

SWISS
MUSIC

WORLD V

ARTISTS



Image © Juliette Henrioud

L'ORAGE
LORAGE.BANDCAMP.COM

1

The six-piece band with different backgrounds brilliantly combines jazz, psychedelic rock, afrobeat and traditional African music. When these very different influences cross in an energetic, transcontinental trance, then the storm - L'Orage - rumbles. The band was founded in 2017 by the Geneva drummer Nelson Schaefer. Among other excellent musicians, the formation includes tenor saxophonist Ganesh Geymeier - one of the winners of the Swiss Music Prize 2018 - and the renowned percussionist Baba Konaté from Burkina Faso.



Image © Alex Anderfuhren

TOOTARD
TOOTARD.COM

2

The band Tootard comes from the occupied Golan Heights. Its inhabitants are considered stateless and have an identity document called «Laissez Passer». The title track of the album is about the absurdity of this situation and has received worldwide praise. The band calls their danceable and eclectic music «Mountain Roots Rock», in which influences of Tuareg music and Caribbean rhythms can be heard alongside classical elements of the Levante region. Hasan Nakhleh, the singer, guitarist and head of the band, has lived and produced in Bern for four years.



Image © Dominik Meier

ŠUMA ČOVJEK
SUMACOVJEK.CH

3

Šuma Čovjek clean up the clichés of classical Balkan pop. The ten Swiss with migration backgrounds sing in Croatian, Arabic, English, French, Roma and Spanish. The languages flow so harmoniously into each other that one has the feeling of understanding them all. This is certainly not least due to the lovingly arranged songs: melancholic ballads, rhythmic pop-rock pieces and rap tracks peppered with furious brass parts. On their album «No Man's Land», released in March 2018, they sing about the feeling of being at home in various places.

WOMEX.SWISSMUSIC.CH



Compiled by Roberto Haçaturyan (artlink - cultural cooperation)
and published by FONDATION SUISA and Swiss Arts Council
Pro Helvetia, 2018. Graphic concept and design: Hej Zurich

ARTISTS



Image © Matthieu Spohn

AURELIANO MARIN
AURELIANOMARIN.COM

4

The singing of Argentinian tango singer, composer and bassist Aureliano Marin, who lives in Neuchâtel, is characterised by tango-specific articulation and phrasing. In his songs the respect for the changing genre is always audible. But the musical influences and the stories in his songs come from this millennium. Stylistically, they move between Tango and Latin Rock. His rough and dark voice makes an unmistakable mark on the songs and never drifts off into kitsch.



Image © Rasca Production

JACOB SALEM & SOMKIETA
JACOBSALEMMUSIC.COM

5

Jacob Salem left his village in Burkina Faso to find happiness as a rock musician in Ouagadougou. In 2013 he met the Swiss guitarist André «Somkieta» Courbat, who rode his motorbike through Burkina Faso and was looking for local musicians. A fruitful collaboration began, which resulted in «Nanluli», their first album. Traditional rhythms from Jacob's region, the singer's rock attitude, the influences of Courbat and his Swiss band form a style that is often referred to as «Rock Mossi». This is solid blues rock in which the presence of Burkina Faso can be clearly felt.



Image © Ane Hebeisen, Büro Destruct

DA CRUZ
DACRUZMUSIC.COM

6

At the heart of Da Cruz are the Swiss-Brazilian Mariana Da Cruz and the Bernese music journalist and producer Ane Hebeisen. On their latest electroacoustic album «Eco do Futuro» contemporary sound elements and rhythms of the worldwide African diaspora meet the mix of Brazilian and European dance and club music characteristic of Da Cruz. Elements from Baile Funk, Afrobeat, Dub, Kwaito and Hip-Hop are tastefully processed into an extremely danceable, urban world music. Da Cruz performs live with horns, drums, guitar, electronics and vocals.



Image © Star of Persia

LINDIGO (ALMA NEGRA REWORK)
ALMANEGRA.CH

7

The Swiss production collective Alma Negra consists of the Figueira brothers Dersu and Diego, who come from Cape Verde, and Mario Robles from Spain. After years of digging through old record boxes, they have created numerous interesting mixes of current club sounds and rarities - for example from Cape Verde, Eritrea and La Réunion. The track selected here is taken from an EP released this year, which is dedicated to the genre Maloya. In Alma Negra's energetic live DJ sets, the organic and electronic blend into a stylish new whole that surpasses the beats and sounds of common Afro/Tribal house sets.



Image © VIP Photography

ORCHESTRE TOUT PUISSANT MARCEL DUCHAMP
OTPM.D.CH

8

The group of sound adventurers from Geneva transcends all genre boundaries. Their preference for West African rhythms is reflected in their long name, since between Benin and Congo «Orchestre Tout Puissant» is a common term for an orchestra and recalls legendary bands such as Polyrythmo, Konono N°1 and many more. These rhythms are fused with post-punk, jazz, folk, classical and much more. OTPMD makes exciting, experimental music with acoustic instruments, which are played on stage by up to 14 musicians. It cannot be categorized and is often called «tropical post-punk» by organizers.



Image © Hollin Jones

MARIO BATKOVIC
BATKOVIC.COM

9

The Bosnian-born Bernese accordionist, multi-instrumentalist and composer Mario Batkovic is an artistic exception. Without using any effects or aids, he plays his accordion on the stages of the world alone. He demands everything from his instrument when creating incredible nuances and sound spectra. His playing is sometimes virtuosic, then again minimalistic, often challenging. His at times unorthodox and experimental approach always serves the composition, which stands above everything and is of exceptional beauty.



Image © Talal Doukmaq

HASSAN TAHA / ENSEMBLE BRUNNEN & BRÜCKEN
ZYTGLOGGE.CH

10

After intensive study of traditional Swiss folk music, Hassan Taha, born in Homs, began to compare and combine Syrian and Swiss folk music. Inspired by the fountains of the city of Bern, Taha's second home, this project was born in search of the possibilities of a musical bridge. The album «Alrozana» is a successful synthesis of Syrian and Swiss folk music. Cowbells meet oriental rhythms, the oud competes with dulcimer sounds, and oriental quarter-tone songs meet Swiss alpine motifs.



Image © Clément Puig

ELINA DUNI
ELINADUNI.COM

11

Elna Duni, one of the winners of the Swiss Music Prize 2017, has created a very intimate solo album with «Partir» after two celebrated ECM albums. The singer, born in Tirana, accompanies herself on guitar, piano and frame drum and interprets folk songs and chansons up to singer-songwriter ballads. Twelve songs in total, sung in nine languages: In addition to Albanian and French, Armenian, Yiddish and Swiss German are also included. Her minimalistic instrumental accompaniments and slender arrangements serve the longing essence of the songs and her expressive voice.



Image © Fredrik Gille

AMINE & HAMZA
AMINEHAMZA.COM

12

The Tunisian brothers Amine & Hamza M'raïhi, who live in Switzerland, are internationally known for their virtuosity on the oud and the kanun. In their most recent work they explore the versatility of these traditional instruments in jazz, western classical music, flamenco and Indian music. The album title «Fertile Paradoxes» describes both the choice of ingredients and the way they are prepared: Kanun meets saxophone, cello meets tabla, accordion meets oud. Instruments and musical styles that usually do not interact with each other mix in rich compositions to unheard, dense tonal colors.



Image © Sobluë Weina

BAHUR GHAZI'S PALMYRA
BAHURGHAZI.CH

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The gifted Syrian oud player and composer Bahur Ghazi came to Switzerland in 2011 as a refugee and has lived near Chur ever since. For his ensemble Palmyra - the ancient and today destroyed oasis city in Syria serves as the name giver - he could win established musicians from the Swiss jazz scene and the accordionist Patricia Draeger. Together with his quintet, he spans a dynamic arc from traditional Arabic music to jazz on his debut work «Bidaya», which means «Beginning» in Arabic. The compositions are rhythmically complex, entertaining and full of unexpected twists and surprises.



Image © Nils Fisch

CHRISTIAN ZEHNDER & BARBARA SCHIRMER
ZEHNDERMUSIC.CH

14

Christian Zehnder has his own individual musical cosmos and enjoys cult status. His classical singing studies, further training in overtone singing and his study of various forms of yodelling led him to free, non-verbal singing. His musical work draws from archaic forms of expression of the human voice and moves - detached from traditions - at the interfaces of jazz, contemporary music and new alpine music. At work is a voice artist who pursues his own vision in an innovative and impressive way. In the selected piece he is accompanied by the experienced dulcimer player Barbara Schirmer.



Image © Martin Möll

POROK KARPO
POROK-KARPO.COM

15

The Tibetan musician and independence activist Loten Namling, known throughout Europe, sings songs that are banned in his home country. Together with the Swiss guitarist Patrick Lerjen he brings them into harmony with western pop and alternative rock in the band Porok Karpo. Loten Namling has lived in Switzerland since 1989 and has also performed with The Young Gods, the German rapper Curse and Sepultura. In 2015, his commitment was documented in the feature film «Tibetan Warrior». But his fight for an independent Tibet has never sounded as fresh as with Porok Karpo.