus/bruno-angelini-lotus-flowers-trio/>



The Free Jazz Collective

Reviews of Free Jazz and Improvised Music

Jazzdor 16, June 4-7, 2024

The final day of the festival ended with three quite different groups, the affecting Lotus Flower Trio, La Main's angular post-rock jazz of, and the Emile Parisien 4tet's energetic modern jazz

Of the three, the **Lotus Flower Trio** was the most unexpected. The trio, comprised of pianist Bruno Angelini and saxophonists Sakina Abdou and Angelika Niescier, were making their German premiere. The group's name draws on an idea (and a song) from the composer and saxophonist Wayne Shorter who embraced the the lotus flower on his album *Emanon*, which he explained as "the lotus exists only in the swamp, in our world of turmoil, and the blooming flower purifies the water around it." Indeed, Angelini's compositions for the group effectively connected sounds to the impressions of people who have shone a light of resistance through darkness, embracing figures such as civil rights activist Rosa Parks, environmentalist Berta Cacérés, and anti-apartheid activist and politician Nelson Mandela.

The opening song, apparently a Wayne Shorter piece, featured flowing piano with a gentle, pendulous lilt. Then the saxophonists came in with a melody that rode the expressive melodic contours. The next song, started by Niescier, was a more energetic piece full of short, explosive phrases. The two woodwinds provided a wonderful contrast, as Abdou's tenor provided a subtler solo to Niescier's edgier approach. Later in the program, Abdou's exuberant solo and near vocalizations were captivating, as was Angelini's own solo spot, which veered into a classical styles while still making reference to jazz. The final piece was the most arresting, starting with an intense furnace-blast of free playing that resolved into a gentle, nurturing melody. The overall impression, aside of course from the impressive musicianship, was the emotional level that the group reached repeatedly through the set.

-Paul Acquaro`

<https://www.freejazzblog.org>



Lotus Flower Trio. Photo (c) Ulla C. Binder



For this fourth and last evening of the Jazzdor festival in Berlin, Philippe Ochem has scheduled three exciting French groups, with as a closing and as a final bouquet, the Emile Parisian quartet.

It was the "Lotus Flower" trio of the pianist and composer Bruno Angelini who opened this evening. A strongly singular trio (piano, alto saxophone and tenor saxophone) with two exceptional breaths: the Polish Angelika Niescier with the viola and the French Sakina Abdou to the tenor.

Bruno Angelini is a humanist and committed artist, the global project is a tribute to one of his idols: Wayne Shorter and each composition is dedicated to a personality of the world of art, politics or science, including those who work for peace in the world, climate or feminism: Nelson Mandela, the scientists of the IPCC, the feminist Jane Addams or the ecologist Berta Caceès.

Inspired and aerial music that leaves a lot of space to the musicians in the absence of rhythm, around a program for which we would vote with our eyes closed in this electoral period!

-LIONEL ESKENAZI

<https://www.jazzmagazine.com>



Photo : Lionel Eskenazi

BIOGRAPHIES

BRUNO ANGELINI



Bruno Angelini is an atypical pianist, with a very personal universe as a composer and musician. Anchored in the culture of jazz and contemporary music, he is an inventive pianist and keyboardist, constantly seeking to push the sound possibilities of his instrument.

He was born in 1965 in Marseille. After studying the classic piano at the conservatory, he joined Guy Longnon's Jazz class in Marseille. Between 1990 and 1993, he continued his jazz training in Paris at "Le Centre d'informations musicales, CIM" in the class of Samy Abenaïm, with whom he continued the study of pianistic technique, of the classical and contemporary repertoire until 1998.

A major figure today of the European jazz scene, Bruno Angelini has initiated and participated in many projects since the late 1990s.

He was the winner of the **2018 Jazz « Coup de cœur »** award from the Charles Cros Academy, for his album **Open Land** and the prestigious **Grand Prix Charles Cros**

2021 for the album "Hors Temps" by Edward Perraud. His album *Transatlantic Roots* was chosen amongst the "**Best of 2021**" by **Jazz Magazine & Jazz News** editors.

Bruno Angelini is currently playing in several groups including: "Lotus Flowers" Trio with Sakina Abdou and Angelika Niescier, "Open Land" with Régis Huby, Claude Tchamitchian and Edward Perraud, "Transatlantic Roots" with Fabrice Martinez and Éric Echampard, "Hors Temps" by Edward Perraud with Arnault Cuisinier; "Madame Monsieur en forme Olympique" a Cinema-Concert with Maelle Desbrosses, Antoine Berjeaut, Hélène Labarriere, Samuel Ber, "Vortice" by Claude Tchamitchian with Catherine Delaunay and Christophe Monniot, "The musicians of Sempé" with Benoit Marchand and the String Quartet of the Normandy Regional Orchestra.

Since 2019, he has been performing a solo piano project with an original electronic device, which allows him to loop and transform the acoustic sounds of the piano, in a program dedicated to the cinema of Sergio Leone: "Leone Alone 2.0."

His career has led him to play with many musicians such as: Kenny Wheeler, Riccardo Del Fra, Ichiro Onoe, Reggie Workman, Andrew Cyrille, Ramon Lopez, Giovanni Falzone, Francesco Bearzatti, Thierry Peala, Joe Fonda, Jeff Boudreaux, Sebastien Texier, Christophe Marguet, Philippe Poussard, Jean-Jacques Avenel, John Betch, Norma Winstone, Jean-Philippe Viret, Gérard Lesne, Marc Ducret, Olivier Benoit, Eric Echampard, Jean-Charles Richard, Mauro Gargano, Fabrice Moreau, Stephan Oliva, Xavier Desandre, Jean-Luc Cappozzo, Joe Rosenberg, Julien Augier, Jason Palmer, Christopher Thomas, Louis Sclavis, Paolo Fresu, Luca Aquino ...

Composer for cinema and television, he has written, in particular, the original music for documentaries and films by Hélène Milano: "Nos amours de Viege", "Les roses noirs", "Les charbons ardents" and "Dans la tête d'un zebre".

He teaches improvisation, solo and trio jazz piano at the Bill Evans Piano Academy (Paris) since 1996. He has been teaching a workshop at the 'Jazz in Marciac' since 2023.

In 2020-21, Bruno Angelini was the artist associated with La Fraternelle de Saint-Claude (Jura). Since 2022, he is the artist-in-residence at the Georges Simenon theater and cinema in Rosny sous Bois, France.

BRUNO ANGELINI- SELECTIVE DISCOGRAPHY

Nearly Nothing, Almost Everything

La Buissonne 2022

Transatlantic Roots

Vision Fugitive 2021

La dernière nuit

AE Records 2019

Black Moon

Cristal Records 2019

Open Land

La Buissonne 2018

Travelling High

Fresh sound 2017

Equal Crossing

Abalone production 2016

Leone Alone

Illusions 2015

Instant sharings

La Buissonne 2015

Resolution

Quark records 2014

IF duo Songs vol. 2

Abalone productions 2012

Move is

Rethink ART records 2010

Sweet Raws Suite etc...

Abalone productions 2010

So Now?...

Sans bruit 2009

Itrane

Abalone Productions 2008

New York city sessions

Sans bruit 2007

IF duo Songs vol. 1

Syntonie 2007

Never alone

Minium 2006

Empreintes

Sketch 2003

Inner traces

Naive 2000

ANGELIKA NEISCIER



Angelika Niescier is one of those exceptional musicians who has been redefining for some time the contours of the European jazz scene. An artist on a mission, with overflowing energy, the rich palette of colors and the virtuoso technique.

Born in Poland, she resides in Cologne, Germany, where she studied at the **Folkwanghochschule Essen**.

She worked with Joachim Kühn, Tyshawn Sorey, Kris Davis, Gerry Hemingway, Nasheet Waits, Tomeka Reid, Jim Black, Sylvie Courvoisier, Ralph Alessi, Ernie Watts, Soweto Kinch, Iiro Rantala, Julia Hülsmann and Gerald Cleaver than a few.

As a conductor and composer, she has won some of the most prestigious prizes, e.g. **WDR Jazz Award**, the **German Jazz Award (Albert-Mangelsdorff-Preis)**, **Echo Jazz**, **several times Vierteljahrespreis Der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik** and was an artist in residence in Moers (D), Kuala Lumpur (My) and Tarabya (TR).

She works for broadcasting and television companies such as Bayerischer Rundfunk, WDR, Radio Bremen, SWR, HR and RBB.

As an internationally renowned musician, she travels to many countries to interpret her music, e.g. At Winter Jazzfest New York, UNRHört! Zürcher Jazzfestival, Vancouver International Jazzfestival, Jazzfest Berlin, jazzfestival Molde, at Elbphilharmonie, Philharmonie Berlin and Philharmonie Essen. She represents her country in many different contexts around the world.

Angelika Niescier has an irresistible desire for artistic development and exchange, which makes her musical journey rich in inspiring meetings and leads to multiple works and collaborations with dance, orchestra and choir, cinema and theater.

SAKINA ABDOU



A musician and artist of 'polyforms', Sakina Abdou has been committed since the last 14 years, to the life of musician collectives from the Lille metropolis and explores jazz, free improvisation and experimental music. She studied in parallel the recorder (ancient/contemporary music), the saxophone (classical/contemporary/jazz), the Plastic Arts (DNAP, DNSEP) and pedagogy (de).

Advancing head-on in wide and eclectic aesthetic fields, her journey leads her even today, to survey the paths of written and improvised music with flexibility and a definite taste for exchange with musicians.

Devoting herself to the activity of concertists since 2019, she multiplies projects and performs on a national and international scale. Under the invitation of the New York label "**Relative Pitch Records**" and the support of "**Face Foundation**", she recorded and carried under her name her first solo "**Goodbye Ground**" with which she toured across two continents in 2022. Selected by the "**The Bridge**" system, she deepened her connection with the USA through a Franco-American meeting project with Ugochi Nwaogwugwu and Coco Elysees, both from the **AACM** in Chicago, with Julien Pontvianne and Julien Chamla. She also crossed paths with **Seb Rochford** during meetings in London with John Leafcutter and Oren Marshall.

In 2023 she joined the Hamma quintet of **Camel Zekri** alongside Claude Tchamitchian, Guylaine Cosseron, Eric Echampard and the trio currently in preparation "Lotus Flowers" by pianist **Bruno Angelini** alongside the German saxophonist Angelika Niescier. Of Franco-Nigerian origin, she is about to start a collaboration with drum players from Nigeria under the leadership of the **CNCM Athenor**. She was also noticed in the porous and poetic writing of the "Red Desert Orchestra" by **Eve Risser**, the post M-Base ciselung of "**11:11 am**", the free jazz maloya of "big sorcerer" by **Stéphane Hoareau** and the spatialized groove of "rotary thoughts" by **Théo Girard** (Paris). She draws from the corners of jazz and traditional music from "Organik Orkestra" by **Kristof Hiriart** and **Jérémie Ternoy** (North/Basque Country), the minimalist repetitive music of "It starts with the walking" of the latter (Lille) and cultivates the universe of avant-garde pop with the **Mogger Orchestra** (Brittany).

Since 2007, she has joined the collective "**Muzzix**" with the "**La Pieuvre**" orchestra led by Olivier Benoit and has met artists like Satoko Fujii, Guigou Chenevier, Kasper Toeplitz, Michael Pisaro, Anthony Pateras, Tom Johnson, the visual artist videographer Clio Simon, and the composer Pierre-Yves Macé. Alongwith Jean-Baptiste Rubin, she has formed an experimental duo "**Bi-Ki?**" an album produced by Jean-Luc Guionnet. She also a disc on the edge of happening and field recording "something in the middle" (2016). She regularly collaborates with the **Dédalus** ensemble, participates in the minimalist improvised trio "**Abdou Dang Orins**" and recorded in 2022 the very free jazz disc "Sources" with the guitarist **Raymond Boni**.

CONTACTS

Artistic Direction : Bruno Angelini

angelini.bruno8@gmail.com ; +33 6 83 84 67 99

Booking (Germany) : Constanze Schliebs

asianetwork@web.de ; +49 170 5827437 , +49 30 61285671

Booking (France): Rosa Ferreira

rosa@openways-productions.fr ; +33 6 60 97 24 43

Administration : Sidonie Lerer

administration@brunoangelini.com ; +33 6 70 07 06 73



www.brunoangelini.com