

Welcome to the official website of Jacky CRAISSAC: www.jacky-craissac.com



Jacky Craissac is an international and professional percussionist, creator of instruments and music.

His concert: solo concert for percussions

Titled: *Suite for percussions* (creation)

About his concert:

Rare are the concerts in which the beauty of form is associated with an extraordinary sound world. Such concerts are the hallmark of Jacky Craissac's artistry. Even before the very first stroke of the conductor's baton, the audience is imbued with an aesthetic emotion arising from the scenic ambiance. A simple play of light suffices to unveil the full majesty of Jacky Craissac's sound-sculptures. The concert offers a course lined with various "instrumental assemblages" in which the artist settles and immerses himself in free exploration of sound. Striking, pounding, or caressing his instruments in turn with sticks and hands, his expression - at once alive and physical - is the channel through which he pushes away the limits of rhythm, harmony and time. From the integrity and diversity of the materials used (hide, wood, metal), the artist creates a unique array of acoustic timbres. Deep resonant bass, infra-bass or crystal-like sounds and harmonics recall nothing familiar to the ear. Their combination gives one the amazing impression of massive orchestral sound such as that usually produced by symphonic ensembles.

Captivated and filled with wonder, the audience itself begins to resonate from the invitation to this journey of purity, beauty and creative energy.

Others performances:

Jacky Craissac proposes others formats of presentation, each adapted to different audiences, different venues and different encounters.

- "Illustrated conference":

This conference is the fruit of almost 40 years of experience and discovery, in close contact with sound and rhythm. Several formulae are possible.

. Illustrated concert/readings for the general and specialized public (music, dance, philosophy, ethnomusicology students and vocalists, etc)

. Master class for students from music academies, ballet schools, etc.

. Sensorial discovery and artistic expression for children : "*Nous avons crié, nous avons tapé, nous avons chanté avant de savoir parler*" J. Craissac

Jacky Craissac, who has inherited an oral musical tradition, presents his creative methods of transmission. He is either accompanied by basic instruments or by his original creations.

This can be followed by a short concert.

Themes: Art, sensorial discovery, artistic expression, the ancestral transmission of sound and rhythm, improvisation and creation.

- "Discovery and artistic expression" workshop:

Sound, rhythm, vocal expression, sound improvisation, breathing, acoustic materials, are his main working means for "*un travail artistique de l'humain*".

For more information, please visit our site, www.jacky-craissac.com/Ostage.html

- Creation in residence:

This can lead to: concerts, illustrated conferences, exchange and contact with the artist. The optimal context for Jacky Craissac's creative approach, which is based on his experience of the present moment.

Biographical milestones

1961 Began a career as a professional percussionist and jazz drummer in Paris.

1962 Created a ballet for a solo dancer in Morocco which he performed, alongside playing in a jazz trio, on a cruise on a Soviet ship, also met and improvised with pianist Daniel Wallenstein.

1963-1969 Toured abroad with a Swiss quintet and various American jazzmen: Hal Singer, Bill Coleman, Al Lirvat, Lou Bennett, Willy Ketz, Ann Peter (a singer from the Peter Sisters), Vince Benedetti, Dizzy Reece, in Greece, Egypt (Cairo, Alexandria), Turkey, Lebanon, Yugoslavia (Zagreb), Israel, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, the West Indies, Morocco. Played in a big band (Rome 1969) for World

BIOGRAPHICAL MILESTONES

Jacky Craissac started out early as an international, professional drummer and percussionist. Though Catalonia was not his birthplace, his maternal family from Figueras passed on to him a Catalan Gipsy heritage.

He quickly became noticed on the international jazz scene for his exceptional rhythmic accuracy and musical instinct. In the sixties, he played with the greatest international figures of the day, as leader in his various bands (Hal Singer, Bill Coleman, Al Lirvat, Lou Bennett, Willy Ketz...). The Italian press compared him to Elvin Jones and to Roy Haynes. He went on international tour from 1962 to 1968.

In 1970, he won the Award for Best Drummer and Percussionist at the Zurich Jazz Festival. He then started his own trio which travelled throughout Europe, performing in such places as the Palermo Festival in Sicily and the Contemporary Music Festival in Aix-en-Provence. At the same time, he collaborated with choreographers, actors and stage directors.

He took part in several creative happenings with contemporary painters like Morvan, Andréou, Guansé, Guerrier, Labégorre or Lapoujade.

He also created the music for several ballets in Morocco, France and Portugal - in 1971, as part of cultural exchanges between the cities of Bordeaux and Oporto.

In 1999, he created the music for *To Dialogue/To Take Aback*, a play by Chinese author, painter and director Xingjian Gao, the 2000 Nobel Prize Winner for Literature.

Starting in the 1970s, his artistic development, his creative energy and quest for absolute sound guided him toward the acoustics of various materials and led him to devote himself to the making of his own instruments.

From there, he performed in solo with the instruments of his making at the *Théâtre de l'Est Parisien* in Paris, *le Parvis* in Tarbes and the *Palais Jacques Coeur* in Bourges. He was invited several times to the contemporary Sigma Festival and the *Office Artistique de la Région Aquitaine* (OARA, Artistic Office for the Aquitaine Region) in Bordeaux. An exhibit was dedicated to his work and instruments at the Entrepôts Lainé in Bordeaux. Selecting noble materials - metal, wood essence, animal hides - and creating accomplished aesthetic forms are part and parcel of this quest.

More recently, he performed in Oporto (Portugal), European capital in 2001, went on tour in Germany, in the Summer Festival of the Southern Hesse Region in Frankfurt and Darmstadt (Kultursommer SüdHessen) in 2003, at the *Centre Culturel des Carmes in Langon* (F) in 2004, at the *Théâtre des Quatre Saisons* in Gradignan (F) and in Carbon Blanc (F) for the *Journée Nationale du Patrimoine en France* in 2006 and at the *Théâtre national de Bordeaux en Aquitaine (TnBA)* in Bordeaux (F) in 2007.

Jacky Craissac, who is heir to an oral musical tradition, is also well known as a pedagogue. He has developed over the last forty years "*artistic work on the human*". Sound, rhythm, vocal expression, sound improvisation, breathing, acoustic sonorous materials, are the main media with which he works on discovery and artistic expression.

The multidisciplinary nature of his approach addresses the artistic, educational, social,

Folklore. Created and played the music to accompany the *Théâtre National de Belgique* in Athens, played concerts on the national Italian radio and performed the music for a film in Rome. Played concerts in France with Guy Lafitte, Christian Escoudé and Christian Ibañez.

1969-1970 Started his own jazz trio which toured Europe, and was featured in particular at Palermo Festival in Sicily and the Contemporary Music Festival in Aix en Provence. Started a jazz quintet with Jacques Gouadin, Louis Mialhe, Eric Fontes and Marc Berthet. Was the percussionist and drummer for the Bordeaux-Aquitaine Workshop Orchestra. Played concerts for the French state television ORTF.

1970-1979 Carried out Sound and Rythm training workshops for *Institut Régional des Travailleurs Sociaux* in Talence (near Bordeaux), the Foundation John Bost in La Force (Dordogne); The Bordeaux, Pau and Bourges Centres Hospitaliers Spécialisés (Psychiatric Hospitals), The Bordeaux School of Architecture, The Chelles (near Paris) Fine Arts School, The Bordeaux Technical Institute in Social Welfare (*Institut Universitaire de Technologie*).

1970 Won the award for Best Solo Player at the Zurich Festival. Directed workshops on fundamental Rhythm and its biological laws with other professional artists in Aix-en-Provence; voice workshops: Louis Jacques Rondeleux, professor at Maurice Béjart's Mudra school; theatre: Compagnie Guy Lenoir; dance: *Ballet-Théâtre Pyrénéen*. The Bordeaux Acting School".

Created the method of discovery and artistic expression entitled *Sound and Rhythm*.

1971 Performed his ballet for a solo dancer in Portugal as part of a cultural exchange program between the cities of Bordeaux and Porto.

1972 Performed France Culture's show "Music for Texts" on national cultural radio.

1973 Played concerts in solo at *Théâtre de l'Est Parisien* in Paris and recorded with B. Lavilliers. Met and played with African poet and musician Francis Bebey.

1973-1975 Trained future foreign cultural directors (Arab League and Africa) at The Bordeaux International School.

1974 Performed a suite for percussion entitled "Synthesis of a Life through Rhythm" at the SIGMA Festival in Bordeaux.

1976 Played solo concerts and percussion suites at the Théâtre de l'Est Parisien and the Forum Le Parvis in Tarbestc "1976 Played solo concerts and percussion suites at the Théâtre de l'Est Parisien and the Forum Le Parvis in Tarbes".

1978 Participated in a collaborative public performance in Saint Emilion with painters from the group Monolithe - Labégorre, Andréou, Guansé, Guerrier, Lapoujade, Lagrange, and Morvan.

1981 Played in solo a Suite for percussion he composed at the Uzeste Music Festival.

1982 Performed his creation at the *Centre Culturel* de Saint Médard en Jalles.

1982-1984 Led workshops for the *Institut de Psychomotricité de l'Université de Bordeaux 2*.

1983 Composed and performed the music for the ballet, "Passantes", at the *Festival des Abbayes*, Arthous Abbey, which then went on tour in the Aquitaine region and was performed at the *André Malraux Conservatoire National de Région* in Bordeaux.

medical and paramedical, economic, school, university and professional domains.

He has participated in congresses, given conferences, has directed master classes on the themes of creation, improvisation, discovery, artistic expression and the ancestral transmission of sound and rhythm, most recently at the Conservatoire national de Région de Bordeaux with Etienne Rolin's improvisation class and with the First Steps class and their parents and at the Music Department of *Université de Bordeaux 3*.

In 2008, JC will lecture at the Music Department of *Université de Bordeaux 3* on "Noise and Music", a question assigned to Music students preparing the *Agrégation* and *Capes* (the highest French national competitive examinations for future teachers).

For more information, please visit our site: www.jacky-craissac.com

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1983-1987 Performed the creation, on tour in the Aquitaine region, in Bordeaux at the *Théâtre Fémina* and the City Library, and in Bourges at the *Palais Jacques Cœur*.

1984 Gave a conference on "Initiation to the Use of Sound in Relationship-Building and Communication" for the Centre Hospitalier Spécialisé Charles Perrens in Bordeaux, Profs. Tignol and Bourgeois Services".

1986 Gave a concert (creation) for the SIGMA Festival at the Saint-Louis des Chartons Church, in Bordeaux.

1987 Had an exhibit dedicated to his work and instruments at the *Entrepôts Lainés*, in Bordeaux.

1990 Participated in another collaborative public performance with painters in Carcassonne.

1993 Performed in a duo involving percussions and painting with official Navy painter, sculptor and writer, Jean-Jacques Morvan, as part of a cultural event entitled : 'Freedom to Freedom', in Brive (Fr.)

1994 Toured in Spain, Portugal playing flamenco music as a solo artist and with guitarist José Pisa.

1995 Participated in the Regional Conference for the Center of Young Business Leaders entitled « Creativity and the Creative Process: the Sensorial Organs and Creativity ».

1996 Performed as an artist in residence with the Artistic Office for the Aquitaine Region at the *Théâtre Molière* in Bordeaux, played 2 concerts on March 1 and 2 .

1999 Performed a concert entitled *Inspiration Flamenca* at the *Théâtre Molière* in Bordeaux with flamenco guitarist Pedro Soler. Created *A Melody of Sound*, the music for a play by Chinese director, writer and painter, Xingjian Gao who was awarded the 2000 Nobel Literature Prize.

2001 Creation on 25, 26 and 27 June in Porto, Portugal, as part of the exchange programs between the twin European cities of Bordeaux and Porto, under the aegis of Bordeaux.

2003 Toured Germany (in the Hesse region), performing on May 28 (premiere) and 29 in Frankfurt and on June 3 in Darmstadt as part of the Kultursommerfestival Südhessen and the exchange program between the twin regions of Aquitaine and Hesse.

2004 A pluri-artistic creation « Osmosis of the Arts », with dance, painting, dress designing, artistic hair dressing and makeup on a music created by Jacky Craissac on stage, *Centre Culturel des Carmes* in Langon (Fr).

2006 Creation *Suite pour percussions* at the *Théâtre des Quatre Saisons in Gradignan* (Fr.). in Carbon Blanc (Fr.) as part of the *Journée Nationale du Patrimoine en France*.

2007 Creation *Suite pour percussions* at the *Théâtre national de Bordeaux en Aquitaine(TnBA) in Bordeaux* (Fr.). Master classes at the Conservatoire national de Région de Bordeaux and "illustrated conference" at the Music Department of *Université de Bordeaux 3*.

