

Biography DON BILLIEZ



Catalan White African, as he likes to define himself. Companion of Nino Ferrer who hired him in his band at only 20 years. In the early 80s he contributes to the creation of the group Touré Kunda (Senegal), with whom he toured in Europe, Africa, the States and Japan until 1985 ... They become Number 1 of world music worldwide! For him, that time will remain his "Initiatory journey" the spine of a resolutely free career!

Sax sideman on the rock scene, he worked with Alain Bashung, Paul Personne (rock and blues song / France), other various artists on the International scene (Walter Arraujo / Brazil, Foxy Camara (Guinea), Micky Finn, Skiffle (England) and other various French artists such as Alain Lепrest Fred Blondin, B. Lavilliers He participated in the recording of forty albums, including the must Amadu Tilo, the famous Paris Ziginchor live in Africa and Natalia produced by Bill Laswell/New York, Touré Kunda Shares the 'Novice Tour' (Stage and live album), Alain Bashung; 5 albums of Paul Person whose Route 97.. Live at the Olympia He played on biggest stages: Carnegie Hall in New York, at the Spectrum Montreal to Tokyo, Dakar, Bamako, New York, the first Avenue Minneapolis, Chicago, Rézé ..

As a composer, he worked for theaters: Odeon, Carré Sylvia Montfort, La Colline in Paris. He composed the soundtrack of the animated film of Eugénio Mattoti and JJ Prunés. Without stopping going on tours with his own groups: Alma del Mundo with whom he released his first solo album 'Alma del Mundo' / Méditerranéo. He toured with 'The Natural elements' then with the Groovin' Méditerraneya band during the last 4 years ...

He rose in the universe of the best saxophonists in the world, thanks to his album "Con Alma" in 2009 with the support of Francophonie Diffusion and SACEM. At that time, this album will be released and distributed in twenty countries by DG / Spiral ...

In late 2013, he signs a third Album "Chapter Free": a therapeutic opus played all over the Mediterranean spirit with his band the Groovin'Méditerranaya.

Born in 1958, his real name Michel Billès, his cosmopolite spirit comes from his Spanish mother and his Catalan paternal family in Pézilla-de-la Rivière, the place of Puig de Perpignan, the Stendhal Street and memories of his youth that inspired him the track "Ortes" as well as the sound of coblas, sardanes and Latin combos ... From the age of 13 to 18 Years, he entered the Conservatory of Perpignan and was successively the pupil of Henry Tubert, Claude Clauzel, and Jimmy Mc Ferrand, as well as of the composer of sardannes: Max Havard.

At the age of 18, the thumb stretched towards his destiny is on the shores of the Mediterranean (Collioure, Cadaqués, Marseille, St Tropez ...) where he begged and joined many street bands with his alto sax. A 2 year journey will make him meet many musicians of various nationalities including many South Americans that will enable him to form a solid repertoire Brazilian and Latino ...

In Saint-Tropez, he played each night "beuffles" with gypsy guitarists Boulou and Elios Ferrer pushing him to "go up" to Paris. That's what he did and was very quickly asked for its tenor deep sound in the variety and rock media. He was just 19 when he first met Nino

Ferrer, who asked him to join his band : this will be the start point of his French sideman career. International scene begins with a first recording on the album "Carmencita" and then with the music of the movie "Litan" of Jean Pierre Mocky. At that time; a pure rock'nroll internship is offered to him with one record within the Scott'Finn band Micky Finn at the castle of Hérouville : No Comments!

In the early 80s, he met in La Rochelle a new African group Touré Kunda, who just recorded Ema ... Contracted to go on tour with them. Five years leading the tour in Africa to the States, Japan, Europe, Canada ... Until 1986, he contributed to the albums "Paris-Ziguinchor", "Amadu Tilo" and "Natalia" produced by Bill Laswell ... During a year off spent in Morocco, Algeria and southern France, he met Olivier Guindon who introduced him to Alain Bashung, will work with him during 2 years participating in the Novice album recorded between France and Montreal where they played at the Spectrum. During this period he will meet French bluesman Paul Personne which will become sideman for 10 years : scenes and albums including "La route de la chance", "Rêve idéal d'un naïf idéal", "Patchwork électrique," "Route 98 " ...

Alongside his career as a sideman, he worked as a composer for theatres and signed the music of "La femme sur le lit" of Brusati and "La sage épouse" of Goldoni in the Persona Co. : Theatre de la Colline, Carré de Sylvia Montfort and Odeon in Paris.

He also performed with many clubs in Paris and around France playing and experiencing his compositions ... During 10 years, he recorded 20 albums with great encounters : Jean Pierre Kalfon, Pierre Baruch, Alain Lèprest ... composed the music of the movie "Eugenio" of Matotti, the soundtrack received numerous awards in the year of its release.

In 1999 his first solo album "Alma del Mundo" is launched and Michel formed his band with the same name and performed in many concerts and festivals throughout the Mediterranean basin about 3 years ... It becomes at this time one of the pillars of hard Mojito Havana club in Paris where he will meet the pianist Yves Prével with whom he created many projects.

From 2006 Don Billiez created his own style: "Mediterranean Latin Jazz" style. He then forged a solid reputation charismatic driver not giving way to concessions. His compositions, sublime melodies of Latin lyricism tinged with jazz and world music.

Saxophone Tenor, the styling of its expression becomes free, the sound of grain, unique timbre, throat .. make a musician's personality immediately recognizable ...

Then he decided to go with his friend the engineer Ali Laoumen in a mega-production around the latter compositions inviting all the best musical events to record a album. A thirty musicians and three years to give birth to "Con Alma", album which benefited from the "helping to create selection" by the SACEM in the jazz category / world and which was supported in 2008 by the "francophonie broadcast" to overseas. Distributed by Dg / Spiral: Believe -Shortly promoted in France can be regularly heard this album, especially the title funklatino "Kalimucho" on the radio Illinois (USA) and Méditerranéo must-have title in Greece, Uruguay, Mexico, Andore ...

In 2010, with his son Arthur, drummer, created the MED Quartet, with the bassist Pierre Fayolle and the pianist Julien Teissier. They met trumpeter Philippe Anicaux and percussionist Sebastien L 'Hermitte and formed the Groovin'Mediterranya. This will be followed by the recording of the album Chapter free which he delegated the musical direction and achievement by his son Arthur. The official launch occurred at the end of 2013.



2014 -2015 New tracks with a new band : ADDICTIVE PULSE...

New album coming on 2016