

**Abdoulaye Nderguet
& le BEX'Tet**

L'Âme du Blues



Presentation

Abdoulaye Nderguet & le BEX'Tet



Abdoulaye Nderguet embraces all the diversity of Chad, a crossroads country shared between the desert and the equatorial forest, between Islam and Christianity. This ability to reconcile what often seems to be in opposition makes this singer the designated interlocutor to give substance to a dialogue between jazz and its culture, which is deeply rooted in Africa.

"I offer you Chadian songs. For the music, let's do as we want or as we can." It was in this good-natured state of mind that **Abdoulaye Nderguet** met **Emmanuel Bex** and the Bex'tet musicians, invited to the French Institute of N'Djamena in October 2019. No pressure. Undoubtedly it is this absence of stakes which allowed one and the others to let themselves be surprised by the magic. Their musical conversation led them towards a common horizon, the expression of a humanity that they called "the Soul of Blues", a formula that became the obvious title of this first album..

On the one hand, there is the singer **Abdoulaye Nderguet**, 50, a voice which earned him the nickname of "Chadian nightingale" as he is able to modulate it, at ease in the bass as well as the treble – which contrasts with his physique as a former basketball player!

Throughout his artistic life, he acquired different traditional singing techniques that shaped his vocal personality. There are elements "typical of the Sahel" which are very similar to the blues, he assures us, but also others which rub shoulders with rock or approach a genre close to the griots of West Africa. A whole panel that he intimately hoped to have the opportunity to highlight one day, giving new impetus to his career. When he made himself known to his compatriots at the end of the 1990s, it was within Tibesti, a pioneering group of modern Chadian music for which this son of a soldier had abandoned his studies in biology. Then he went solo with productions in line with local standards and intended for the domestic market.

On the other, the French organist and pianist **Emmanuel Bex**, 63, figure of the jazz scene, multi-awarded (Prix Django Reinhardt, Victoire du Jazz, Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros, etc.). Heir to Eddy Louiss with this same sense of groove, he put his Hammond in many projects. The man decompartmentalises. When he flew to Chad to perform there in a trio with his two acolytes from Bex'tet, he probably did not imagine that he was unconsciously expected by a singer who had never heard of him.

In this language of notes and incantations that they practice and know how to make heard, they instantly found each other. Over the days and reunions in France in 2020, a repertoire was born, "in the feeling of the music" more than in improvisation, with this spontaneity of jazz that seems so familiar to **Abdoulaye**, judging by his pleasure to sing in such an exercise.

During the recording in Paris, and because music is a dish to be shared, a handful of guests slipped in alongside them to add their own emotions to this Soul of Blues: Reunionese harmonicist **Olivier Ker Ourio**, Brazilian singer **Mônica Passos**, Franco-Syrian flautist **Naïssam Jalal**. In the studio as on stage, they take routes that make fun of chapels, offer new directions. They expand the world.

Bertrand Lavaine

Cap on Soul of Blues

Blues is an invocation to a more concrete, more fraternal, more emotional world. The blues is an invitation to sharing.

"Cap on Soul of Blues" is an incarnation of this gesture towards the other. The soul of the blues is the encounter, the real one, the rhapsody of an initiatory journey to capture the common denominator of all cultures.

The universal is not a concept, it is the thing that connects us to each other.

The desire to meet, to talk to each other, to discover each other on stage or simply around a meal, this desire is the spring that gives meaning to the adventure. This desire is the main essence of this magic without borders which is embodied in the journey in search... in search of an encounter that feeds on a presence to the world..

This tour goes beyond the simple gesture in concert. The stage is wider, the frame is open to reality. A trip, a journey, a desire to meet the other, an adventure in search of what animates us.

This tour started from Paris, at the Sunset, on September 3, 2021. There followed magnificent encounters with the public at the Fête de l'Humanité, on the France Musique stage as part of the Ocora Couleurs du Monde program, at the Casino de Paris then at the Triton.

If the Blues is American, its soul has remained in Africa. We met this soul of the blues with **Charl Ozzo** in Lomé, **Alif Naaba** in Ouaga, **Sira Condé**, **Diana N'Diaye**, **Mamdouba Camara** and **Maître Barry** in Conakry, **Check Tidiane Seck** in Bamako, **Huguette Tolingua** in Kinshasa, **Gloire Mokeni** in Kisangani, **Odet Cassilva** and **Tanny** in Luanda, the masters of Shila in N'Djamena... As enunciation is one of the keys to this magic of the Soul of the Blues, we yearn to encounter it again. Again and again...





Abdoulaye Nderguet

Initially, there are these Hindu songs that fill the head of the young **Abdoulaye**. He does not miss any of the sessions of "*Tophou*, the child raised by elephants". The mythical city of Sahr is not only famous for its cinema, the Saras, inhabitants of Sahr, are the sons of Ra, the Egyptian god of the sun. Born on May 3, 1972 in N'Djamena to a Sar father and an Arab mother from Salamat, **Abdoulaye** grew up in Sarh, the Chadian capital of the river province of Moyen-Chari. He always sings the traditions of the south but also those of the north: the Arab songs of Chari-Baguirmi, the rhythms and dances of Boulala, Sara's lullabies and funeral songs...

At 22, **Abdoulaye** joined the **Tibesti** group. In 1996, he sang at the Fest' Africa with **Papa Wemba**. 1997 is the year of his first album with the group **Tibesti**. Finalist of the RFI Discovery Prize competition, one of his songs is selected 2nd while Rokia Traoré is the winner.

In 2000, comes the Ngombi Festival and then a tour of Fest' Africa in France with the group **H'Sao**. He creates the **Shila-Shila** group. In 2012, he was the ambassador for the fight against malaria in New York, he went on to MASA in Abidjan in 2014, etc....

Abdoulaye perfected his skills in harmony and guitar with renowned musicians such as **Ray Lema** and **Pierre Lagneau**...

Singer-songwriter, **Abdoulaye Nderguet** has four albums to his credit: *Spirit* with **Tibesti** (1997), *Balsa* with **H'Sao** (2000), *Sand Voice* (2009) and *Immoral World* (2013).

At the end of 2019, **Abdoulaye Nderguet** was the guest of BEX'Tet led by French jazzman **Emmanuel BEX** and Gabonese singer **SeBa** in N'Djamena. This alchemy gives rise to two exceptional concerts then, at the end of 2020 in Paris, to the recording of the album *Soul of Blues* followed by the 2021-2022 tour in Africa and France: *Cap on Blues Soul*.



The BEX'Tet

Multi-award-winning musician (Victoire du Jazz, Django Reinhardt Prize, Jazz Academy, etc.), undisputed master of the Hammond organ, it is written about him that he is "one of the most soulful jazzmen on the planet".

Surrounded by his son and the neighbor friend, both very involved in rock energy, **Emmanuel Bex** confirms his refusal of compartmentalization and other labelling. This formation is called the Bex'Tet. It's short, it's brief and it moves!

The two young musicians, **Antonin Fresson** on guitars and **Tristan Bex** on drums do not let themselves be fooled and hold a candle to the Maestro who has to count with them, sometimes against them, to build what is blues, of all the jazz and of a color specific to this trio. A wild music which does not exclude tenderness like fraternity. A music that explores new territories where only astonishment counts.

Here, the statement and the sincerity of the gesture are the lines of force to trace the road.

We then find this little family on the album Round Rock, a somewhat special tribute where we find **Brel**, **Grégo** or **Charlie Parker**. An album highly praised by the Jazz press..

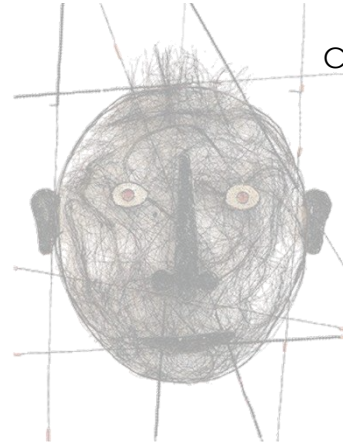
It was then that the group met on its way **Abdoulaye Nderguet**, the bluesman of the Sahel.

Guests of the Creation



Naïssam Jalal

Multi-award-winning artist (Charles Cros Prize 2017, ICI Music Prize 2020, Victoires du jazz 2019), Naïssam has gone from revelation to essential status. From rap to contemporary jazz, via tango, Afrobeat, Arabic, African or South American music, Naïssam plays with everyone and plays with all musical categories. Naïssam brings her captivating breath of soul and heart to the other blues of the Sahel.



Caleb Rimtobaye aka AfrotroniX

Herald of Afrofuturism and a bright future, AfrotroniX is, with Abdoulaye, proof that Chadian youth can, through hard work and perseverance, find their place in peace in the tomorrow world. Crowned best African DJ at the All Africa Music Awards in 2018, this lifelong friend – and musical partner since HSAO in 2000 –, offers with Abdoulaye a beat to awaken the gods of African dance.

Olivier Ker Ourio

Hailed by critics as the only real successor to Toots Thielemans, OKO – Olivier Ker Ourio – is a brilliant composer but also an inspired leader. After twenty-five years of career in Paris, he retains a deep attachment to the island of Reunion and its creolity. Olivier still carries the sacred fire within him to, with his friends from the jazz and Creole scene, bring his multicultural traditions to life in jazz music and contemporary music.



Monica Passos

This Fellinian diva, awarded in 2005 by the Django d'Or in the category "Traditional Music of the World", was initially intended for comedy. Monica gradually moved towards a song mixing bossa nova and popular Brazilian traditions. "Totally abnormal natural phenomenon" usually singing her political commitment, Monica embodies here Djamila, a torn woman fleeing love. Goal of freedom.



The first titles of the repertoire

Amdagor chadian arab

Abdoulaye Nderguet, Emmanuel Eix

Only lions compete with lions
When the horse wins the race
Only the owner receives the laurels
Who is at the top does not have the right to sleep
When talking too much, we swallow insects

Just a Dream sara, french

Gil Bertal, Abdoulaye Nderguet, Emmanuel Eix

There is heaven and earth
There are forests and deserts
I'm going to get lost to find back myself
I am going to fight
And even if I fall I'll get up

Farewell sara

Abdoulaye Nderguet, Antonin Fresson

What's going on at Dama?
Badjim hit the termite mound
This vigorous young man
To whom everything was promised
Has been reduced to ashes

Feat Naïssam Jalal

Ddjamila chadian arab, portugese, french

Abdoulaye Nderguet, Mónica Passos, Emmanuel Eix

How to be your other half?
I am already complete
I am the arrow and the bow
I am the boat and the sail
And the current carries me away

Feat Mónica Passos

We believe french

Gil Bertal, Abdoulaye Nderguet, Emmanuel Eix

We already believe
Entering the arena brave and proud
On the sand find mermaids
All ready to open our arms

Feat Olivier Ker Ourio

Since I follow you french

Gil Bertal, Pascal Tréhet, Abdoulaye Nderguet, Emmanuel Eix

Since I follow you
I think I think
My wounds every night
you dance you dance
Since you follow me

Hadjadj chadian arab

Abdoulaye Nderguet, Emmanuel Eix

Shadow Spirits
Make the day on this dark light
that haunts my dreams
And may my life be lighter

Djerma Djerma sara

Abdoulaye Nderguet

This is the land of antelopes
water lily eaters
The night is the light
eyes of your dreams
On the bamboo bed
From Duma the Stranger

Makendja Kekoum sara

Abdoulaye Nderguet

With my mother
I went fishing and the machoiron stung me
Let's go, let's go home
Machoiron I will eat you

Weave the Web french

Pascal Tréhet, Abdoulaye Nderguet, Antonin Fresson

They will find the way
In their destiny they believe
Love guides their steps
They will find the way

Feat Naïssam Jalal

Look at the sky french

Gil Berta, Abdoulaye Nderguet, Emmanuel Bex

Look at the sky
Listen at night
An essential world
Lights up silently

Feat Naïssam Jalal

Lingui chadian arab

Abdoulaye Nderguet, Antonin Fresson

Peace does not see the light of day
That through respect
Peace, nothing but peace,
We come in peace

Bardjal chadian arab, english

AfrotroniX, Abdoulaye Nderguet

A chief sleeps leaning on his spear
His supple hand is a chance for all
Pride bends before his strong arm
If he stumbles, for all it's death

Duo AfrotroniX - Abdoulaye Nderguet

Dans ma météo french

Gil Berta, Abdoulaye Nderguet, Emmanuel Bex

In my weather report
I put you very high
In my weather report
I love you very high

Feat Olivier Ker Ourio

The Album

Line up

Abdoulaye Nderguet a capella

Djerma Djerma (2'49), Makendja Kekoum (2'53)

Abdoulaye Nderguet & le BEX'Tet feat Naïssam Jalal (vocals, organ, flute, guitars, drums)

Farewell (4'48), Look at the Sky (6'37)

Abdoulaye Nderguet, Antonin Fresson, Tristan Bex feat Naïssam Jalal (vocals, guitars, cajon, flute)

Weave the Web (3'12)

Abdoulaye Nderguet & le BEX'Tet feat Mônica Passos (piano, guitars, drums)

Djamila (5'01)

Abdoulaye Nderguet & le BEX'Tet (vocals, organ, guitars, drums)

Amdagor (5'39), Just a Dream (4'57), Hadjadj (4'04), Since I follow you (3'57)

Abdoulaye Nderguet & le BEX'Tet feat Olivier Ker Ourio (piano, guitars, drums, harmonica)

We believe (4'48), In my weather report (4'29)

Abdoulaye Nderguet, Antonin Fresson, Tristan (vocals, guitars, cajon, flute)

Lingui (4'29)

Duo AfrotroniX Abdoulaye Nderguet (vocals, beat, guitare, programs, backing vocals)

Bardjal (3'00)

Additional backing vocals

Myriam Betty : Just a dream, Lingui ; SeBa : Lingui ; Pascal Tréhet : Since I follow you, We believe

Technical Platform & Production

Stéphane Seddoh : sound recording & mix at **Studio Le Triton**

Frédéric Fresson, Antonin Fresson : recordings of his voice, flutes and acoustic guitars at **Studio Chanut**

Quentin Tréhet, Antonin Fresson : preparation & sound recording voice & guitars at **Studio Go Musick**

Serge Glanzberg, Paul Quantin : mastering at **GPoint Studio**

Pascal Tréhet : production management **Go Musick**

Partners

Institut Français du Tchad, Moov Africa, Banque Habitat du Tchad



Credits

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Kinsangani Photos : **Fiston WASANGA/AFKIS**

Design, production & photos of tour : **Pascal TREHET**

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L'immigration hier et aujourd'hui, la famille – quadriptyque

Traditions et religions, Egalité, L'Univers.

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