

# COMPAORÉ, RIBOT & TACUMA

Alternative / FRANCE-USA

## PRESS PACK



**LA BOÎTE À MUSIQUE**

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Ahmad Compaoré met Marc Ribot and Jamaaladeen Tacuma in the early 1990s during a European tour with Fred Frith. Their paths have crossed regularly since then: concerts in Spain with the band *Oriental Fusion* in 2003 or as a trio at the *Musique Action* festival in Nancy in 2008. Their collaboration continued in 2011 at the *Festival Jazz des Cinq Continents* in Marseilles, marked by the release of the album **"Trio Compaoré"**.

The three musicians' artistic approach has followed a similar evolution, freeing itself from the constraints set by musical traditions in order to create an inventive style: an experimental approach born of their work in improvisation. « To know how to go beyond the limits of one style to play pure music », according to Ornette Coleman. Their wish to play together again shows a same musical dazzling spirit, reflecting perfectly their state of mind and diversity of expression. That way, they continue to explore new territories, creating a hybrid music mixing jazz, rock and funk.

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## AHMAD COMPAORÉ - Drums, percussion

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. 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 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.

[www.musiquerebelle.com](http://www.musiquerebelle.com)



Ahmad Compaoré and Jamaaladeen Tacuma at the "Musique Action" festival, Nancy - 2008

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## MARC RIBOT - Electric guitar

Marc Ribot was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1954. As a teen, he played guitar in various garage bands while studying with his mentor, Haitian classical guitarist and composer Frantz Casseus. In 1978, Ribot crossed the river to New York City, where he served as sideman for jazz organist Jack McDuff and legendary soul shouter Wilson Pickett. In 1984, Ribot began his five-year stint as a member of the *Lounge Lizards* (John Lurie's innovative and influential Downtown jazz ensemble). At the time, Marc's playing caught the ear of a number of artists who were also interested in disrupting musical traditions. Ribot performed on some of these singers/songwriters' finest records, including Elvis Costello, Marianne Faithful and Tom Waits. All the while, the increasingly in-demand guitarist continued to explore the ever-changing terrain of New York's New Music scene, working with musicians such as Arto Lindsay, Don Byron, Anthony Coleman, T-Bone Burnett, the Jazz Passengers, Evan Lurie, Bill Frisell and John Zorn. In 1996, he recorded "Don't blame me", a solo reinvention of American standards. In 1998, Atlantic Records released the critically acclaimed "Marc Ribot y los Cubanos Postizos", featuring Ribot's beautifully slanted interpretations of material by the great Cuban songwriter Arsenio Rodriguez. Musical scores by Marc Ribot include dance pieces (for Yoshiko Chuma and Wim Vanderkeybus), a documentary film by Greg Feldman and the movie "Walk the Line", Fox's chronicle of Johnny Cash's life. Marc's talents have also been showcased with a full symphony orchestra: composer Stewart Wallace wrote a guitar concerto with orchestra specifically for him. The piece was premiered by the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC in July 2004. Marc's free jazz group *Spiritual Unity* released an eponymous album on Pi Recordings in 2005, offering their unique take on the works of Albert Ayler. Ribot's current projects include *Ceramic Dog*, a trio featuring bassist Shahzad Ismaily and drummer Ches Smith: their debut album "Party Intellectuals" was released in 2008. Marc Ribot is currently touring with the bands *Ceramic Dog*, *The Young Philadelphians* and *Caged Funk*.

[www.marcribot.com](http://www.marcribot.com)

## JAMAALADEEN TACUMA - Electric bass

Few musicians leave their audiences with a feeling that they have truly witnessed something amazing. Artist, producer, performer, arranger and bass player Jamaaladeen Tacuma does just that. This native Philadelphian has always stretched the old mould of what and how a bassist is supposed to play. Tacuma has simply re-defined his instruments artistic potential. In the mid 70's, his creatively free approach to the bass caught the eye and ear of the legendary saxophonist Ornette Coleman. Tacuma became a member of Coleman's electric band, *Prime Time*, and played on some of Coleman's historic recordings such as "Dancing in Your Head", "Body Meta", and "Of Human Feelings". As a soloist, Tacuma continued to press the musical envelope with his debut album in 1983 entitled "Showstopper". Several records followed, some of which include "Renaissance Man" (1984), "Music World" (1987) and "JukeBox" (1989), which confirmed his ability to flip between various musical genres. Tacuma has performed and recorded with musicians on nearly every continent, collaborating with musicians from Japan, Korea, Europe and the Middle East. He has also played and produced for many American jazz and funk musicians. The release of "Mirakles" by Derrick Bailey, G. Calvin Weston & J. Tacuma was cited as one of the "most important recordings of year 2000" by All Music Guide. Tacuma has collaborated with a diverse and talented roster of artists: poets Jayne Cortez, Quincy Troupe and Amiri Baraka, guitarists Carlos Santana, Jean-Paul Bourelly and Marc Ribot, saxophonists Pharoah Sanders, David Murray and James Carter. He has worked with orchestras led by Anthony Davis at Carnegie Hall, also with the rap group *The Roots*, DJ King Britt and DJ Logic. In 2006, he returned to the jazz spotlight with an appearance on the *World Saxophone Quartet's* "Political Blues". In 2007, he released 2 albums: a tribute to Thelonious Monk and "Urban Mythology" with his trio *Free Form Funky Freqs* (Vernon Reid and G. Calvin Weston). Staying true to his experimental approach to music, Tacuma forms his own recording label *Jam All Productions*, which released the album "For the Love of Ornette" in 2010, and he regularly tours with the bands *Free Form Funky Freqs*, *Brotherzone* and *The Young Philadelphians*.

[www.jamaaladeenmusic.com](http://www.jamaaladeenmusic.com)

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Trio Compaoré, Ribot & Tacuma at the "Festival Jazz des Cinq Continents", Marseilles - 2011

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