



ORCHESTRE NATIONAL DE JAZZ

ARTISTIC DIRECTION FRÉDÉRIC MAURIN

The Orchestre National de Jazz was created by French Ministry of Culture in 1986. In more than three decades, this prestigious institution has played a large part in the institutional and cultural legitimization of jazz, notably in offering a vast panorama of the French creation. The Orchestra has welcomed more than 200 soloists, recorded 31 albums and received many awards including “Victoires du Jazz” in 2009 and 2020.

As the leader of the ONJ since January 2019, guitarist and composer Frédéric Maurin is implementing a project of great openness reflected in an active policy of commissions and collaborations with composers with singular aesthetics, associate artists, but also personalities from other fields of performing arts.

Three programs have marked the beginning of his mandate: *Dancing in Your Head(s)*, with arrangements by Fred Pallem, explores the galaxy of the saxophonist and genius composer Ornette Coleman; *Rituels* plunges us into a poetic and fascinating world through a collective work for thirteen musicians and four voices written by Ellinoà, Sylvaine Héлары, Leïla Martial, Grégoire Letouvet and Frédéric Maurin; *Dracula*, the first show for a young audiences in the history of the ONJ revisits the myth of the most famous vampire with the help of stage director Julie Bertin, actresses Estelle Meyer and Milena Csergo, lyricist Romain Maron and composers Grégoire Letouvet and Frédéric Maurin. A book-disc adapted from the show, produced in collaboration with the illustrator Adèle Maury - winner of the 2020 Young Talent Prize at the French Angoulême Festival - was published in October 2021.

The ONJ inaugurated the year 2022 with the creation of its fourth program *Ex Machina*, conceived by the American saxophonist Steve Lehman and Frédéric Maurin, in close collaboration with IRCAM. This program explores new musical directions by developing real-time interactions between soloists and the machine within a large jazz ensemble, and was premiered in February 2022 at the 32nd Festival Présences de Radio France. The ONJ will close the year with the creation of its fifth program *Frame by Frame*, a tribute to some of the emblematic figures of 1970s progressive rock with arrangements by Airelle Besson, Sylvaine Héлары, Sarah Murcia and Frédéric Maurin, presented in December at the Maison de la Radio et de la Musique.

Each creation of the ONJ favors experimentation of forms and formats thanks to a variable geometry orchestra composed of male and female musicians of different generations and nationalities.

In parallel with its creations, the orchestra is also committed to making known or rediscovering the works of the repertoire and their composers. For the centenary of the birth of the French violinist, composer, writer and critic André Hodeir, Frédéric Maurin has joined forces with Patrice Caratini to perform his 1966 masterpiece, *Anna Livia Plurabelle*, in March 2021 at the Maison de la Radio et de la Musique.

Always linked to the orchestra's programs, artistic and cultural education as well as the promotion of the ONJ's heritage, play an essential role. **The Orchestre des Jeunes de l'ONJ 'ONJ Youth Orchestra'** was launched in 2019. This program brings together students from French and European music schools and conservatories, and former directors of the ONJ, to work on reinterpreting the orchestra's repertoires, with the ambition of transmitting and promoting the incredible musical wealth produced for 36 years by this group and its variations.

Today, the Orchestre National de Jazz is carrying out an ambitious project with broader general interest missions, through the sharing of tools in the service of jazz and its diversity.



[LIVE AT FESTIVAL JAZZDOR STRASBOURG-BERLIN](#)
Guest Tim Berne

Album released on August 21, 2020
ONJ Records – L'Autre Distribution



RITUELS

Album released on August 21, 2020
ONJ Records – L'Autre Distribution



DRACULA

Graphic novel+CD

Illustrations Adèle Maury

Released on October 21, 2021

ONJ Records – L'Autre Distribution

2021 Youth Award of the Charles Cros Academy



2022 Youth Audio Book Award of La Plume de Paon

