

TOUD 'SAMES

From Brittany (*France*)

Lors JOUIN (*vocals*) - Jean-Michel VEILLON (*flutes, bombarde*)

Alain GENTY (*fretless bass*) - Dom MOLARD (*percussions*)

David "Hopi" HOPKINS (*percussions*)

Probably like everywhere else in the world, singing was always the strongest vehicle of musical expression in Brittany, and our concert will keep it in its central place.

We do not play only strict "traditional" music as we use transverse wooden flutes, fretless bass and percussions (all more or less recently adapted to the Breton music) as well as vocals and bombarde. Above all, we want to show the remarkable vitality of the Breton music nowadays by playing not only collected tunes but also recent compositions (words and music) by ourselves or by friends of ours.

Although this band was created very recently at the occasion of a festival to support the Breton language, we are all professional musicians with a long history in : we have already played music together in various groups (like BARZAZ, DEN, KORNOG, LES OURS DU SCORFF, SKOLVAN, CELTIC PROCESSION, etc...) in the past 15 years, as shown on the individual bios following.

NB : "*Toud 'sames* " is in Breton language. It could be translated as "*together*" in English.

Lors JOUIN (Vocals)

Born in Paris from a family of *chansonniers*, Lors was still in his teens when he came back to Brittany. He got immediately very familiar with the country people of Western Brittany (*Breiz Izel*), working in farms where he learned the Breton language and starting to collect songs and tales everywhere he would stay. He rapidly became one of the most brilliant singers of *Kan ha diskan* (typical breton type of duo singing) from his generation. His great mastery of both singing and story telling led him to a double career as a singer and an actor.

As a soloist, Lors is one of the best *gwerz* singer (*gwerz* being a beautiful type of lamentation from Western Brittany). But he is also acclaimed as a duo singer with J-Y LE ROUX or Gigi BOURDIN in the *festoù noz* (dance-nights in Brittany) of both Western or Eastern Brittany, or in various bands (GWERZ, LES OURS DU SCORFF, BLEIZI RUZ...)

Lors also worked for the regional television in Brittany (FR3) acting or producing plays and films in the Breton language. Respected as a great composer of both music and words (some of his compositions for the famous band "LES OURS DU SCORFF" are now sung by thousands of children or adults in Brittany !), Lors is also an hilarious and subtle entertainer whose name is already creating a growing legend.

Jean-Michel VEILLON (Flutes, Bombard)

Born on the North Coast of Brittany, Jean-Michel was first a dancer and then a bombard (old type of double reed oboe, very typical of Brittany) player in his teens. He then started to play the transverse wooden flute, getting his first influences from Irish flute players, but then created distinct fingering and tonguing techniques, more adapted to the Breton music.

Jean-Michel toured Europe and the U.S extensively in the 1980's as a founder member of the highly praised KORNOG, PENNOU SKOULM, DEN and BARZAZ. He also played with CELTIC PROCESSION and FLUTES DE TRAVERSES (composition by KRISTEN NOGUES, the great breton composer, putting together a classical, jazz and traditional flutists) before turning to duo work with guitarist Yvon RIOU.

Widely credited with introducing the simple system wooden flute into Breton folk music, and primarily responsible though his intensive teaching efforts and hundreds of concerts and festivals appearances for its widespread adoption among many dozens of young musicians throughout Brittany, Jean-Michel has achieved widespread recognition as one of world's premier traditional flute players.

« If you have any interest in the flute, folk or otherwise, Jean-Michel Veillon's recordings are, like Matt Molloy's, indispensable. They're the only flute players, outside the classical field, that can be mentioned in the same breath and Veillon's albums are also essential as he is at the forefront of modern interpretation and development of the Breton musical tradition » Jem Hammond (Taplas- WALES Sept.1999)

Alain GENTY (Fretless bass)

Composer, producer, self-taught bassplayer, his musical career has been deeply marked by the number and diversity of his musical encounters.

In 1989, Breton music became a major axis in the development of his artistic career. He joined the group BARZAZ to record their first album "*Ec'honder*". In 1992, he recorded their second album "*An den kozh dall*". He joined the group DEN (from 1989 to 1991) and the group GWERZ from 1992 (recording of the album "*Gwerz Live*" 1993). He also recorded with the famous group SKOLVAN. Following the release of his first album "*La Couleur du Milieu*" (1994), he founded the Alain GENTY GROUP which has performed at numerous concerts and festivals throughout Europe. His second album "*Le Grand Encrier*" is released in May 1998. As a record producer, he worked for CHEB MAMI ("*Meli-Meli*" 1998), for the great scottish and breton guitarists TONY McMANUS ("*Pourquoi Québec?*" 1998) and SOIG SIBERIL ("*Gwenojenn*" 1999), and for J-M VEILLON & Y. RIOU ("*Beo ! Live in Belfast*" 2000)...

As a composer, he worked for the theater, the cinema and contemporary dance.

Dom MOLARD (Percussions)

Born in St Malo, on the North coast of Brittany, Dom began to play the scottish snare-drum in 1966 at the BAGAD DE ST MALO (a *Bagad* is a typically breton form of the Scottish *pipe-bands*, created in Brittany around the 50's) and then at the prestigious Pipe-Band AN ERE where he was already considered as one of the best drummers of his generation. Several well-known bands (ALAN STIVELL, BLEIZI RUZ, DIAOULED AR MENEZ) invited him to play the full drum kit with them. He rapidly imposed himself as one of the most innovative accompanists. In the mid-80's, as he was member of the amazing and hilarious Eastern music group "LES PIRES", Dom also developed a strong interest for oriental percussions, starting to learn the tabla with *Shyamal Maïtra*. However, he never stopped playing with Breton bands like the top-dance-band SKOLVAN or experimental groups like the CELTIC PROCESSION of JACQUES PELLEN, together with traditional breton musicians like Erik MARCHAND or J-M VEILLON and European jazzmen like Paolo FRESU (Sardinia), Ricardo DEL FRA (Italia), the Brother BOCLE (Brittany/USA), etc... In 2000, Dom and his brothers Jacky (violin) et Patrick (breton and scottish pipes) created a new band "BAL TRIBAL" which received the First price of the Regional Creation, bringing together some of the best breton musicians together with classical and jazz musicians, not to forget the amazing Bulgarian singer Kalinka VULCHEVA.

David "Hopi" HOPKINS (Percussions)

Irish born musician David "Hopi" Hopkins has been living in Brittany (France) since 1992, where he has participated in the legendary Breton groups Barzaz and Bleizi Ruz. He has played and/or recorded also with Alan Stivell, Myrdhin (Afro Celt Sound System), Didier Squiban, etc. Hopi is currently member of the Guichen Quartet (with Fred and Jean Charles Guichen of the group Ar Re Yaouank and formidable bassist Etienne Callac) He is playing also regularly in Toud 'Sames (with two of his ex-Barzaz colleagues Jean Michel Veillon and Alain Genty) plus the fest noz group Loar Gann, the Irish music groups Sualtam, Rune and Boys in the Gap and takes part in Stok An Dans, the percussion experience of Dominique Molard.

Before arriving in Brittany, Hopi lived for 12 years in Switzerland, which gave him the opportunity to meet and play with musicians from many disciplines and traditions, including Italian pianist Antonio Breschi, Turkish percussionist Burhan Ocal, American pianist Art Lande, Croatian guitarist Ljubo Majstorovic, Lebanese violinist Haïssam Salah Eddine, Irish - Swiss composer / pianist John Wolf Brennan, Afro -English singer / guitarist Paul Ubana Jones... He goes regularly to Poland where he is special guest with Polish avant garde folkgroup Kwartet Jorgi.

Hopi has toured in almost every country in Europe and has taken part in most of the big Celtic events as well as some important jazz festivals.

SOME DATES OF TOUD 'SAMES :

January 2000 : Taol Kurun Festival QUIMPERLE (Brittany)

August 2001 : Sea Songs Festival in RHODOS (Grece)

September 2001 : National scene "La Passerelle" in ST BRIEUC (Brittany)

March 2002 : "Théâtre de Cornouaille" in QUIMPER (Brittany)

April 2002 : "Espace Glenmor" in CARHAIX (Brittany)

July 2002 : "Interceltic festival" of LORIENT (Brittany)

September 002 : "Fête de Dastum" in PONTIVY (Brittany)

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