



SAOUTA

JAZZ
QUARTET

EPK

FOUR VOICES INTERTWINE, ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE
THROUGH THEIR COLORS AND INTONATIONS.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

CONTEMPORARY JAZZ QUARTET WITH ORIENTAL INFLUENCES

SAOUTA brings together oud, soprano saxophone, double bass, and percussion in a unique blend of Arabic traditions, contemporary jazz, and free improvisation.

Formed in Brussels by Damien Brassart and Akram Ben Romdhane, the quartet has developed a collective musical language built on deep listening, movement, and spontaneity. Balancing composed material with improvisation, SAOUTA creates immersive soundscapes where each instrument contributes its own distinct voice.

Their new repertoire, *Traces*, explores themes of memory, transmission, and cultural heritage through music that is organic, expressive, and constantly evolving.

DAMIEN BRASSART

Soprano saxophone

AKRAM BEN ROMDHANE

Oud

JIM MONNEAU

Double bass

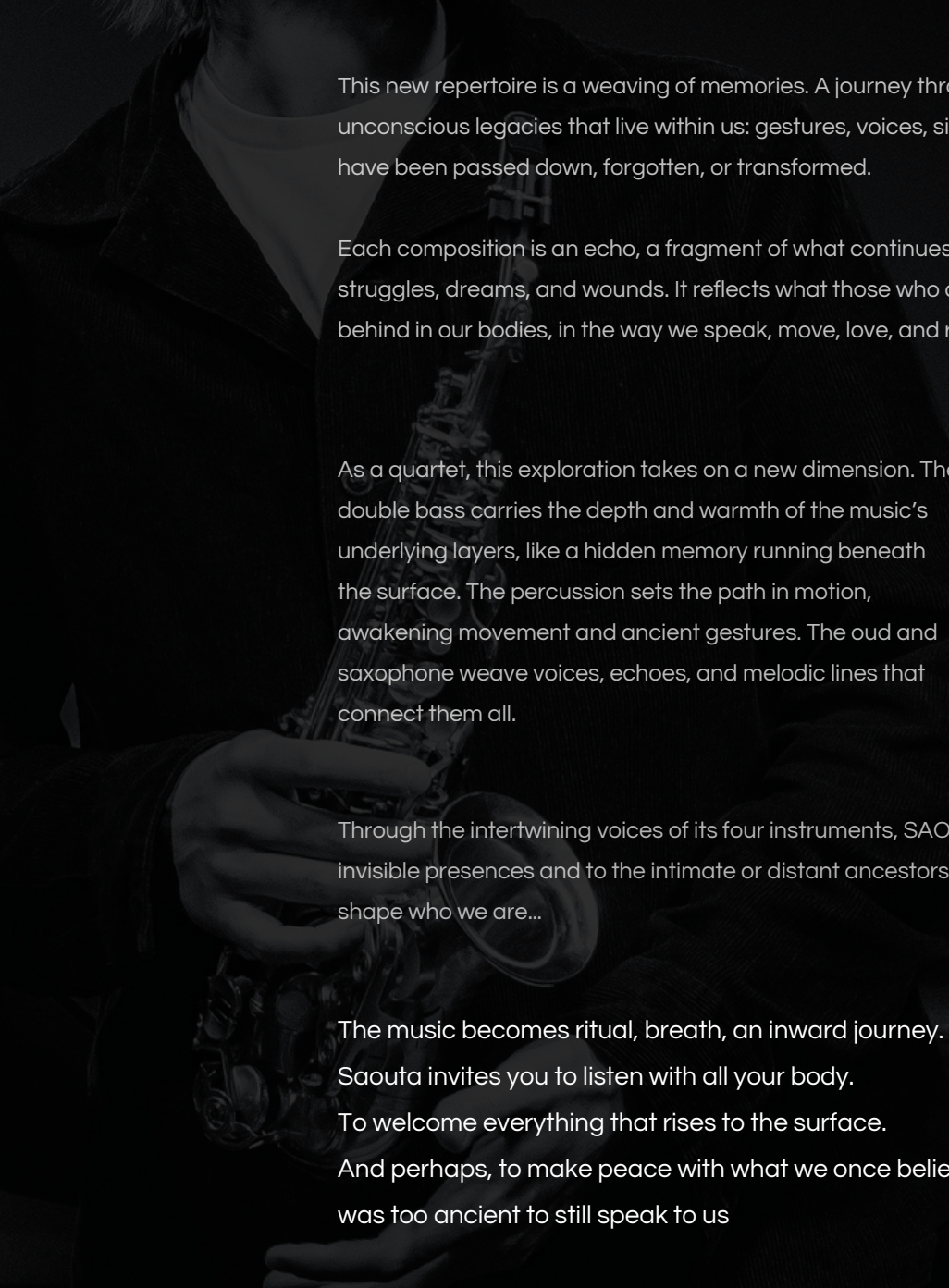
SIMON LELEUX

Percussions / Dohola



TRACES

NEW RÉPERTOIRE 2026



This new repertoire is a weaving of memories. A journey through the conscious and unconscious legacies that live within us: gestures, voices, silences, and stories that have been passed down, forgotten, or transformed.

Each composition is an echo, a fragment of what continues to resonate within us: joys, struggles, dreams, and wounds. It reflects what those who came before us have left behind in our bodies, in the way we speak, move, love, and resist.

As a quartet, this exploration takes on a new dimension. The double bass carries the depth and warmth of the music's underlying layers, like a hidden memory running beneath the surface. The percussion sets the path in motion, awakening movement and ancient gestures. The oud and saxophone weave voices, echoes, and melodic lines that connect them all.

Through the intertwining voices of its four instruments, SAOUTA pays tribute to invisible presences and to the intimate or distant ancestors whose traces continue to shape who we are...

The music becomes ritual, breath, an inward journey.

Saouta invites you to listen with all your body.

To welcome everything that rises to the surface.

And perhaps, to make peace with what we once believed was too ancient to still speak to us

LISTEN

ENTER THE WORLD OF OUR SOUND

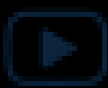
An invitation to immerse yourself in SAOUTA's soundscapes. Each listening experience opens a new space.

ODE TO TRAVEL

“ Music to be experienced rather than simply listened to



LISTEN ON
SPOTIFY



WATCH ON
YOUTUBE



LISTEN ON
BANDCAMP



PRESS

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT IT

Since the release of ODE TO TRAVEL the music of SAOUTA has found a meaningful echo in the press.

“

The Endless Journeys of the Saouta Ensemble.

— L'ÉCHO
★★★★
(TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH)

“

Selected as one of the Top 5 Albums of the Week.

— LE SOIR
★★★★

(TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH)

“

An irresistible musical journey, full of passion and sonic richness.

(TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH)

— MOORSMAGAZINE

“

A captivating soundtrack for those who love to journey towards the East.

(TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH)

— JAZZMANIA



LES MUSICIENS

PORTRAITS & JOURNEYS



DAMIEN BRASSART

Soprano saxophone • composition

After studying anthropology and music therapy, driven by a deep interest in altered states of consciousness and the role of sound across cultures, Damien Brassart turned to jazz and improvisation at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, where he studied with musicians including Fabrice Alleman and Manuel Hermia.

A versatile musician, he has developed an approach to the saxophone shaped by sonic exploration, modal music, and the intersections between music, dance, and visual arts. Through projects such as SAOUTA, MĒAL, Nāmākālā, and Rivières, he has built a musical universe where improvisation, breath, and movement become spaces for inner transformation.

His first album, *Ode to Travel*, released with SAOUTA on Homerecords in 2022, received enthusiastic praise from both Belgian and international press.

AKRAM BEN ROMDHANE

Oud • arrangements

Akram Ben Romdhane is a Tunisian violinist, oud player, and composer based in Belgium. His musical approach brings together Eastern traditions, Western classical music, jazz, and contemporary creation.

Trained in Tunisia and later in Europe, he studied at the Conservatory of Créteil and the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, while also pursuing research into violin performance practices of the 18th and 19th centuries.

A performer, improviser, and composer, Akram collaborates across a wide range of musical genres, from traditional music and jazz to chamber music. With ensembles such as SAOUTA, Aleph Quintet, Shams, and Tempus, he has performed throughout Europe, the United States, China, and North Africa at numerous international festivals.

His compositions, often conceived as sonic journeys, reveal a musical universe that is at once lyrical, meditative, and experimental.



JIM MONNEAU

Double Bass · arrangements

After training in Cahors, Bordeaux, and Toulouse, Jim Monneau pursued studies in jazz, musicology, and improvisation before moving to Barcelona and later Brussels to further develop his approach to jazz double bass.

A musician deeply attuned to the richness of contemporary and improvised music, he has cultivated a practice in which harmonic precision, collective listening, and creative freedom play a central role. His career has led him to collaborate on a variety of projects in Belgium, France, and Spain, notably with Jean-Marc Padovani as well as his own ensemble, Llum Trio.

With Llum Trio, Jim Monneau was awarded Best Soloist at the 2019 JazzContest Mechelen and received First Prize at the David Ostromoukhov Competition in 2022.



SIMON LELEUX

Middle Eastern Percussions · doholla

Specializing in Arabic and Middle Eastern percussion, Simon Leleux has spent many years developing a distinctive rhythmic universe shaped by the darbuka, tombak, Indian tablas, frame drums, and the doholla, an instrument to which he has devoted particular attention since 2014 under the guidance of master percussionist Levent Yildirim.

Trained by renowned musicians including Zohar Fresco, Madjid Khaladj, and Pedram Khavarzamani, Simon has developed an approach to percussion rooted in tonal nuance, movement, and attentive listening.

Over the years, he has performed with projects spanning a wide range of musical traditions, from Middle Eastern music and jazz fusion to Balkan, Ottoman, Baroque, and contemporary music. His collaborations include Refugees for Refugees, Lâmekân Ensemble, Ghalia Bendli, and Michel Massot.

VENUES PLAYED

PAST CONCERTS



“

From Brussels to Monastir,
from intimate clubs to
major festivals, the music
continues its journey.

RESIDENCIES & RECORDINGS



Homerecords • Liège

Album Recording
Ode to Travel • 2022



ORFEO-Art

Visual Arts & Creative
Projects

FESTIVALS

Monastir Play's Jazz

Tunisia

River Jazz Festival

Brussels

Eupen Musik Marathon

Eupen

Festival Réso-Nuances

Vosges

Festival Courants d'Airs

Brussels

STAGES

Music Village

Brussels

De Centrale

Ghent

Art Base

Brussels

L'Aquilone

Liège

Maison des Arts de Schaerbeek

Bruxelles

Le Traversière

Sart-Risbart

Centre Culturel de Chapelle

Brussels

Centre Culturel de Viroinval

Viroinval

Pavillon du Wayai

Sart-lez-Spa

Le Senghor

Brussels

Point Lagrange

Brussels

...and many other places of
encounter and storytelling

RIDER

ON TOUR

CREW ON THE ROAD

ON STAGE

- Damien Brassart — soprano saxophone
- Akram Ben Romdhane — oud
- Jim Monneau — double bass
- Simon Leleux — eastern percussions / doholla

TOUR CREW

- Frederico Bento — Technician / Tour Coordinator

PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

- Setup time: 30 minutes
- Soundcheck: 1h30

PUBLIC

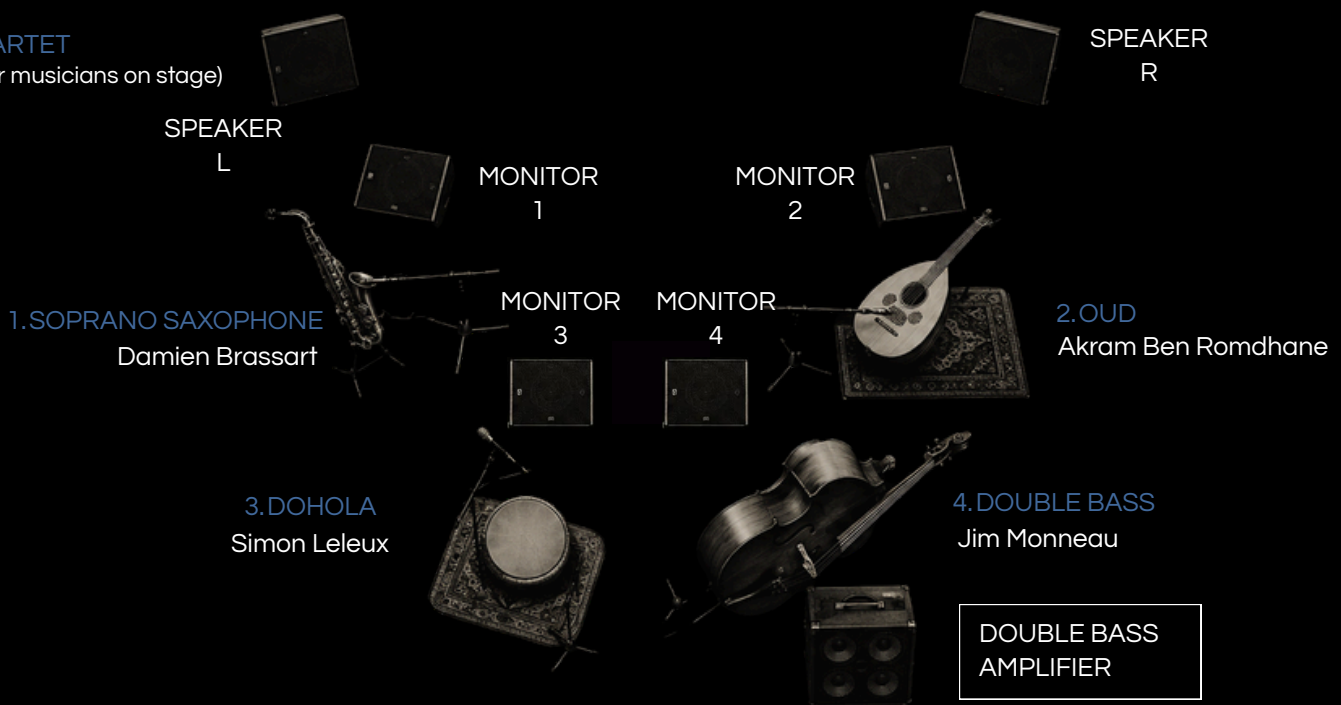
BACKLINE

PLEASE PROVIDE :

- 4 stage monitors
- 4 independent monitor mixes
- 1 professional double bass amplifier (Markbass, Gallien-Krueger, Ampeg or equivalent)
- 1 AKG C414 or Sennheiser MD421 (saxophone)
- 2 condenser instrument microphones (dohola)
- 1 additional condenser instrument microphone for the oud (optional)
- Minimum 2 professional DI Boxes

QUARTET

(Four musicians on stage)



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Professional sound system appropriate for the venue capacity
- Professional digital or analog mixing console
- High-quality reverb available at Front of House (FOH)
- Safe and compliant electrical power supply
- 4 stage monitors with 4 independent monitor mixes
- All monitors should be of the same model (L-Acoustics, MTD115 or equivalent)
- 31-band graphic EQ (1/3 octave) on each auxiliary if the monitors are mixed from the FOH console

NOTES

Please contact the band or the tour coordinator prior to the event for any adjustments required to accommodate venue-specific constraints.

TECHNICAL CONTACT

Frederico Bento

+32 492 698 783

communication@zoartmusic.com

HOSPITALITY

TRANSPORT

The band travels with its own instruments, personal equipment, and individual luggage.

Vehicles spacious enough to accommodate 5 people, instruments, and luggage.

ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms preferred.

Breakfast and WI-FI included.

Quiet hotel close to the concert venue.

An Airbnb can be suitable, depending on the conditions.

DRESSING ROOMS

Please provide :

Clean and comfortable dressing room

Sofa or chairs

Mirror

Water access

Possibility of locking the dressing room

SUR SCÈNE

8 small bottles of water

4 clean towels

CATERING

To be available upon the band's arrival and remain accessible after the concert:

Still and sparkling water

Tea and coffee — Kettle

Fresh juices and soft drinks

Fresh fruits

Dried fruits and nuts

Biscuits/chocolate

Assorted sandwiches (vegetarian option)

Ginger — Honey — Lemons

MEALS

One hot meal per person before or after the concert.

Preferably local or fresh cuisine

Please avoid fast food.

RÉGIMES ALIMENTAIRES

Akram Ben Romdhane: no pork, no seafood

Simon Leleux: no preferences

Damien Brassart: no preferences

Jim Monneau: no preferences

Frederico Bento: no preferences



CONTACT

FOR THE CONCERTS, COLLABORATIONS AND INFORMATIONS.

MANAGEMENT

Bouchra HBALI

bouchra@zoartmusic.com

+32 485 445 418 (Whatsapp)

BOOKING / TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Frederico BENTO

communication@zoartmusic.com

booking@zoartmusic.com

+32 492 698 783 (Whatsapp)

WEB

<https://www.zoartmusic.com/?lang=en>

SOCIAL MEDIA & LISTENING

Instagram : [@saouta4tet](https://www.instagram.com/saouta4tet)

Facebook : [SAOUTA](#)

Bandcamp : saouta.bandcamp.com

Spotify : [SAOUTA - ODE TO TRAVEL](#)

YouTube : [SAOUTA - ODE TO TRAVEL](#)

