

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH EVENING

8.00pm Aurore GRUEL & Erik MINKKINEN /FRA
NEW **DUO** [dance, guitar]



For this unique encounter, there is only one watchword: energy. The two protagonists do not know each other. We know them well. Aurore Gruel (appearing at Densités for the first time) has built a brilliant and atypical choreographic career over the years with her company Ormone and as artistic director of the Laboratoire chorégraphique de la Marne. Poetic and always on the edge, her creations explore the multiplicity of relationships between time, space, body and matter. Aurore Gruel challenges these relationships and plays with our perceptions. Erik Minkkinen also likes challenges. The legendary guitarist of the equally legendary Sister Iodine (a free rock band that has been around since 1992), he is also known for his many bands and projects, including Discorn, Intertecsupabrainbeatroomboyz and K7Straub. His music, somewhere between fury and mystery, is imbued with boundless energy. It reaches a true poetry. The meeting of these two personalities is deliciously unpredictable. It will undoubtedly be exhilarating.

9.30pm Gaudenz BADRUTT, Ilia BELORUKOV & Jonas KOCHER /CHE-RUS/SRB
TRIO [electronics, sax alto, accordion]



Between restraint and tension, with complicity and respect, here is a world-class electroacoustic chamber music trio. These musicians are great improvisers and have been playing together for a long time (since 2014). They also share many projects within the Bruit association (Biel/Bienne in Switzerland). Together, they create a music sculpted from silence, filled with resonances, enormous contrasts and explosive attacks. We are travelling through vibrant soundscapes.

11.00pm Seb BRUN, François ROSENFELD, Simon HENOCQ, Guillaume MAGNE & Jean-François RIFFAUD /FRA
PARQUET (on the pit)



‘It’s like Pac-Man meets Jeff Mills!’ This perfectly sets the scene for the band founded in 2014 by Sébastien Brun, which embraces the fantasy of techno played with instruments. Their music is rhythmic, tonal and repetitive. It is masterfully played by flesh-and-blood musicians. Layers of minimal motifs, rhythmic patterns, bursts of guitar and synthesizers: we could get lost, but here are the drums, showing us the light! The drum kit is at the core of this ephemeral architecture, constantly adding and removing elements in long, hypnotic pieces. For Densités, the band plays in the middle of the audience (on the pit) to share the intensity of the moment: musicians and audience become one in a collective trance... For once, here’s an opportunity to dance differently before the famous Densités ball, with a rock band blending into the techno culture.

12.00 midnight Hervé BIROLINI /FRA
NEW **LET’S ENTER THE NIGHT...**
 [acousmatic broadcasts]



A new broadcasting programme for the pure pleasure of listening.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

11.00am Ivan GRUSELLE /FRA
MOTU [sound relaxation]

For the third year in a row, Ivan invites us to come aboard his island! Join in this moment to play, to relax and to share music with others.

2.00pm Joe WILLIAMSON /CAN-SWE
NEW **SOLO** [doublebass, guitar, voice]



A great musician who is rather discreet on the French scene, Joe Williamson is nevertheless a reference in improvisation and global free jazz. He has played with Jon Rose, Olaf Rupp, Martin Brandlmayr, Tony Buck, Axel Doerner, Sture Ericsson, and others. This most Swedish of Canadians is very active on the lively Scandinavian music scene. Joe Williamson also enjoys painting, writing, and singing songs. This was too good an opportunity to pass up, allowing us to discover the dual facets of a complete artist. We will enjoy his double bass playing as well as his unique songs accompanied by guitar.

3.00pm Nicolas LANIER & Alfred SPIRLI /FRA
MOTU **« EN MOINS DE DEUX »** [dance, objects]

Back in the city, the two friends are starting a new chapter in their fluid partnership. Feeling somewhat constrained by their labels as “dancer” and “musician,” they juggle their roles with the joy of having fun together. We’re having fun too!

4.30pm John BUTCHER & Angharad DAVIES /GBR-WALES
DUO [sax, violin]

Two great artists from across the Channel who have crossed paths and shared music together for many years. Yet they had never played as a duo. With the release of their album (Lower Marsh), we can rediscover their very strong individualities. John Butcher is one of Densités’ favorite musicians: a great improviser (but also a composer) and a world reference in this practice (from Chris Corsano to John Tilbury, Christian

Marclay, Sophie Agnel, and Andy Moor). Classically trained, Angharad Davies subtly and delicately carves a path between improvisation, composition, and interpretation. The context and the performance space are central to her music. This duo promises attentive dialogue, complicity, and beautiful escapades.

5.30pm Simon HENOCQ /FRA
WE USE COOKIES [electronics]

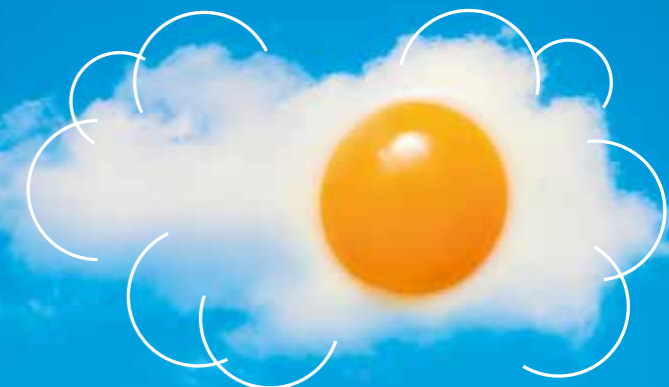


Musician, producer, and sound artist Simon Henocq is also co-founder of the lively and active Parisian Coax collective. “We Use Cookies” is one of his exciting projects emerging from Coax. Here, our ears and bodies are directly immersed in the raw sounds of industrial environments. This raw solo piece oscillates between sound and organic materials with an impressive ability to arrange layers of sound: before our very eyes and ears, they are constructed, deconstructed, and dissolved. This raw, living, wild material is traversed by pulsations that make it striking and intensely physical. Ready for the journey, we find ourselves in a performance that is by no means closed in on itself: We Use Cookies’ music is highly communicative and generous.

7.00pm **MOTU** **The BALL**

It’s hard to imagine a Densités festival without its famous ball, which is always a joyful occasion to celebrate the end of the event. The setting is changing this year, but fans can rest assured that everything will be there: costumes, disco balls, disco and rock dance, French musette... And of course, the inexhaustible energy of the Omelettes orchestra with our musician friends and companions (Hélène, Véronique, Xavier and Xavier, Michel, Maxime... and the others!).

31st FESTIVAL **DENSITÉS**



VU D'UN ŒUF

7.8.9 NOV 2025 Festival de Musiques étonnantes, danse & performance
 SMAC Contre-Courant MJC BELLEVILLE-S/-MEUSE⁽⁵⁵⁾

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What is the common point between traditional songs from the Po Valley, a young environmental activist, a quintet playing hypnotic techno, a noise guitarist, English, Swiss and Canadian improvisers, two explorers in the Meuse, free dancers, a Franco-Belgian duo of frozen fish-sticks, two cornet players, a composer, and a little tune from the musette? All these and much more make Densités!

But what is a festival? A place to listen and hear a wide range of artistic performances, music (lots of music), dance, images, artists meeting the public and, of course, vice versa, convivial moments, debates, discussions, life! On the eve of its 31st edition, Densités has not changed, yet it is constantly evolving. And yet... our festival has been pushed away of Fresnes and had to move.

Thanks to a new partnership with Contre-Courant, it is now hosted in the beautiful musical venue of Verdun.

What does this tell us? That the adventure continues, offering you varied performances and wonderful discoveries. Despite a difficult financial context, this change is above all a magnificent opportunity to invent new paths and share them with you... The journey continues forward, and we are counting on you so we can continue to live together in much-needed utopias.

Emmanuelle PELLEGRINI, artistic director

« *Nothing behind me, everything ahead of me, as is ever so on the road.* »

(ON THE ROAD JACQUES KEROUAC)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

8.30pm Silvia TAROZZI & Deborah WALKER ^{/ITA}
 **CANTI DI GUERRA, DI LAVORO E D'AMORE** [cello, voice, violin]

To open the festival, women are in the full light. Deborah Walker and Silvia Tarozzi revisit the folk songs of the women of the Po Valley, particularly those of the Mondine, the rice field workers. Inspired by polyphony and stories of social struggle, love and war, they reinterpret these songs with modern and experimental elements. The show features original compositions and arrangements of traditional songs, such as La Lega, the first female song of proletarian struggle, and Il Bersagliere ha cento penne. Silvia Tarozzi and Deborah Walker have performed at numerous international festivals and collaborated with renowned composers. This duo is unique in their journey. It is, of course, linked to their Italian roots. It also carries a universal and urgent message to continue the long journey to restore the place of all women in history. These songs resonate with so many other places and other current struggles. We feel a deep solidarity with oppressed and voiceless women: donne e uomini cantiamo tutti insieme! ('Women and men, let's sing together!').

9.30pm Pierre BASTIEN & Louis LAURAIN ^{/FRA}
 **C.N.T** [cornets, objects, images]



cnt: on record sleeves, abbreviation for 'valve cornet' printed in brackets after the name of the musician who plays it. Example: Rex Stewart (cnt).
 CNT: acronym for Confederación Nacional del Trabajo, a Spanish libertarian trade union based on the recognition of the human group.
 C.N.T: a band of two humans who play the cornet, a musical instrument commonly and somewhat inaccurately referred to as a 'trumpet'.
 A left-handed trumpet does not exist: three fingers are enough to press the valves, without requiring exceptional agility. So most trumpet players could have only one arm. But Louis Laurain and Pierre Bastien (whom we are delighted to welcome to Densités for the first time!) are no invalid. Before meeting, they had each decided independently to put their neglected hand at work: to add percussion to their melodic

instrument or to make it polyphonic, harmonic, noisy... You will hear and see a real orchestra, with its striking rhythms and swaying bass lines, performed by two sound sculptors!

11.00pm Joke LANZ & Ute WASSERMANN ^{/CHE-DEU}
DUO [turntables, voice, objects]



Vocal, physical and electronic actions, changes, cuts, ultra-fast turns, twisted melodies, stop & go grooves and complicated loops: it moves and twirls! Our listening experience is explosive. The two artists have been working together for some time, which their intimacy in virtuosity makes obvious! Joke Lanz is a renowned noise musician, performance artist and turntablist. He is also a founding member and singer of the art rock band Sudden Infant, and a member of the legendary band Schimpfluch (alongside Rudolf Eb.er, Dave Phillips, Marc Zeier and Daniel Löwenbrück). Ute Wassermann is a German singer, composer and sound artist who has developed unique vocal techniques. Side roads, shortcuts, detours, diversions, curly paths or wide boulevards: let's embark for a virtuoso and joyful journey.

12.00 midnight Hervé BIROLINI ^{/FRA}
 **LET'S ENTER THE NIGHT...** [acousmatic broadcasts]

Hervé Birolini composes pieces in which the questions of technology, space and sharing (with dancers and live musicians) are omnipresent. His projects are exciting and always challenge us: from his solo Tesla to the more recent Dé-corrélation / Corrélation with Aurore Gruel. He is a key player on the music scene and his work deserves to be even better known! After the explosive « Des éclairs » in 2023, Densités is opening up a different space for him this time: a showcase for his compositions performed by a small orchestra of loudspeakers (an acousmonium). Let's think of it as a comfortable living room where we can immerse ourselves in sound. And step into the night. With our ears well nourished.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH DAY

11.00am Nicolas LANIER & Alfred SPIRLI ^{/FRA}
 **« EN MOINS DE DEUX »** at l'École Buissonnière in Avocourt [dance, objects]

In a venue like « L'école buissonnière » (which means skipping school in French), Alfred and Nicolas are happy as Larry: these two mischievous artists feel good anywhere, whether on stage, in a garden, a neighbourhood, a train station or an international lawnmower festival! Together, they play and make fun of everything, creating surprises and amazement, shifting and diverting places poetically. And with their body language and the music of the moment, the setting comes alive. They play with the sensitive or usual links between our environments and our presence, often with humour. Attentive to each other's gaze, determined to live a unique moment, without complex, they invent solid but ephemeral constructions. To be enjoyed on the spot!

2.00pm Xavier SAÏKI & Thierry VALLINO ^{/FRA}
 **ARGONNE-MEUSE** [sounds, images, guitar, film]

The two companions explore the territory where our organization has been newly based since the summer of 2025: this territory of nearly 600 km² in the west of the Meuse department is at the border of the former Lorraine region... The artists are in residence on this vast territory stretching from Clermont to Varennes, from Dombasle to Les Islettes, from Vauquois to the GR14 (long-distance hiking trail), from the river Meuse to the pond of the Bercettes, from the Biesme valley to the Aire valley. They encounter people, fields, forests, silence, emptiness, history, cows, water... Everything that makes up a living space in this very rural area. A challenge that these two artists take up with their powerful humanity... There's definitely something new in the west.

AND / OR 

Sophie MONROY & William NURDIN ^{/BEL-FRA}
KROUSTIBATT [guitar, drum]

In Belgium and France, Croustibat is a brand of fish sticks. If some breadcrumbs and wheat flour are needed to make these pollock sticks, you need a heavily amplified drum kit, a distinctive guitar and a distinctive voice to create the Kroustibatt duet. This is a brand new band whose two partners have been involved in numerous bands and projects on the essential alternative and experimental scene in Europe. Simple, effective, danceable and slightly off-kilter, their songs are irresistible. Are they, as their name suggests, crispy on the outside and soft on the inside? It's up to us to find out, but one thing's for sure: they're like fish in clear water (okay, that was an easy one...)!

3.30pm Bertrand DENZLER & Frantz LORiot ^{/CHE}
DOUBLE SOLO [sax, alto]

Each of the two musicians improvises a solo while they play together: are they capable of not listening to each other, of not hearing each other, of not caring about each other, of not worrying about the result of this superimposition, of not building a common language? These fundamental questions related to improvisation resonate broadly with our social practices: can we live together without communicating, rub shoulders without affecting each other, coexist without destroying each other? Before continuing with a debate, these two figures of adventurous music offer a path strewn with pitfalls, happy accidents and chance encounters: improvised music deeply rooted in life.

4.15pm Improvised music and political issues
MEETING AND DISCUSSION

As part of the PETITES CAUSERIES (« small talks ») organised by the Grand Est Creative Music Platform (PFMC).
 Based on the book by Bertrand Denzler and Frantz Lorient (published by Association Bruit, Biel/Bienne, Switzerland).
 Frantz Lorient is a musician, but also interested in the political dimension of improvised music. Influenced by anarchist, anti-capitalist and postcolonial thinkers, he has developed his own approach to this musical practice. This led him to interview Bertrand Denzler. Together, they turned it into a book. Does improvised music break with other traditions? What place do the notions of freedom and equality have in creation? What is the relationship between sound and discourse? How does improvised music relate to institutions? These are some of the questions raised in the book. These are literally burning issues in a context where spaces for creation are becoming increasingly scarce.

5.30pm Sound conversation with Patricia DALLIO et Victor NOËL ^{/FRA}
 **TARDIGRADE EXPERIENCE** [voice, électronics]

"My name is Victor Noël, I am 20 years old. I have always observed the living world around me. My passion and attachment to it gave rise to a desire to defend it against destruction. I am therefore committed to trying to sow the seeds of respect for species, as well as to showing the importance of a societal change."
 Tardigrade experience (this name refers to a type of very small creature with eight legs that lives in water) is an opportunity to listen to the words of a young man and of a musician who are deeply committed to this cause. Patricia Dallio's electronic instrument-making becomes almost organic in her hands. The shifting sound textures she crafts are akin to pictorial, radio or cinematographic frescoes. These soundscapes resonate with Victor Noël's words. Together, they give strength to an open discourse on the observation and preservation of biodiversity. Thoroughly humane beings.