

Sylvain Rifflet & Jon Irabagon

Rebellion(s)



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with

Jon Irabagon : mezzo-soprano saxophone, soprano saxophone, composition

Sylvain Rifflet : tenor saxophone, composition

Sébastien Boisseau : double bass

Jim Black : drums

A **Magriff production** in partnership with **Jazz Musiques Production**

Rebellion(s) has received the support of Adami, and was awarded by the French American Jazz Exchange - Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

With the logistic support of the **Festival Banlieues Bleues**.

Sylvain Rifflet is Spedidam generation artist and companion artist - witness at the Cornouaille theater - Quimper national stage

Planning

Album Recording : January 2020

Album release on BMC : september 2020

Touring period 1 : November 2020

Touring period 2 : February 2021

Contact

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Project

A – Description

They rebelled against a de jure or de facto authority.

They gave speeches that invite us to change the world, to oppose what oppresses or threatens us.

They push us to rebel.

Olympe de Gouges, Paul Robeson, Jean Moulin, Emma Gonzales and Greta Thunberg are among those whose acts and words carry this new project, this new step in the collaboration of saxophonists Sylvain Rifflet and Jon Irabagon.

Here, speeches are at the center of the music that accompanies them and transforms them at once into compositions and improvisation spaces.

Transcribed in notes each speech receives a singular treatment : Olympe de Gouges read by Jeanne Added is a slow ballad where the voice of the singer is harmonized by the saxophonists, André Malraux paying tribute to Jean Moulin (the great french resistant), opening spaces of improvisation between various passages of the famous text of 1964, Paul Robeson and Emma Gonzales in central theme of chiselled compositions or Greta Thunberg in a disarticulated pop march...

Each of these pieces questions in music what binds us, which unites us in the struggle to defend our rights.

Because if in France, and in Europe more generally most of the music written in the periods of revolt are songs, songs of protest or hymns, in the United States the musicians of jazz always composed around and for the defense of civil rights.

We can of course quote here John Coltrane's "Alabama", but also the music of Archie Shepp (who draws another bridge between our two continents) Charles Mingus, Sun Ra, Pharoah Sanders and many others...

It is in the idea that this link between revolt and music is not dead that is composed the music of the quartet, merging influences of jazz, free jazz, repetitive and minimalist music.

After [Perpetual Motion](#), [Rebellion\(s\)](#) is the second part of the collaboration between Sylvain Rifflet and Jon Irabagon, in an epured formula : two saxophones that support, shake up and carry a high-flying rhythm in the person of Jim Black and Sébastien Boisseau.

B – First step of creation

A first step of work took place in March 2019, followed by a series of concerts; it helped refine the program and identify gaps.

We have decided to stage the texts by projecting them as they are broadcast, especially to make them more intelligible and also to give to read the translation for the texts in French.

After the recording which will take place in January 2020, a second period of work is thus planned at the Theater of Cornouaille in Quimper in October 2020 to put in place artistically and technically this idea, the texts being triggered by Sylvain Rifflet on stage and sometimes fragmented in several parts.

andré malraux

Transfer of Jean Moulin's ashes to the Panthéon

On 19 December 1964, on a freezing cold day, the ashes of Jean Moulin were transferred to the Panthéon in a ceremony attended by General de Gaulle. Marking the occasion, Malraux made a speech that has remained graven in the memory of all those that heard it.

As Mademoiselle Moulin put it, he knew everything. Georges Bidault took his place. (...) As Leclerc entered the Invalides with his cortège of honour from the hot suns of Africa and the battles of Alsace, enter now, Jean Moulin, with your terrible cortège. (..) Enter here, accompanied by a people born of the shadow and who disappeared with that shadow - our brothers in the order of the Night. (...) « Listen tonight, you the young people of my country, listen to these anniversary bells that will ring as they did fourteen years ago. May you hear them on this occasion : they will ring for you. ». (...) Today, young people of France, may you think of this man as you would have reached out your hands to his poor, unrecognisable face on that last day, to those lips that never let fall a word of betrayal : on that day, his was the face of France...



listen

emma gonzalès

Extracts from different speeches, 2016

Emma González is an American activist and advocate for gun control. As a high school senior she survived the February 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida, and in response co-founded the gun-control advocacy group Never Again MSD. She then became a youth figure committed against the proliferation of firearms in the United States, a fervent opponent to the N.R.A and a leading figure of the "March for our lives" movement.

Everyone who was there understands. Everyone who has been touched by the cold grip of gun violence understands. To every politician who is taking donations from the NRA, shame on you. The people in the government who were voted into power are lying to us. (...) Politicians who sit in their gilded House and Senate seats funded by the NRA telling us nothing could have been done to prevent this, we call BS. (...) Fight for your lives before it's someone else's job.



listen

greta thunberg

COP24 speech, 2018

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish teenage environmental activist on climate change whose campaigning has gained international recognition.

Until you start focusing on what needs to be done, rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. (...) If solutions within the system are so impossible to find, then maybe we should change the system itself. (...) We have run out of excuses, and we are running out of time. We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not. The real power belongs to the people.



listen

factory girl

Traditional Irish

As I went out walkin' one fine summer's mornin'
the birds in the branches they did gaily sing
the lad and the lasses together were sportin'
goin' down to the fact'ry their work to begin
I spied a fair damsel far fairer than any
her cheeks like the red rose that none could excel
her skin like the lily that grows in yon valley
she's my own bonnie Annie my factory girl
I stepped did up to her just thinkin' to view her
but at me she cast a proud look of disdain
sayin' "Stand off me young man and do not insult me
for although I am poor sure I think it no shame"
"It's not to insult you fair maid I adore thee
ah pray grant me one favor it's where do ya dwell?"
"Kind sir forgive me it's now I must leave you
for I hear the dumb sound of the factory bell"
Now love is a thing that does rule every nation
good mornin' kind sir and I hope ya do well
my friends and relations would all frown upon it
besides I'm a hardworkin' factory girl
Oh it's true I do love her but now she won't have me
for her sake I'll wander through valley and dell
and for her sake I'll wander where no one can find me
I'll die for the sake of my factory girl



listen

olymppe de gouges

**Olympe de Gouges, The Declaration of the Rights of Woman
(September 1791) - Extracts read by Jeanne Added**

Marie Gouze, called Olympe Gouges, born May 7, 1748 in Montauban and died guillotined November 3, 1793 in Paris, is a French woman of letters, became a woman politician.

She is considered one of the pioneers of French feminism.

As the author of the Declaration of Women's Rights, she left many writings in favor of the civil and political rights of women and the abolition of slavery of blacks.



[listen](#)

Man, are you capable of being fair?

It is a woman who is asking.

Tell me, what gives you the sovereign privilege to oppress my sex ? Your strength ? Your talents ? (...)

Oh, women, women ! When will you cease to be blind ?

What advantage have you received from the Revolution ?

Unite under the banner of philosophy.

Deploy all the energy of your character.

**Regardless of what barriers confront you,
it is in your power to free yourselves.**

paul robeson

At the House Un-American Activities Committee, 1956 (extract)

Paul LeRoy Bustill Robeson (born in Princeton, New Jersey, April 9, 1898 – died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 23, 1976) is an African-American actor, athlete, singer, activist, and writer.

The son of a slave and a descendant mulatto of a Quaker family, he was first an athlete before becoming a famous actor and singer thanks to his bass voice.

Communist, he travels repeatedly in U.R.S.S then in China and in 1950 the US State Department forbids him to leave the national territory and confiscates his passport.

Paul Robeson can be added to the number of victims of McCarthyism. He became a lawyer defending the victims of slavery and denouncing apartheid in South Africa.



[listen](#)

When I am aboard I speak out against injustices against the Negro people in this land. (...) You want to shut-up every Negro who has the courage to stand up and fight for the rights of his people, for the rights of workers and I have been on many a picket line for the steel workers too and that is why I'm here to day.

Musicians

jon irabagon

American saxophonist and composer born in Chicago. He is a graduate of DePaul University, the Juillard and the Manhattan School of Music.

He won the prestigious Thelonius Monk International Jazz Competition in 2008 and has since become one of New York's most sought-after soloists. He has performed alongside Dave Douglas, Maria Schneider, Wayne Shorter, Mary Halvorson, Evan Parker, Joey DeFrancisco, John Edwards, Kenny Wheeler, Nicholas Payton, Charles Gayle, or Ink Kenny Barron with whom he recorded his first album.

An eclectic musician, he participates in both "traditional" jazz projects and more avant-garde ensembles such as the band Mostly Other People Do The Killing, a leading group on the New York scene today.

Handling both the language of jazz and the codes of free improvisation, he is today one of the important personalities of jazz "made in USA".



sébastien boisseau

Based in Nantes where he co-directs Yolk Records for 20 years, Sébastien Boisseau is a reference bass player in Europe.

In 2000 he received the first prize of soloist at the national competition of Defense in Paris.

Today very active on the international scene, its gaming partners are among the most creative actors of the moment: Matthieu Donarier, Stéphan Oliva, John Hollenbeck, Samuel Blaser, Alban Darche, Sylvain Rifflet, Jim Black, Tom Rainey, Uri Caine, Jeff Ballard, Dejan Terzic, Jon Sclavus, Jon Irabagon, Gábor Gadó...

Developing a powerful and elegant game, his references are rooted in jazz somewhere between Jean-Francois Jenny-Clark, Marc Johnson and Scott Lafaro.

Faithful to the partners of the first hour (Darche, Badault, Donarier, Pommier...), he collaborated and performed with many jazz figures : Daniel Humair, Joachim Kühn, Charlie Mariano, Marc Ducret, Martial Solal, Misha Mengelberg Pat Metheny, Michel Portal, Eric Watson, Sylvie Courvoisier, Mark Feldman, Hans Lüdemann...

Sébastien Boisseau has been an associate artist at the National Scene Grains Hall in Blois, the 6PAR4 SMAC of LAVAL and the Petit Fauchoux de Tours. He engaged the entire structure in an ambitious project focused on art, mediation and openness to other models and developed his project "1 salon 2 musicians" short programs in duet where the host invites his friends, his neighbors, for a immersion in hyper-proximity in the practice of free improvisation.



jim black

Jim Black is an American jazz drummer who has performed with Tim Berne and Dave Douglas, among others. He attended Berklee College of Music. His own group, AlasNoAxis, includes Hilmar Jensson on electric guitar, Chris Speed on tenor saxophone and clarinet, and Skúli Sverrisson on electric bass. The music is in some ways closer to post-rock than jazz, concentrating on rhythmic shifts and ensemble texture rather than featured solos. Since 2000, the group has released several records on Winter & Winter.

The group Pachora, also including Black, Speed, and Sverrisson, and with Brad Shepik on tambura and electric saz, plays music that is similarly rhythmically diverse, but inspired by Balkan rhythms.

Jim participated as drummer 12 in the Boredoms 77 Boadrum performance which occurred on July 7, 2007, at the Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park in Brooklyn, New York.

He is also one-third of the group BBC (Berne/Black/Cline) along with alto saxophonist Berne and Nels Cline of Wilco. The group released a critically acclaimed album called *The Veil* in 2011.



sylvain rifflet

Saxophonist, Clarinetist and French composer, graduated from the Conservatoire de Paris, Sylvain Rifflet is the winner of the competition of La Defense and has received several awards including a « victoire du jazz » and a « Django d'or ». He has performed or recorded with many musicians, including some of the “must-see” performers on the European scene (Louis Sclavis, Aldo Romano, Michel Portal, Kenny Wheeler, Riccardo Del Fra ...) but also alongside American musicians such as Joey Baron, Jon Irabagon, Jon Hollenbeck, or Michael Formanek ...

Spearheading the young generation of jazz musicians from the first decade of the 21st century, he has collaborated with those who are today on the front of the European “new scene”: Verner Pohjola, Aïrelle Besson, Thomas de Pourquery, Alban Darche, Pascal Schumacher, Rembrandt Freirichs, Florian Weber, Eve Risser, Sébastien Boisseau, Henning Sieverts and Fred Pallem ...

Noticed as a composer in 2011 after the publication of [Alphabet](#) he subsequently published two albums on behalf of the Jazz Village label : [Perpetual Motion – a celebration of Moondog](#) in 2014 and [Mechanics](#) in 2015.

In 2016 he releases [Refocus](#), his first album for the historical label Verve.

He has also been a resident of the following structures Jazz au fil de l'Oise, Festival Banlieues Bleues, national scene of Alençon, Conservatoire de Besançon, Festival Like a jazz Machine, (Luxembourg) and will be associated artist of national scene of Quimper for the next three years.

Quoting Stan Getz as his main saxophonist influence, the composer gladly draws in the field of American repetitive and minimalist music to develop a writing mixing improvisation, repetition, rupture, “bruitism” and even sometimes trance.

