

SWISS  
MUSIC

# WORLD VI

## ARTISTS



Image © Ben Depp

**YILIAN CAÑIZARES**  
YILIANCANIZARES.COM

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Yilian Cañizares is a classically trained violinist from Havana who discovered her love of jazz and singing in Switzerland. Her music contains elements from the Cuban tradition and draws its life from Yilian's elegantly sonorous voice and her improvisational violin playing. In recent years she has strengthened her reputation as an innovative artist who is able to venture beyond musical boundaries with virtuosity. She has worked with musicians such as Omar Sosa, Richard Bona and Ibrahim Maalouf. On her current album "Erzulie" she seduces the listener into a versatile, at times mystical music world.



Image © Ernst Kehrl

**SISELABONGA**  
SISELABONGA.COM

2

The young trio Siselabonga consists of guitarist and singer Glauco Cataldo, percussionist Fabio Meier – both from Switzerland – and Dakar-based Kora player Tarang Cissokho. In their music the Mandingo tradition fuses in a singer-songwriter manner with folk and rock in a playful and melodious way. Polyphonic vocals are embedded in densely woven riffs created by the string instruments and carried by reduced and earthy percussion. The trio confidently avoids stylistic clichés and carries the listener off into new realms with relish.



Image © Blerta Kambo

**ELINA DUNI & ROB LUFT**  
ELINADUNI.COM/ROB-LUFT

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Elina Duni is a Swiss-Albanian singer who has won the hearts of audiences and press worldwide with her jazzy interpretations of traditional Albanian folk songs. Since 2012 she has been publishing on ECM Records. For her new project she has teamed up with guitarist Rob Luft, one of the rising stars of London's booming contemporary jazz scene. His original and cheerful sound is the perfect complement to Elina Duni's vocals. Together they take us on a journey through timeless folk songs.



Image © Roger Buergler

**AMBÄCK**  
AMBÄECK.CH

4

Ambäck play in pubs as well as in small theatres and concert halls. The trio consists of Andreas Gabriel on violin, Markus Flückiger on the Schwyzerörgeli and Pirmin Huber on bass. The musicians delightfully expand the traditional repertoire of Central Switzerland, which they have brilliantly mastered. In a surprising way, they often allow for artfully intricate improvisations and unexpected inspirations. With this playfulness and virtuosity they explore the boundaries of folk music. Ambäck's last album "Chreiselheuer" and their impressive performances on stage are the best proof of this.



Image © Fatma Evren

**SILBEREN**  
SILBEREN.CH

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Silberen takes elements of old Swiss folk music, interprets and arranges them in a new way and thus creates its own genre. Archaic folk music is newly interpreted on traditional instruments. Trouvaillies from the past are carefully transported into the present. In a completely informal way, Silberren also allow "untypical" influences in their music. The selected piece "Gspili", in which Barbara Berger sings an old song text from the Bernese Oberland light-footedly to a Balkan seven-eighth rhythm, bears witness to this. And it sounds as if it had been composed in exactly this way hundreds of years ago.



**WOMEX.SWISSMUSIC.CH**



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Image © Wael Abu Jabal

## TOOTARD TOOTARD.COM

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After the acclaimed album "Laissez Passer", Tootard – the well-known Arab-Syrian band from the occupied Golan Heights – is releasing their new work on the renowned Hamburg label Glitterbeat Records. "Migrant Birds" is a tribute to the Middle Eastern dancefloor music of the 1980s. Packed with pop hooks and quarter-tone melodies, the pieces are all about disco, with retro funk meeting glossy aesthetics. Not quite irony-free. Band leader Hasan Nakhleh now lives in Bern.



Image © Torvioli Jashari

## PABLO NOUVELLE (FEAT. ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO) PABLONOUVELLE.COM

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The Swiss DJ, producer and filmmaker Pablo Nouvelle once again demonstrates the wide range of his musical creations with the cross-genre single "Milambi" and his collaboration with the four-time Grammy Award winner from Benin – Angélique Kidjo. The piece is based on samples from Hugh Tracey's extensive library of "African Field Recordings", which archives traditional African music from the Sub-Saharan from the 1930s to the 1950s. "Milambi" is a pulsating house track with multi-layered Afrobeat elements on which Kidjo's vocals lead the way.



Image © Sébastien Agnetti

## PROFESSOR WOUASSA PROFESSORWOUASSA.COM

8

"Yobale Ma!" is the third album of the Lausanne combo Professor Wouassa. With popping guitars, concise grooves and powerful melodies the eleven musicians unite an incredibly broad spectrum of African sounds. They invent a musical dialogue between Nile Rodgers, Mulatu Astatke and Papa Wemba. The warm voices of Mamadou Diagne and Thais Diarra – underlaid with driving rhythms and a sound between vintage Afro-funk, subtle Afrobeat and Tropical Flavour – seduce you to dance or simply to enjoy.

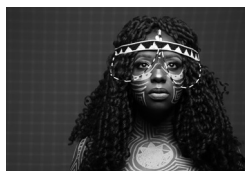


Image © Peter Mutuma

## MUTHONI DRUMMER QUEEN MDQMUSIC.COM

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Muthoni Drummer Queen is a singer, rapper, drummer and promoter from Nairobi. Since 2013 she has been working with the two Swiss producers Greg Escoffey and Jean Geissbühler. Together they create a club- and radio-friendly fusion of African drum rhythms, hip hop and reggae/dancehall. The "Drummer Queen" likes to cross genre borders and expectations of Kenyan music in a creative and surprising way. The current single "Power" is a tribute to the political, social and economic commitment of women in Kenya.



Image © Raphael Piguet

## FLEXFAB & ZILLER BAS FLEXFABMUSIC.COM

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FlexFab, the producer of electronic music from French-speaking Switzerland, and the Kenyan rapper Ziller Bas have formed the MUGOGO! project. The duo generates an original and intoxicating mixture of African club music, electro and rap. Ziller Bas rhymes over FlexFab's innovative, pumping beats in "Sweng Flow" – a characteristic language mix of Swahili, English and his mother tongue Kigirima. "MUGOGO! Part 1" is a four-track EP that marks the beginning of this still young and promising collaboration.



Image © Mauro Abbuehl

## PAPE DJIBY BA & SWISS AFRICAN ORCHESTRA PAPEJIBYBA.COM

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Djiby Ba was a celebrity in his home country in the 1970s. With songs like "Senegal Djambar" and "Balyia" he landed hits that are still well known to many people in Senegal today. He was twice awarded the medal "Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite" by the Senegalese president. Since 2017 he has been living in Bern and is now building up an orchestra in collaboration with the saxophonist and arranger Matthias Wenger. The Swiss African Orchestra breathes new life into the music of Pape Djiby Ba. European jazz and Senegalese tradition, mbalax with a dash of funk – these are the ingredients of the pieces.



Image © Audrey Gerber

## JUNIOR TSHAKA (FEAT. LES BERGERS DE SEMMAMA) JUNIOR-TSHAKA.COM

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Neuchâtel reggae chansonnier Junior Tshaka is a charismatic artist who sings of universal values in his songs and expresses his thoughts on the state of the planet. His last single was created at the invitation of the Tunisian poet Adnen Helali, who built a cultural centre on the border with Algeria, in the crisis-ridden no-man's-land of Semmama. The song "Les Montagnes chantent!" was created on site in fruitful collaboration with the traditional music group "Les Bergers de Semmama".



Image © Joelle Neuenschwander

## LOS ORIOLES LOSORIOLES.NET

13

What Los Orioles do with guitar and drums can best be described as a mixture between punk, cumbia and Afropop. For a few years now, the two Biel-based musicians Adrien Guerne and Dany Digler have been giving their passion for fiery Latino rhythms a twist of their own, soaked in rich reverb. Free-spinning guitar licks and playful bass runs dance over the solid grooving beats of their tracks, inspired by Peruvian chicha. On stage, the duo swells to a bombastic seven-headed combo, which transports itself and the audience into trance-like states with bongos, synths and various drum kits.



Image © Mehdi Benkler

## EL MIZAN ELMIZAN.BANDCAMP.COM

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El Mizan began as a meeting between the Algerian mandole player Anouar Kaddour Chérif and various musicians from French-speaking Switzerland. The band composes songs in Darija, the North African dialect. They sing about freedom, love and the redefinition of a post-colonial identity. Oriental scales go hand in hand with western grooves or vice versa. The band describes the resulting mixture as "Maghrock". "Hallou Lbab" (Open the door!) is a protest song directed against the situation of closed borders between Algeria and Morocco.



Image © Ruben Wytenbach, Christoph Stettler

## KAMILYA JUBRAN & WERNER HASLER KAMILYAJUBRAN.COM

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The composer, oud player and singer Kamilya Jubran, one of the most praised figureheads of the experimental and alternative Arabic music scene, has been working for seventeen years with the Swiss composer, trumpeter and electronic musician Werner Hasler. Inspired by the reminiscences of classical Arabic music and western influenced improvisational systems, enriched by the subtle contributions of electronic culture, the alchemy of their exchange offers a unique, timeless sound: a journey into the unheard.



Official video – screenshot

## UDHAI MAZUMDAR & FRIENDS UDHAIMAZUMDAR.COM

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The Basel-based tabla player Udhai Mazumdar has already accompanied various exponents of Indian classical music during his career, including Ravi Shankar. For the sitar master's hundredth birthday, Udhai had organised a series of concerts in his honour, which had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. During the lockdown he initiated a seven-part home music video series with the musicians in India who would have accompanied him on the tour. The pieces were recorded in the respective living rooms in Switzerland and India and are dedicated to the health care workers and the victims of Covid-19.



Image © Marcel Meier

## ALA FEKRA PATRICIADRAEGER.CH

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The project of the accordionist Patricia Draeger has emerged from an inspiring cultural exchange between Egyptian and Swiss musicians. The impulse came during a studio stay in Cairo, where Draeger met the musicians Amr Darwish (violin) and Yamen Abdallah (Qanun). The meeting resulted in a band, which was soon joined by other well-known Swiss musicians. Ala Fekra integrates original compositions from both sides. In this folk music, enriched with jazz elements, down-to-earth Swiss elements are combined with the sound world and the yearning breath of oriental music.