

LA BOÎTE À MUSIQUE

Artistic direction: Ahmad Compaoré

PRESS PACK



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La Boîte à Musique (The Music Box) is a voluntary association created in March 1999 with the aim of promoting actions of awareness to music and beyond, the spreading of these actions. It is located at the Friche la Belle de Mai in Marseilles since 2004.

Object:

- Music awareness and learning for children through musical awakening
- Training and practice of various musical disciplines open to all
- Creation, production, promotion, distribution and publishing of musical productions

Presentation:

For over 20 years, drummer and composer Ahmad Compaoré - the artistic director of *La Boîte à Musique* - has been striving to enrich the local musical heritage, increase encounters and cross experiences, by setting up projects with musicians from various backgrounds and of international scope.

The wish to promote Marseilles and to highlight its richness shows itself through professional artists invited to work there as part of residencies of creation and enables those who live there to discover the specificities which fuel creativity.

Besides, thanks to the musical practice workshops started in 1996, *La Boîte à Musique* aims to awaken among children the wish to discover music, learn and carry out projects, while stimulating their imagination and developing their personality. This approach led to the formation of the "Musique Rebelle Junior" collective, gathering the most efficient pupils to participate in end-of-year shows and other artistic events.

Activities:

- Musical practice workshops given at the *Friche la Belle de Mai* and in several schools and community centers of the region (Marseilles, Aix, Avignon, Aubagne).
- Drum and contemporary percussion classes (private or group) provided by Ahmad Compaoré and Vincent De Block: how to go beyond sheer technique to give an interpretation.
- Live promotion: "Musique Rebelle" festival, party-concerts, public rehearsals, end-of-year shows with the workshop participants.
- Artist career development, booking and concert production.
- Hosting of artists in residence and supply of technical facilities.

MUSICAL PRACTICE WORKSHOPS

If it is a known fact that musical expression is a source of small children's personality development, it is also established that its practice requires skilled training staff, able to share a sensibility. The development of the classes and workshops, under conditions appropriate to listening and exchange, benefits from the influence of the Friche la Belle de Mai, attractive and well-known cultural centre in Marseilles.

The aim here is to give anyone the opportunity to explore the sound field and via a didactic and fun approach, to become the creator as well as the actor of sound.

This long-term process involves children from the age of six and accompanies them until the age of fifteen. Indeed, the classes are designed in such a way to follow the children through from primary school to college, emphasizing the value of continuity.

From introduction to music to instrument making, including listening, discovery of sound parameters, collective play, improvisation as well as relating to the public - not forgetting the interactivity essential to this kind of action - the issue here is to be all ears and to grasp sound environment as a whole.

For the same reasons, the technical requirements are a primary element regarding the quality of the work carried out: for example, purchasing instruments is essential to ensure that the musical approach is right, arouses curiosity and generate the desire to learn more.

Beyond the educational aspect of this initiative, and through the proposed teaching methods, the participants are led to sharpen their judgement, support their point of view and share their knowledge, thus giving them a wider vision of their environment...



WORKSHOPS PROGRAMME

Schools & colleges:

Duration: 2 hours per week over 15 weeks
Period: During school time
Location: On the premises or at the studio *La Boîte à Musique*
Instructor: Ahmad Compaoré or Vincent De Block (+ accompanying adult required)

Cultural & social centres and multimedia libraries:

Duration: 2 hours per week over 15 weeks
Period: Outside school time (school time adjustment plan, holidays...)
Location: On the premises or at the studio *La Boîte à Musique*
Instructor: Ahmad Compaoré or Vincent De Block (+ accompanying adult required)

Programme:

- Perception of silence
- Discovery of sound environment
- Sound environment listening
- Games on colours, games on words
- Sound recognition
- Sound creation
- Listening of sounds created
- Discovery of musical parameters
- Initiation to rhythm
- Electroacoustic sound games
- Initiation to instruments
- Instrument making
- Collective play
- Improvisations
- Recordings
- Year-end shows

Each session leaves a large place for the initiative of all children and fundamentally integrates the participation of each one. The method is based on the children's spontaneity and their ability to fit in and to use the sound equipment at their disposal.

For further details, please contact:

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Ahmad COMPAORÉ

DRUMMER - COMPOSER - IMPROVISER

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PROFILE

Drummer, percussionist, composer and improviser, Ahmad Compaoré is an unmissable musician. With feet, fists and hands, he strikes, whips and strokes the brass of the cymbals, the skin of his drums where power and freedom make up the essentials of his playing. Of Egyptian and Burkinabé origins, he has developed a career just like his personal history, based upon cultural encounters.

In the early 1990s, he meets Fred Frith in Marseilles for the creation of the rock opera "Helter Skelter" and gets to know many musicians with whom he collaborates 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 graduates in 1995, he takes part in the residencies of percussionist Makoto Yabuki and balafonist Mahama Konaté in Marseilles. With a constant craving for exploration and discovery, he joins a groove band from Senegal (1996) and later on the band of Reunion Island singer and composer Ti Fock (1998). Founding member of the legendary trio *Oriental Fusion* (Hakim Hamadouche and Ed Hoshikian), he appears on over 30 albums and has performed all around the world: Germany, Spain, Japan, USA, Morocco, Egypt, India, Madagascar... But this wealth of encounters is not limited to mere musical creation: during the 2000s, he starts 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 stays in India in 2005 to be initiated into the art of tabla by master Sree Debasish Dass, then in Japan in 2008 to carry out a creation project with various artists (computer-aided music). Free from boundaries, he equally enjoys the most extreme experiences in alternative and improvised music, jazz and fusion.

Creator of the *Musique Rebelle* label, Ahmad Compaoré presently 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 was the regular drummer of bluesman Lucky Peterson during his European tour in 2017-2018.

The passion to share



Ahmad Compaoré's career is particularly atypical. Free from boundaries, he equally enjoys the most extreme experiences: musician, composer, dancer, he also teaches drums and contemporary percussions. In 2001, at the request of Marseille's city council, he creates musical expression and instrument making workshops for children aged 9 to 12 years. The interest aroused by these workshops and the total success of the project enabled Ahmad Compaoré to obtain a place of residency at the Friche La Belle de Mai, in order to pursue and complete various projects of creation through the association *La Boîte à Musique*.

In partnership with the Friche, the workshops continue with an aim of multidisciplinary opening including dance, singing and visual arts, with a view to set up exchange with other schools which will lead to concerts and year-end shows.

L'Atelier musical au Merlan

C'est un public plein d'enthousiasme qui a vécu chaque mercredi, depuis février 2000, deux heures de découverte de musique, dans l'Atelier d'éveil musical conduit par un musicien professionnel Ahmad Compaoré. Assiduité, discipline, grande capacité d'écoute et bonne mémoire, les 10 à 15 enfants entre 9 et 12 ans inscrits dans les ateliers pour deux mois, ne porteront plus sur la bibliothèque le même regard. Ils espèrent tous pouvoir poursuivre cette approche de la musique. La liste est longue des enfants en attente de l'atelier musical pour cette nouvelle année.



Ahmed et l'atelier musical au Merlan - © C. Almodovar

Concert Gouter
Ahmad Compaoré
MC Mateo & Gantelmi

MERCREDI 10 OCTOBRE 15H00 au cabaret Aleatoire de la Friche
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