

# Birds of Paradise

VALENTINE & GABRIEL MICHAUD  
saxophones and percussions

An inexhaustible source of inspiration for composers, bird songs has spanned eras and genres and colored countless musical works. Exploring a palette of sonorities alternately woody and shimmering, scintillating and voluptuous, the two instrumentalists dive with us into a lush jungle of chiseled melodies and dazzling harmonies. Dotted the recital with delicate and sometimes humorous miniatures, the Catalog of Birds by Kévin Juillerat, commissioned for the occasion, punctuates transcriptions of classical, baroque and modern works, jazz or even pop. The famous tunes of well-known birds alternate with surprises, funny, fantastic or exotic birds with in particular the commission made to Raphaël Sévère inspired by Balinese folklore. All spread their wings together in a hymn to freedom and musical diversity.

Le Rossignol en amour - Le rossignol  
Vainqueur, François Couperin - 5'30

Colibri, Catalogue d'oiseaux, n°1,  
Kevin Juillerat - 2' (*commande*)

Skylark, Hoagy Carmichael (jazz standard) - 4'

Oiseaux de Bali, Raphaël Sévère - 8' (*commande*)

The Swan, Camille Saint Saens - 3'

Autruche, Catalogue d'oiseaux, n°2,  
Kevin Juillerat - 2' (*commande*)

Kuku, Barry Crockoft - 6'

Perroquets, Catalogue d'oiseaux, n°3,  
Kevin Juillerat - 2' (*commande*)

Dream of the Cherry Blossom, Keiko Abe - 6'

The Peacock Moment, Anders Hillborg - 1'30

Venus' bird whose mornful song,  
John Dowland - 3'15

Flamant, Catalogue d'oiseaux, n°4,  
Kevin Juillerat - 2' (*commande*)

Blackbird, the Beatles - 2'30

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# JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE NIGHT

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Round Midnight, Thelonious Monk  
alto saxophone and vibraphone,  
arr. Gabriel Michaud - 5'

Nightclub 1960, Astor Piazzola  
transcription for saxophone soprano and  
marimba - 6'

Bad touch, Casey Cangelosi  
percussion, visuals and electronics - 5'

Voyage au bout de la Nuit, Gabriel Michaud  
commission - 7'

Grab it, Jacob Ter Veldhuis  
tenor saxophone, drums and tape - 10'

Mysterious Morning III, Fuminori Tanada  
saxophone soprano solo - 7'

Bordel 1900, Astor Piazzolla  
transcription for soprano saxophone and  
marimba - 3'

Après un Rêve, Gabriel Fauré  
transcription for alto saxophone and  
vibraphone - 3'10

From smoky jazz club slums to megacity traffic jams, to the dim light of an interrogation room to a lonely night wander, this recital takes the listener to the heart of a dense night where disturbing encounters lurk around a dark alley.

For saxophones and percussions of all kinds, sometimes accompanied by visual or electronic effects, «Journey to the End of the Night», tribute to the homonymous novel, is a nightmare-like reflection on obscurantism as much as darkness. Sailing between classical, contemporary inspirations and jazz, the two performers evoke with vehemence and poetry inconsistencies of a society plunged into darkness, where glows furtively the hope of awakening.

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## VALENTINE MICHAUD - SAXOPHONE

Valentine Michaud is a French saxophonist born in 1993 and established in Switzerland since 2010. Valentine Michaud has won numerous awards, including the Credit Suisse Young Artist Award 2020, the 1st Prize of the Jurjans Andrejs VI Woodwind International Competition, the Migros Cultural Percent Award and the 2017 Credit Suisse Prix Jeunes Solistes.

Her duo Akmi, with pianist partner Akvilė Sileikaitė, received the Swiss Ambassador Award (2019), as well as 1st Prize of the Orpheus Swiss Chamber Music Competition (2016) and 2nd Prize of the Salieri Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition (2018). Together, the two musicians made their debut at the Lucerne Festival, the Wigmore Hall in London, the Cappella in St Petersburg or the KKL in Luzern. Since 2015, the saxophonist has been supported by prestigious Swiss scholarships such as the Leenaards Foundation Cultural Scholarship (2015) or the Migros Pour-Cent Culturel scholarship and encouragement prize (2015-2019).

Recent highlights include performances as a soloist with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra under Vassily Petrenko, the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande conducted by Maxime Pascal and has also made her debut with the Akmi duo in the Lucerner Symphony Orchester's chamber music series.

In September 2022, she makes her debut with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Esa-Pekka Salonen in the premiere of the saxophone and orchestra version of Anders Hillborg's «Peacock Tales». She regularly performs as a soloist, chamber musician (Akmi duo, Sibja Sax Quartet, Ever Present Orchestra) or within orchestras on prestigious stages around the world. She was invited to perform as a soloist with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra, the City Lights Orchestra, the St

Petersburg State Capella Symphony Orchestra, the Neuchatel Symphony Ensemble, the Junge Zürcher Harmoniker or the Hradec Kralové Philharmonic. Her recording of John Williams' concerto «Escapades» with the City Lights Orchestra under the baton of Kevin Griffiths for Prospero Classical was warmly welcomed by the critics.

Convinced of the richness of collaborations with other artistic forms and seeking to develop new concert formats, Valentine Michaud co-founded the SIBJA collective with his brother Emmanuel Michaud, visual artist and performer. Together, they created the trilogy of performances WAITING FOR AMON, awarded in 2018 by the Nico Kaufmann Foundation Award, which brings together dancers, musicians and visual artists. In 2020, the collective directed the film «BOTH-Le Dialogue de l'Ombre Double». They also collaborated on Ugo Bottachiari's previously unpublished opera «L'Ombra» at Operatic in 2022, as a set designer and costume designer. Eager to contribute to the renewal of the repertoire for her instrument, she collaborates with composers of her generation, and with composers such as Alvin Lucier in the Ever Present Orchestra.

Season 2022/23 will see her debut with the John Psathas Concerto Zahara in New Zealand with Orchestra Wellington, with the Philharmonie Zuidnetherlands and Duncan Ward or at La Folle Journée in her duet with her brother percussionist Gabriel Michaud.

Very enthusiastic pedagogue, Valentine teaches saxophone at the Conservatoire Populaire de Musique de Genève since 2017. Valentine is a Henri Selmer Artist.

[www.valentinemichaud.com](http://www.valentinemichaud.com)





## GABRIEL MICHAUD - PERCUSSIONS

Born in 2003, Gabriel Michaud multiplies the prestigious musical awards. In 2022, Gabriel won the 1st prize, the audience prize as well as the press prize of the renowned international competition of TROMP Percussion Eindhoven. The same year, he won 2nd prize at the Luxembourg International Percussion Competition with his Trio Fragments (no 1st prize awarded).

Gabriel began percussion at the age of 7 in an associative music school before joining the Nantes Conservatory from the age of 11. Very invested in the practice of jazz, he played in several groups during his years in Nantes (ODC 5tet, Rémi Pardigol Trio...) in particular with the Tryptyk trio since 2017. In 2020 he obtained a DEM title in percussion and another DEM in jazz vibraphone.

He joined the Haute École de Music de Genève in percussions, where he is currently studying contemporary and orchestral repertoire with Philippe Spiesser, Christophe Delannoy and François Desforges, but also drums and tablas with Claude Gastaldin and composition with Arturo Corrales.

In 2021, he won a 3rd prize at the International Marimba Festival Competition in Bamberg, a 2nd prize at the Swiss Percussion Competition in the Recital Performance category as well as a 1st prize at the International Marimba Competition in Pollença, and joined the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande as an additional percussionist.

2021 laureate of the Marescotti Foundation in Geneva, Gabriel has had the opportunity to perform in various Swiss and foreign festivals, in recital or in chamber music, such as Les Jardins Musicaux, the Archipel festival, Pupliche Classique, Pollença Trobado de Percussion (Spain), Les Concerts de Poche, and will debut at the renowned Folle Journée de Nantes festival in January 2023.

A complete musician with eclectic influences, Gabriel is also a composer, and writes for chamber music groups as well as electronic music within the rap collective Codex Dissident.

Youtube Channel :  
<https://www.youtube.com/@gabrielmichaud2663>

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Ultrxbeat (for Codex Dissident) :  
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