



Le journal de Jazz In Marciac

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Dear English speakers,

At *Jazz au Coeur*, we always felt it unfair that you could not always read our articles, decode our (sometimes subtle, sometimes simply bland) references to music, artists and jazz standards, in short enjoy the pleasure of being a fan and running after each issue to complete one's collection. To be fair we feel the same frustration when an artist, and many do so these days, begins to tell his or her life on stage using Shakespeare's language instead of Moliere's. So, to show you our gratitude for being/living there and attending this marvellous festival, here's a selection of this week's articles in English.

Enjoy and tell us what you think at: [englishdesk.jac2024@gmail.com](mailto:englishdesk.jac2024@gmail.com)



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## Even the plush crocodile was singing

Friday, July 26, 2024, under the JIM big tent, the atmosphere is all about celebration and spectacle.

English pianist and BBC presenter Jools Holland immediately sets a festive mood. The audience, spanning all generations, quickly starts clapping throughout the tent. Piano, guitar, double bass, drums, and wind instruments take turns accompanying the numerous guest artists in a rhythm and blues style. But other genres also make an appearance: boogie-woogie, rock'n'roll, blues, gospel. Classic themes are revisited in a spectacular manner: *Ain't Misbehavin*, a *Bach Aria*, and *La Vie en Rose* all garner numerous applause. The announcements preceding the arrival of the singers are just as sensational as their performances, which repeatedly provoke standing ovations from the delighted audience. Chairs are forgotten as the crowd rises and dances between the rows. Even the spotlights leave the stage and sweep across the venue, transforming the tent and its surroundings into a massive dance floor. The scales and

vocal exercises orchestrated by Holland toward the end of his set give us a taste of the festivities to come...

With a leap, quick as lightning, composer, arranger, singer, and multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier makes a stunning entrance to the enthusiastic cheers of the spectators. The «cartoonish» looking artist sits at the piano and plays the first notes of *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*. The already captivated audience hums along, perhaps a little envious of the plush crocodile perched on the piano, enjoying a VIP spot in the front row. Left hand on the piano, right hand on the guitar, and mouth in front of the microphone, the virtuoso forms single-handedly a full orchestra. The harmony-obsessed musician then introduces his mentors: Take 6, a group of six cappella singers with a dynamic stage presence. They begin to sing and beatbox themes like *Chaplin's Smile* and Stevie Wonder's

*Overjoyed*. With their harmonies, bass lines, and strong rhythms, they make the audience dance to the sound of their voices alone. It feels like there is a backing track... but there isn't! Take 6 and Jacob Collier take turns making the audience in the tent sing and dance, turning them into impromptu choristers. The maestro organizes the crowd into several sections in front of the stage, dividing the voices with a gesture to create powerful harmonies that fluctuate.

«Just an old sweet song keeps Marciac on my mind»; he slips in during a performance that will remain unforgettable. In fact, we couldn't stop singing *All Night Long* long after the concert ended.

Original text by Athéna, Marie and Marguerite, translated by Jean

## A pre-concert conversation with Renée Rosnes, Founder of the Artemis band, July 31 2024, backstage, one hour and 15 mns before the concert.

### Good evening, Renée. Is it your first time in Marciac?

With Artemis, sure, but as a person no. I came here twice, once for a concert dedicated to Mulgrew Miller in the spring of 2014 or 2015, I am not sure about the year and one with the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, I can't remember when (*Publisher's note: in 1997*).

### Each of the Artemis member is a leader in its own right. So, the question is: how does it work?

It came together naturally. We first started to play together in 2016, in Paris actually for the International Woman's Day and we loved it. We knew each other of course. Ingrid Jensen, the trumpet, is from British Columbia and I have known her for years, but we did not play together before this band. In 2017, we made a tour and a Blue Note album and then a second album, also on Blue Note. Our group tonight in Marciac is the core of the band. We did play also with Cecile Mc Lorin Salvant but she is too busy and so our schedules are difficult to match. She's an amazing singer and we all love her.

### How do you work together?

Everyone contributes to the band as everyone is also a composer. I do most of the arranging. So, when we play pieces which are written by other people, Wayne Shorter Duke Ellington for example, I will do the arrangements.

### But if say Nicole or Ingrid compose a piece, they are running the band when you play it?

Oh yes, absolutely, everyone rehearses her own piece and has control over this. In general, in this band, I see myself as an organizing force, I mean, I do lead it, I choose the set list, I do most of the arranging but actually each of us contributes equally to the band.

### So, if you are the boss, you are a benevolent boss...

Yes, I would hope so, that's the way it works. If it does not work that way, the band would not stay together.

### You are Canadian and therefore a question relating to your mother country: How do you assess the jazz scene in Canada these days?

There are many talented artists in Canada today who play beautifully but they don't have much access to the media. In Canada, they might be well known but outside of Canada completely unknown;

obviously America is a larger country with such labels as Blue Note or Verve, it is much easier to push somebody's music to the world. And to get recognition these days you have to tour. However, it is difficult to tour at the moment, post pandemics and with the economy in trouble in some places. I used to play frequently in Japan for example now it much rarer.

Happily there are still places like here in Marciac. I adore playing in France, I love France, I love the gentle way we are taken care of here.

### Last question, Renee. If you had just one word to describe each of your partners, what would it be?

Well, let's begin with Allison Miller then. She is rock solid, which is good for a drummer isn't it! Noriko Ueda (the bass player) is buoyant, she listens, she has great ears, she is very present and she keeps things afloat. She also has a joyful spirit, she smiles naturally, including on the stage.

### What about Nicole Glover, the tenor sax?

Nicole is an explorer, she's fearless,

### Do you mean she can go anywhere when improvising...

Yes and actually she will, it is great. For Ingrid, I would use the word complex but above all liberty, freedom.

I'd like to point out that, as women on the road, we are in a very different setup than travelling with an all-male band. We just naturally talk more; we are very good friends. When you travel with men, it is much quieter. So, when we get to the stage, it is like a family experience. And I hope our music reflects that.

Interview conducted and translated by Bernard



## The whole of Gascony on your plate!

### Behind the label, four families



The gourmet shop Excellence Gers, located 20, Place de l'Hôtel de Ville, is managed by a group of four independent farm estates who share the same values: tradition, quality, the utmost friendliness, and a deep respect of the environment. Their aim in Marciac is to make people discover their farms, this beautiful region and its gastronomic heritage.

The Della Vedove family, originally Italian, teamed with the Pérès family to present a variety of Gascon products and flavors to the festival-goers. Located in Bassoues, the Bilé vineyards sell Côtes de Gascogne wine (IGP) in red, white or rosé. You'll also find Armagnac vintages as well as Pineau. And do not forget the famous "floc" (which means flower bouquet in Gascon language) to be served fresh at the unescapable aperitif in the main square.

Settled in Saint-Michel, the Patte d'Oie Pérès farm offers foie gras, duck confit and other ready-made dishes based on duck meat and liver. The term "duck agroforestry" indicates a real concern for the well-being of the animals.

Two more producers joined ranks a few years ago. On the shelves of the Rigoulet farms in Cuelas, honey, jam and nougat reign supreme. Finally, you'll find the famous Porc Noir of Bigorre (AOP) presented by the Rey family in Loubersan. Here Marie and Nicolas raise with passion their animals who live and run among the woods.

Very much in the spirit of the times, these farms open their doors to visitors through a variety of events, including wine tasting, catering, concert evenings, exhibitions and so on. It's up to you to meet these «four musketeers». You'll be warmly welcomed, and you'll leave with a wealth of knowledge about a world of flavour that will not leave you indifferent, we can assure you!

Original text by Sophie, translated by Dorian