

NOW ∞

A DUO FOR PIANO AND VIDEO

SOPHIE AGNEL & LIONEL PALUN



In association with:

The Hexagone Scène Nationale de Meylan,
The Centre Culturel André Malraux Scène Nationale de Vandœuvre-lès-Nancy,
The École Centrale de Lille,
La Source à Fontaine,
La SMAC Jazz, Poitiers,
Le Lieu Multiple, Poitiers
and l'Association 720 Digital

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Images and sounds are like people who meet en route and can never again be parted.
Robert Bresson , "Notes sur le Cinématographe", Paris, Gallimard, 1975.

Now ∞ is a work of research on the direct dialogue between music and images, in this case between video and an extended piano: how the music reinvents the video and how images can create sounds.

Having met at various festivals, pianist Sophie Agnel and electro-video maker Lionel Palun became interested in each other's work and started to collaborate in 2015 to create a **piano-video duo**.



Sophie Agnel, virtuoso of prepared piano, had practised improvisation as a soloist, in duos and in various formations for a long time. She regularly works in theatre and dance, and has written several shows for young audiences. She was also the instigator of the invention of a new instrument, the **cordophone**.

Lionel Palun explores the singular practice of **playing with images**, blending analogue mixing with lighting and camera shots with an **original visual digital lute** (for this he developed his own software programme). He is also interested in sound projection of images with a musical treatment from a video signal.

Today Sophie Agnel and Lionel Palun have pooled their expertise to present an extended piano concert with images.

The idea is to use the piano as a **sound box for a video signal** and to make electronic bows for the piano strings **controlled by images**.

Using the magic of **video feedback**, the audience can watch Sophie Agnel playing **the inside of the piano** on a giant screen.

From these tools emanates a rich, organic and sensitive dialogue between two worlds that rarely encounter one another.

During the first creative residency at the Hexagone Scène Nationale of Meylan, Sophie Agnel and Lionel Palun invited the visual artist **Christophe Cardoen** to design the lighting.

The job of designing electronic bows for piano was entrusted to the École Centrale, Lille.

The show also exists in two other formats, an installation and a performance for young audiences.

<http://www.lionelpalun.com/now>

SOPHIE AGNEL

Pianist

Born in Paris, 1964

<http://sophieagnel.free.fr/>



Having acquired a solid classical training, for a time Sophie Agnel was interested in modern jazz. Then, at the turn of the 90s, fascinated by certain great keyboard heretics such as **Keith Tippett**, **Fred Van Hove** and **Christine Wodrascka**, she gradually entered the constantly moving and deliciously uncertain world of free improvisation.

Reworking through the figures of the musical improvisation techniques of prepared piano devised by **John Cage** in the field of contemporary music, Sophie Agnel went on to apply herself to “*introducing the prosaism of the contemporary world into the very soul of refined Western music*” transforming her instrument into a sort of “*extensive prep piano*” or “*extended piano*” thus laying down the foundations of a personal universe, radically materialistic, in turn

lyrical, abstract and sensual.

From the demanding exercise as a solo artist to multiple in situ encounters with some of the **greatest masters of contemporary improvisation** (Michel Doneda, Daunik Lazro, Olivier Benoît, Catherine Jauniaux, ErikM, Roger Turner, Phil Minton, John Butcher), gradually the pianist ventured beyond the frontier zones to a place where genres are ill defined.

This is how she came to create several shows suitable for all audiences (“Le Piano – Marteau” featuring sonic space by the subtle use of mirrors), a collaboration with the choreographer **Josef Nadj** (“Etc. Etc.”) and the theatre adaptation of “Testimony” by Charles Reznikov, directed by Henri Jules Julien.

Attracted to tangible and electro-acoustic music, as well as the spatial phenomena of sound, Sophie Agnel has also recently designed, with the assistance of the **Centre National de la Création Musicale**, Albi – Tarn (GMEA) and the stringed instrument maker Laurent Paquier, an experimental electro-acoustic instrument, the “**nOpianO /cordophone**”, which has opened up new horizons of sound.

In 2014, she joined the **Orchestre National de Jazz** (ONJ) under the direction of **Olivier Benoît**.

Watch a piano solo on the France Musique programme, “À l’Improviste” presented by Anne Montaron:
http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x95486_a-l-improviste-sophie-agnel_music

Read this article written by Cathy Heyden in April 2012 in the magazine Mouvement.
http://www.lionelpalun.com/lp/Mouv63_SophieAgnel.pdf

SELECTED DISCOGRAPHY:

Reps: Sophie Agnel-Olivier Benoît, label Cesare, 2014

Météo: Sophie Agnel - John Edwards - Steve Noble, Clean Feed Records, 2013

Spiral Inputs: Sophie Agnel-Bertrand Gauguier-Andrea Neumann. Another Timber 2010

Capsizing Moments: Sophie Agnel.Emanem, 2009

Rip-stop: Sophie Agnel & Olivier Benoît, In Situ, 2003

Rouge Gris Bruit: Sophie Agnel, Lionel Marchetti - Jérôme Noetinger, Potlatch, 2001

Solo: *Sophie Agnel, Vandoeuvre, 2000*

LIONEL PALUN

Electro-video maker
Born in Marseille, 1972.

<http://www.lionelpalun.com> (numerous videos of his work are available on this site).



Lionel pursued a university education as a physician, qualifying as an engineer at the **ENSPG** (physics) and obtaining a **doctorate from the UJF** (in nano electronics). He worked for 2 years as a teacher and researcher in Grenoble at the LPSC (electronics). Following an encounter with contemporary dance, in particular with the work of the Pascoli company, he branched out into a singular research on the relationship between images and the stage, aiming to make this media an actor in its own right in the performing arts, on a par with dance, texts, sound and lighting.

Lionel Palun is a co-founder of the **Association 720 Digital**, a member of **Collégiale du 102**, a member of the editorial committee of the quarterly magazine **Revue &**

Corrigée and was on the board of directors of CitéDanse for 5 years.

A professional videographer since 2001, he works with digital images in many diverse aspects:

Duo and Improvisation: The core of his present research is a series of duos (generally improvised) that explore possible relationships between **images and the other performing arts** (Image/Dance, Image/Theatre, Image/Music, Image/Lighting, Video/Film...). The lightness of the duo makes it possible to combine the demands of a refined research with regular encounters with the public. These studies have enabled him to work with artists as diverse as Jérôme Noetinger, Will Guthrie, Riojim, Christophe Cardoen, Delphine Dolce and Dominique Lentin. That is where the alchemy that sustains his work developed.

Art installations: Lionel Palun is regularly invited to present video and sound installations: Condition Publique in Roubaix, Nuit Blanche in Metz, Collectif Brouhaha...

Video performance: Video performance is a tool for research and creative residencies in situ. It can either be a motor for starting the writing process or proposed as a singular form.

Video creations: for dance and theatre pieces or concerts in collaboration with film directors, choreographers, musicians and collectives (Camel Zekri, Yann Lheureux, Frédéric Tentelier, Broadway, Pascal Mengelle, Cédric Marchal, Anne-Marie Pascoli,...) These video creations (written scores or improvisations) are an opportunity for artists to compare the written compositions of other artists.

Sound creation: By physically diverting a video signal, he develops original digital tools in order to project the video signal into the speakers ...

Workshops and educational presentations: He regularly leads workshops for different audiences: Fine arts students, primary schools (Lumix project with Association Muzzix) and community centres. He also ran a course of mise en scene and an introduction to light images for Kaléidoscope, a project for the Opera de Lyon.

Software design: Besides mastering the professional tools of digital imagery and multimedia, his university education and work led him to developing his own software programme, **In Videre** for creating and diffusing images. This programme is both a tool for video production and an original instrument for improvisation and video performances.

Artistic career

Shows and Performances:

Cartographie des oublis, **La Barque Théâtre, Frédéric Tentelier**, musical theater, 2016-...
Fast Radio Burst, **Patrick Guionnet, Quentin Conrate, Lionel Palun**, concert for radios, 2015-...
The pipes, the pipes, **Donal Dineen, Lionel Palun, Guillermo Carrion, Pdraig McGovern, Leonard Barry, Maitiu O Casaide**, video, art and bagpipe trio, 2015-...
La Lobaye, **Camel Zekri, Lionel Palun, Prosper Kota, Jean-Pierre Mongoa, Orchy Nzaba**, an encounter with the pygmies of Central Africa, 2014-...
Zzurfreiheit, **Julien Bibard, Jean-Philippe Saulou, Lionel Palun**, 16 mm film performance, music & video, 2014...
Performance Will Guthrie & Lionel Palun, *Festival Pépète Lumière*, 2014
Kezn, **Barbara Dang, Lionel Palun, Gordon Pym**, interpretation of experimental music, 2014-...
ViziX, an encounter with **Lionel Palun** and other artists from the **Collectif Muzzix**, 2013-...
Performance Lionel Palun, Guillermo Carrion, Donal Dineen, *The Art of Music*, 2013
Ryu, **Gilles Laval, Yoko Higashi, Lionel Palun & Marc Siffert**, installation of images and hydroponic music, 2012-...
Performance Étienne Jaumet, Lionel Palun & The 202s, *French Cork Film Festival*, 2011
Performance Solar Bears, Lionel Palun & Guillermo Carrion, *French Cork Film Festival*, 2011
Embrasure, **Cie Zyriab and Co**, music, poetry & image, 2011
Superflux, **Filmbase, Lafoxe, Metalking**, 3 trios and the cinema 2010
Mire, **Alice Predour, Djamilia Daddi-Addoun & Lionel Palun**, mixing desk orchestra, electro-acoustic music, cinema & video, 2010
Palundrome, solo by **Lionel Palun**, image & sound, 2009-...
Encounter with Quatuor Nun, image and vocals, 2009
Minuit Pile, **Cie Comme Ça - Muriel Pique**, choreographic piece, 2009
Maki, **Culture Ailleurs**, shadows, dance, improvised and traditional music, 2009-2010
Manifestement, **Cie Yann Lheureux**, choreographic piece, 2009-2012
Gang plank, **Broadway & Quatuor Pli**, pop and experimental music, 2008
AOA, **Cie Comme Ça - Muriel Pique**, choreographic piece, 2008
Supercolor Palunar, duo Jérôme **Noetinger & Lionel Palun**, electro-acoustic music & televisions, 2008-...
Filmbase, duo **Riojim & Lionel Palun**, cinema 16 mm & video, 2008-...
No one's land, **Cie Yann Lheureux**, choreographic piece, 2008-2009
Lumière obscure, **Culture Ailleurs**, shadows, dance, improvised and traditional music, 2008
Materia Prima, **La Saillie - Pascal Mengelle**, play, 2008
Situations régulières, duo **Dominique Lentin & Lionel Palun**, music & video, 2007-2008
Femmes pré-occupées, duo **Christophe Serpinet & Lionel Palun**, music & video, 2006
Project D.I., duo **Delphine Dolce & Lionel Palun**, dance & video, 2004-...
L'insatiable K, **Cie La Saillie - Pascal Mengelle**, play, 2004-2007
Le roi se meurt et la basse court, **Cie Pascoli**, choreographic piece, 2004-2008
Petites résidences dans les lieux du patrimoine, **Cie Pascoli**, in-situ choreography, 2004-2007

Installations

Artist associate with the project *EU-Japan Festival*, 2015-2018
Réception-Expédition, Carte Blanche du **Non Lieu** a **La Condition Publique de Roubaix**, 2014
Brume3, Installation in collaboration with **Les yeux d'Argos** a **L'hybride**, **Lille**, 2014
Pentaptyque Cannibale, **Nuit Blanche de Metz**, 2013
Reflets, **Experimenta / Hexagone Scène Nationale de Meylan**, **Grenoble**, 2013
Maquette vidéo d'un quartier utopique, **Centre Social La Rivière**, **St Étienne**, 2012
Supercolor Palunar, installation for **Électrochoc**, **Les Abattoirs**, **Bourgoin-Jallieu**, 2011
Projet D.I., installation for le festival **ONPLMV**, **Villars Reculas**, 2010
Télévision ultra-locale for *Brou Ha Ha 3*, installations at la **galerie des Terreaux**, **Lyon**, 2005
Brou Ha Ha 2, installation collective at **l'Usine**, **St Étienne**, 2004
Brou Ha Ha 1, installation collective at **la fabrique**, **Andrezieux-Boutheon**, 2004

Workshops

Workshop video and sound with the students from Beaux-Arts, **Chalon-sur-Saône**, 2014
Lumix co animation with the musicians from **Collectif Muzzix**, **Lille**, 2013-...
Workshop video and music co animation with Jérôme **Noetinger**, **Espace Culture de l'Université Lille 1**, 2012
Studio Vaduz, workshop with fine arts students and actors, **Beaux-Arts de Grenoble & Conservatoire de Grenoble**, 2011
Superstream, workshop with le *Stream Collective*, **Mechanics Institute in Brunswick**, **Melbourne**, 2011
École du spectateur, immersion with primary school students in the project *Projet D.I.*, **Espace 600**, 2010
Video workshops at la **Cie Mangeurs d'étoiles**, **Villars de Lans**, 2010
Hybridation, workshop for project *Projet D.I.* with disabled adults, **CAV, APF, AFIPAEIM**, 2009-2010
Animation of a *video workshop*, **le 102**, 2009
Melissa, mise en scène for l'Opéra **de Lyon** for the project *Kaléidoscope*, 2008
Joëlle Colombani & adolescents from local community centres **La Rivière** and **Valbenoite**, **St Étienne**, theatre workshops and productions, 2007-2008
Silence on tourne, musical created with the **Théâtre de la Renaissance** and schools from the town of **Oullins**, 2007
Workshop animation for **Les mauvaises herbes**, 2007
Télévision ultra-locale, workshop and video installation with **La Commune de Vif** and **Minou Wosniak**, 2007

Most recent productions and installations

Zzurfreiheit - Independent Film Show #15 – **Naples - Italy**

Supercolor - Le Croiseur - **Lyon**

Kezn - La Malterie - **Lille**

Palundrome - Grand Front Osaka - **Japan**

The pipes, the Pipes -St. Patrick's Festival – **Dublin - Ireland**

Supercolor -Le CENTQUATRE - Festival Présence Électronique - **INA GRM / Radio France – Paris**

The pipes, the Pipes -The Dock – **Carrick-on-Shannon - Ireland**

Palundrome - Antibercey - **Mons-en-Barœul**

Soirée Revue & Corrigée - Les Instants Chavires - **Montreuil**

Zzurfreiheit - Cinéma Le Nova – **Bruxelles - Belgium**

Vizix #3 - Cinéma l'Univers – **Lille**

Supercolor - Espace Gantner – **Bourogne**

Supercolor - Atelier de l'Étoile – **Besançon**

Supercolor - Bruits Blancs #4 – **Arcueil**

Supercolor - Het Bos – **Anvers - Belgium**

Supercolor - La Malterie – **Lille**

Kezn + Gaëlle Rouard - La Malterie - **Lille**

Porte Ouverte Atelier d'Artiste - Le Non Lieu - **Roubaix**

Palundrome - Festival Désert Numérique - **St Saint-Nazaire le Désert**

Palundrome - Yogiga Expression Gallery – Séoul – **South Korea**

Filmbase - Corner Theater – **Busan – South Korea**

Filmbase - Artspace Donquixote- **Suncheon – South Korea**

Filmbase - Mujanhyang Festival - Séoul – **South Korea**

Duo L. Palun- W. Guthrie - Festival Pépète Lumière - **Cluny**

Réception-Expédition - La Condition Publique - **Roubaix**

La Lobaye - L'Hexagone Scène Nationale de **Meylan**

Ryu - Festival Électrochoc – **Bourgoin-Jallieu**

