

ORIENTAL FUSION

Chaabi & improvisation / FRANCE

PRESS PACK



LA BOÎTE À MUSIQUE

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« This clever mix of updated Arabic and Armenian traditions and unbridled free-music happily comes to shake up the young French jazz scene particularly cautious at this time of year. »

Les Inrockuptibles - December 2000

Created in 1995 in Marseilles under the name **ORIENTAL FUSION**, the trio was born of the will to gather energetic and spontaneous individualities around their oriental roots: Algeria, Egypt and Armenia. Three traditions, three exiles, three sensibilities which hold a musical dialogue led by Hakim Hamadouche's Arab-Andalusian singing to deliver a glowing music between free jazz, punk rock and Chaabi (Algerian blues), with great detours in improvisation. Striking and powerful!

The coming together of these three cultures - at the crossroads of jazz, contemporary and ethnic music - led in 2000 to the album "Oriental Fusion" (*Tranes Européennes* label) with artist featuring by Tom Cora and Barre Phillips, among others.

Hakim Hamadouche: mandolite, voice

Ahmad Compaoré: drums, percussion

Edmond Hosdikian: saxophone



Concert *Oriental Fusion* at La Mesón, Marseilles - 2012 © Pirlouiiiit (Concertandco.com)

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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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Hakim Hamadouche

Born in Algeria, raised in Marseilles, Hakim Hamadouche is best known for being the mandolute player of French-Algerian raï singer **Rachid Taha** with whom he collaborates since 1991. His playing and raucous singing recall the beautiful melodies of Northern Africa and its oriental rhythms.

In 1995, he created the band ***Oriental Fusion*** with Ahmad Compaoré and Ed Hosdikian. His various collaborations - in the field of jazz, rock and world music - include **Lili Boniche, Patti Smith, Bill Laswell, Catherine Ringer, Brian Eno, Tricky** and ***Les Têtes Raïdes***.



© Chris Boyer

Ed Hosdikian

Original, sensibly wild and label-free, the style of this musician is unique. After classical studies at the *Conservatoire de Marseille*, Ed Hosdikian immersed himself in the world of regional rock bands, before setting off to the United States where he practised jazz at the renowned *Berklee School of Music*. Back in France, he returned to his roots through the creation of the trio ***Oriental Fusion*** in 1995.

However, he constantly seeks new musical experiences through collaborations with artists like **Jacques Higelin, Michel Petrucciani, Nina Simone, Fred Frith, Jamaaladeen Tacuma** and **Youssou N'Dour**.

« No pretence to be found in this spectacular musician, who is recognized as one of the most creative saxophonists of his generation, due to his obvious technique but mostly thanks to his soul, his generosity and his vital need to share a genuine emotion. »

Stéphane Ollivier, Jazzman

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