

BIBI AHMED 4TET

Tuareg blues / NIGER-FRANCE

PRESS PACK



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Created in 1996 by Nigerien guitarist Bibi Ahmed, *Group Inerane* (*Sublime Frequencies* label) is representative of the Tuareg revolutionary music that sweeps over the Sahara desert. Their music is a political weapon, inspired by the rebel musicians from the Libyan refugee camps in the 1980s and 1990s. Eager for encounters and innovations, the group members evolve over time. As part of a residency of creation in Marseilles in 2014, organised by L'Embobineuse to record an album, a new band is born: **BIBI AHMED 4TET**.

It gathers two members of *Group Inerane* - the enigmatic guitar hero Bibi Ahmed and his fellow Ikali Adam - and two Marseilles-based musicians, drummer Ahmad Compaoré and bass player Aurélien Arnoux. With an authentic view to explore their respective musical backgrounds, they deliver a unique blend of rock, blues, folk and Tuareg tradition, amplified by electric guitars with psychedelic overtones that make it unrivalled. At the crossroads of contemporary and traditional music, a hypnotic blues like an antithesis to formatted "world music".

Bibi Ahmed: electric guitar, voice

Ikali Adam: electric guitar, voice

Ahmad Compaoré: drums

Aurélien Arnoux: electric bass



Bibi Ahmed 4tet at Le Café du Cours, Reillanne - 2016 © Jo Vervoort

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Bibi Ahmed & Ikali Adam

A Tuareg musician of Nigerien nationality, Bibi Ahmed created **Group Inerane** aged 17, carrying the rich tradition of Tamasheq guitar songs for another generation. In keeping with the great ensembles of Tuareg music (*Tinariwen*, *Terakaft*, *Tamikrest*), the band is very active in the Sahara and in West Africa.

If their background is inseparable from political turmoil and personal tragedy, their music still sounds like what it started out as: namely social music intended for dancing and celebrations, with trance-inducing exuberant songs, incarnation of the Tuareg's voice for hope and equality.



Representatives of a thousand-year-old culture, integral part of the heritage of humanity, Bibi Ahmed and Ikali Adam carry a richness that needs to be passed on to anyone able to grasp its inexpressible treasures. And today in France and in Europe, a wide audience is willing to appreciate this authenticity shaped by the desert winds...

DISCOGRAPHY

2014 - "Akaline Tigida" - Bibi Ahmed 4tet (L'Embob Prod / Musique Rebelle)

2010 - "Guitars from Agadez Vol. 3" - Group Inerane (Sublime Frequencies)

2007 - "Guitars from Agadez : Music of Niger" - Group Inerane (Sublime Frequencies)

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Ahmad Compaoré

Drummer, percussionist, composer and improviser, Ahmad Compaoré is an unmissable musician. Of Egyptian and Burkinabé origins, he has developed a career just like his personal history, based upon cultural encounters. In the early 1990s, he met **Fred Frith** in Marseilles for the creation of the rock opera "Helter Skelter" and got to know many of the musicians he has collaborated with since: **Marc Ribot**, **Jamaaladeen Tacuma**, the late **Tom Cora** and **Michel Petrucciani**, **Ikue Mori**, **Barre Phillips** and many others. After a two-year drum course at the *Centre Musical & Créatif de Nancy* (M.A.I.) from which he graduated in 1995, he took part in the residencies of percussionist **Makoto Yabuki** and balafonist **Mahama Konaté** in Marseilles.



Founding member of the legendary trio ***Oriental Fusion***, he appears on over 30 albums and has performed all around the world: Germany, Spain, Japan, United States, Morocco, Egypt, India, Madagascar... But this wealth of encounters is not limited to mere musical creation: during the 2000s, he started to work and compose for theatre, cinema and dance, mainly with Egyptian choreographer **Karima Mansour**. Twice recipient of the Culturesfrance "Hors les Murs" award, he lived in India in 2005 then in Japan in 2008 as part of residencies of creation.

Creator of the ***Musique Rebelle*** label, Ahmad Compaoré teaches drums and contemporary percussion at the Friche la Belle de Mai, his place of residence in Marseilles. While giving concerts and master classes, he continues his journey on the road of rhythms, those of a musician without borders. Involved in many projects, he is currently a drummer within Lucky Peterson's quartet.

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Aurélien Arnoux

Passionate about free jazz and blues, Aurélien Arnoux was trained at The New School in New-York following his encounter with improviser and double bass player **Barre Phillips**. Back in Marseilles, he won the First Prize of the Jazz class at the *Conservatoire National de Région*. Guitarist, bassist, improviser and composer, he favours creations, getting involved in multidisciplinary projects (music, dance, theatre) with companies such as *Les Bancs Publics*, *Incidence* and *La Force Molle*, and also composing film scores. Over the last 10 years, he has collaborated with **Raphaël Imbert**, **Rez Abbasi**, **Philippe Renault**, **Marion Rampal** and **Mama Ohandja** among others, as well as experimental bands like *Das Simple*, *Oust!* and *Manuchello*.
<https://myspace.com/aurelienarnoux>



Concert by Bibi Ahmed 4tet at Le Café du Cours, Reillanne - 2016 © Jo Vervoort

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Concert by Bibi Ahmed 4tet at L'Embobineuse, Marseilles - 2014 © Pixxo

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