

Adrien Varachaud
JAZZ SAXOPHONIST – COMPOSER

Adrien Varachaud was born in Strasbourg, France, on October 3, 1977. After attending one of Hal Singer's gigs, a legend in the jazz world, he decided to become a professional saxophonist. He started playing music as Philippe Leclerc's regular substitute in 1997 with the « Jazz Contrast » Big Band (Philippe Leclerc was his master).

In October 2000, he met Archie Shepp who was to become his teacher and later his friend, a decisive step towards many important contacts with a wide range of well-known musicians such as Mal Waldron, Ted Curson... Adrien spent some time in Dakar in the summer of 2002 to complete his musical training, perfecting his play and his sound with the famous Doudou N'Diaye Rose.

Adrien has regularly attended the concerts at « L'ALIBI-Mal Waldron Jazz Club », first as an auditor. In late 2007, he participated in a jam-session after the gig celebrating L'ALIBI's 25th anniversary and came to the notice of Richard Bréchet, the club's founder.

In 2008, he had already founded a trio with Katy Roberts and Rasul Siddik, then a duet with Tom McClung, planned as soon as 2005, and the « UNITY 5tet » with Rasul Siddik (tp), Tom McClung (p), Wayne Dockery (b) and Douglas Sides (drs) came to existence in 2009.

In May 2009, Adrien gave his first gig in Paris as leader of the « UNITY 5tet », which subsequently resulted in a cd, « Strange Horns » which came out in September 2010. The cd met with very favourable reviews. Then Adrien was invited by Douglas Sides for a gig at the « 606 Club » in London with Peter King and Steve Melling.

At « L'ALIBI, » he met Barry Altschul who invited him to perform in one of the « FAB Trio » (Joe Fonda, Barry Altschul, Billy Bang) gigs in Basel, after which Adrien went to New York to visit Barry who helped with the mixing of the cd as producer.

Early in 2011, Adrien played at a jam session at « L'ALIBI » with The Nu Band (Mark Whitecage, Roy Campbell, Joe Fonda and Lou Grassi). It was a great moment for Adrien, and the idea of forming a trio with Lou Grassi and Joe Fonda originated. In March 2011, Adrien was invited by Hal Singer to play in one of his gigs and both of them have been rehearsing together at his home since then. Adrien then went to Tangiers (May 2011) where he met, and played with, Abdellah El Gourd (Tangiers Gnaoua Master) and the Tangiers Gnaoua.



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