

## ***Composer:***

**Clarisse Valbon** (<https://soundcloud.com/clarisseclassical>)



Clarisse Valbon is a classical music composer. She was born in France and currently resides in New York City. She studied composition with Dennis Bosse ("Champs de l'Inaudible", "La Lettre Volée") at the Conservatoire Regional de Cergy-Pontoise, as well as harmony with Alain Besson, and violin with Nathalie Klein Saint-Arroman and Nicolas Fromageot. In parallel she graduated from Sorbonne University Paris IV with a Maîtrise in Musicology, then graduated from Insec Business School with a Master's degree in Arts and Cultural Management. Clarisse

Valbon developed interest in composition in her childhood which later led her to start writing the melodies that resonated in her head. Her pieces have been performed in France and most recently in New York at Carnegie Hall and the New York City Bar Chamber Music Association.

The first notes of "Oasis" were written shortly after a trip near the Mediterranean Sea, where Clarisse Valbon discovered local traditional music, dances and jewelry. The piece begins with a solo on the violin which reminds of a melancholic improvisation. Then one after another each instrument adds its voice, often saddened. *Oasis* was finished in late 2020, when traveling was restricted and when many of us felt isolated at the time. The composer wanted to express how it feels to be lonely and escape from reality. Uncertainty also sets in the piece with the ritardandos where sometimes we don't know what comes next, like a dream that never ends.

## ***Performers:***

**Violaine Despeyroux** (<https://musicchapel.org/en/violaine-despeyroux-viola/>)



‘I consider music as a journey, a moment suspended in time, which is different with each interpretation. The listeners will be guided simply into a story that we create together.’

This conception of musical interpretation as a unique and immersive moment of sharing is the basis of Violaine Despeyroux’s artistic practice. This young viola player, much sought after as a chamber musician and soloist, stands out on stage, with her personality and energy, both precise and electrifying.

Violaine Despeyroux has been awarded the 1st prize at the National Competition for Young Violists and the 2nd prize and prize for the best Bach performance at the International Competition of viola Cecil Aronowitz in Birmingham amongst others.

A passion and tenacity that can be found in the prestigious European and international music halls - the Victoria Hall in Geneva, the Seiji Ozawa Hall in Tanglewood (USA), the Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris or the Palais des Beaux-arts in Brussels, alongside renowned partners like Renaud Capuçon, Modigliani Quartet, Gary Hoffman, Claire Désert, Suyoen Kim, Alexandra Soumm, Smoking Josephine Ensemble.

As a soloist, Violaine Despeyroux performed in France, Italie and Belgium with conductors such as Vahan Mardirossian and Ian Fountain.

Her season 22/23 will be marked by her debut in Flagey (Brussel), performing Mozart Symphonie Concertante with Renaud Capuçon.

Particularly attached to chamber music and endlessly eager to expand her repertoire, she played in major festivals such as Festival de Pâques, la Roque d’Antheron, Festival Radio France in Montpellier, Folles journées de Nantes, among many others.

Violaine Despeyroux is also regularly invited by major ensembles such as the Paris National Opera, the Orchestre de Paris, WDR Symphonie orchestra or the Kölner Kammerorchester, among the orchestra. But she also likes to be where we don’t expect her, breaking the mold and off the beaten path. It’s because Violaine Despeyroux considers so-called classical music above all as a living and vibrant art. There so many subtle shades and powerful encounters where her personality and her instrument (a Jacquot 1863 viola) find each other in perfect harmony.

**Adam Leites** (<https://adam-leites.jimdosite.com/>)



In 2014, Adam Leites becomes student of H el ene Devilleneuve, oboe soloist at the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France. He is selected in January 2015 to participate in a performance with the Orchestre National d'Ile de France at the Paris Philharmonie.

In September 2015, Adam enters the Conservatoire   Rayonnement R egional of Paris and starts studying with Nora Cismondi, oboe soloist at the Orchestre National de France. He plays the concerto of Bellini with the OCUP orchestra in June 2016. In January 2017, he performs a recital at the Heinrich Heine House in Paris.

Adam is accepted in May 2017 to the Haute Ecole de Musique of Lausanne, in the class of Jean Louis Capezzali and Vincent Gay-Balmaz. He is chosen for the masterclass given by Fran ois Leleux in Eisenstadt in September 2017.

Adam was invited several times to play in New York as part of the Entraide Fran aise programme. He performed in April 2018, February 2020, May 2022 at the French Consulate, in May 2019 at the Symphonie Space on Broadway and in July 2022 at Central Park Summerstage for the Bastille Day. Adam played second oboe at the performance of Berlioz's Te Deum given by the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France in the Paris Philharmonie in May 2019.

In September 2020, Adam is admitted in Mozarteum of Salzburg in Master Degree. He is invited to play as part of the Mozartforum in June 2021 with the violist Veronika Hagen and the pianist Cordelia H ofer. He received the first price at Eurochestries competition in September 2021 and joins the Philharmonie Salzburg as co-soloist in November 2021.

Adam performs within the orchestra of „Universit t Mozarteum” and Maxim Vengerov in February 2022 and reaches the final round of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Academy in March 2022. He is invited few months later to play with that orchestra and Klaus M kel  for a summer tour (Philharmonie Berlin among others). In September 2022, Adam played within the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. After graduating from Mozarteum, Adam started to teach at the Conservatoire de Niort. He is playing regularly with the orchestra from the Conservatoire of Paris since May 2023.

In January 2024, Adam is invited again to play with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, directed by Riccardo Chailly.

**Rodolphe Menguy** (<https://www.mirare.fr/en/artists/rodolphe-menguy/>)



Rodolphe Menguy obtained his Piano DEM diploma at the age of fourteen at CRR de Boulogne. He was then admitted by unanimous votes at Paris CNSMD Conservatory in 2015 in Denis Pascal and Varduhi Yeritsyan's class, and finished his studies in the Classical Performing Artist Class in 2022 after obtaining his B.A. and Master's degrees. He joined the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome where he developed his skills alongside Benedetto Lupo.

As a candidate submitted by the radio channel France Musique, Rodolphe was awarded the 'Young Soloist Prize' by the Public French-speaking Media in 2021. He is also the laureate of the Banque Populaire Foundation in 2021, the laureate of l'Or du Rhin Foundation (Fondation de l'Or du Rhin) and was named Classical Newcomer of the Year (Révélation Classique de l'Adami) in 2018. The same year, he was recruited among the 'Young Talents' of the Académie Philippe Jaroussky (in the 'Vivaldi' class).

Rodolphe regularly performs both as a soloist and a chamber musician in prestigious Halls and Festivals: Festival of 'La Roque d'Anthéron', 'Folle Journée de Nantes', Festival 'Radio France Occitanie', 'Musicales de Normandie', 'Festival Pablo Casals', 'Opéra de Saint Etienne', 'Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord', 'Musée Guimet' ...

Besides, with a passion for chamber music, he performs in various ensembles, notably forming a duo with the violist Nicolas Garrigues, and a trio with the violinist Sarah Jégou-Sageman and clarinetist Joséphine Besançon.

In 2022, Rodolphe made his debut at the Auditorium of Radio France and at Philharmonie of Paris – Cité de la Musique, offering his interpretation of Bartók's second Concerto accompanied by the Orchestra of Paris Conservatory's Laureates under the direction of conductor Quentin Hindley.

**Raphaëlle Moreau** (<https://www.raphaellemoreau.com/en/home>)



A committed and sincere artist, Raphaëlle Moreau has already performed on the biggest stages in France and abroad. Named in the *Révélation*s category at the Victoires de la Musique Classique in 2020, she won the First Grand Prize of the 16th Postacchini Competition and is a laureate of the Nicati-de-Luze, Or du Rhin and Banque Populaire Foundations, as well as the Marcel Bleustein-Blanchet Foundation for Vocation.

After studying with Rodica Bogdanas and Suzanne Gessner, she was unanimously admitted to the National Superior Conservatory of Music and Dance of Paris. In 2018, she obtained a soloist masters with the highest distinction in the class of Renaud Capuçon in Switzerland.

Appointed concertmaster of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester at the age of twenty-one years old, she collaborated there with Herbert Blomstedt, Jonathan Nott, Vladimir Jurowski and Lorenzo Viotti and has notably performed at Musikverein in Vienna, at the Konzerthaus in Berlin, at the Semperoper in Dresden, at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg and at the Felsenreitschule in Salzburg. She is also regularly invited as solo violinist in the Gulbenkian orchestra of Lisbon, the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and l'Orchestre du Capitole de Toulouse.

Furthermore, as a soloist, she was accompanied by numerous orchestras including the Radio-France Philharmonic Orchestra, the National Orchestra of France, the New Chamber Orchestra Aquitaine, the Pasedeloup Orchestra, the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, the Metz National Orchestra, the Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra, the Pau-Pays de Béarn Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Georgia under the direction of Myung-Whun Chung, Renaud Capuçon and Simone Young.

A passionate chamber musician, she regularly collaborates with Renaud Capuçon, Gautier Capuçon, Gérard Caussé, Nicholas Angelich, David Kadouch, Célia Oneto Bensaid, Guillaume Bellom, Nathalia Milstein, Alexandra Conunova and her brothers Edgar, David and Jérémie.

With a real interest in contemporary music, Raphaëlle is keen to incorporate it into her repertoire and participated in the creation of Indra de Camille Pepin, to whom she is dedicatee, of the Double Concerto for violin and cello by Philippe Hersant as well as works by Benjamin Attahir, by Clara Olivares and Éric Tanguy.



Raphaëlle performs regularly at the Philharmonie de Paris, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, at the Cologne Philharmonie, at the Philharmonie du Luxembourg, at the Konzerthaus in Dortmund, at the Grange at Lake Evian and has been invited to festivals such as Rheingau Musik festival, the Evian Festival, the Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad, the Aix-en-Provence Easter Festival, the Roque Festival d'Anthéron, the Saint-Denis festival and the Stavelot Festival.

Raphaëlle published “A Family Affair”, with her brothers Edgar, David et Jérémie, a Korngold/Dvorak record on the Warner label Classics/Erato.

Commitments for the 2022/2023 season included the Triple Concerto of Beethoven with the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, the creation French version of the Howard Shore Concerto with the Orchestra Radio-France Philharmonic as well as an album with the pianist Célia Oneto Bensaid to be published by Mirare.

**Daniel Rafimayeri** (<https://www.danielrafimayeri.com/>)



American violinist Daniel Rafimayeri gained recognition as the 2019 Burdick-Thorne Gold medalist at the prestigious Stulberg International String Competition, where he was also awarded with the prize for best performance of solo Bach. Highlights of his recent solo engagements include performances with distinguished orchestras such as The Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, The Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and The York Symphony Orchestra.

In 2022, Daniel was honored with the Salon de Virtuosi career grant and acknowledged as a featured artist with the French Consulate in New York City performing at prestigious recital venues including Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall, Alice Tully at Lincoln Center, Summer Stage, Kosciuszko Foundation, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Daniel is also a dedicated chamber musician, having participated in renowned programs such as the Wu Han/David Finckel chamber program at the Aspen Music Festival, the Heifetz International Music Institute, The Young Artists Program in Ottawa, Keshet Eilon Music Center, Music Academy of the West, and Greenwood Chamber Music Camp.

With a Bachelor's degree in violin performance from The Juilliard School, Daniel is currently pursuing a Master's degree under the guidance of Catherine Cho and Li Lin. A native of New York City, Daniel received his early education at the highly selective Hunter College High School, complemented by the Manhattan School of Music pre-college program under the tutelage of Patinka Kopec.

**Marc Trembovelski** (<https://www.msmnyc.edu/livestream/marc-trembovelski-2023/>)



Marc is a French cellist who recently finished his master's degree at the Manhattan School of Music where he studied with Wolfram Koessel. He received his bachelor's degree with honors from the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he was under the tutelage of Felix Schmidt and Christoph Richter.

Marc has been working with students for 9 years, he adapts his teaching approach to each student's needs and goals. He taught in France, England and now in the US. He works not only as a cello teacher but as a chamber music coach too, he speaks and teaches fluently in English, French and Russian.

Marc is a multifaceted musician and involved in chamber and solo projects, he took part in several competitions where he won prizes, such as the 2023 Arthur Balsam Duo Competition, the 2022 Lillian Fuchs Chamber Music Competition, the International Competition of the CRR of Paris in 2016 and the "Flame" competition or in 2014 in Russia at the S. Knushevitsky International Cello Competition.

He has performed in venues like Carnegie Hall, the Merkin Concert Hall in the Kaufman Center, Salle Cortot in Paris, the Concert Hall of the Saratov's conservatory in Russia, the Russian cultural center's Auditorium of Paris and London and Snape Maltings in England. He is currently playing on a cello made in 1901 by Charles Resuche in France.

### ***Journalist:***

**Jonathan Alpeyrie** (<https://jonathanalpeyrie.com/>)



Born in Paris in 1979, Jonathan Alpeyrie moved to the United States in 1993. He graduated from the Lycée Français de New York in 1998 and went on to study medieval history at the University of Chicago, from which he graduated in 2003. Alpeyrie started his career shooting for local Chicago newspapers during his undergraduate years.

Alpeyrie spent a month driving across the country to create his first professional photo essay. The essay focused on the remnant of the Communist era heavy industry. His driver at the time took him to all the major industrial sites, visiting abandoned factories where he took photos

of what once was. The decaying infrastructure was a fascinating reminder of a system that collapsed barely 10 years prior.

After graduating from the University of Chicago in the spring 2003, Alpeyrie was sent off to start his first dangerous photo essay which he hoped at the time would help him further to launch his career as a photojournalist. He spent over a month covering activity in the Congolese capital of Kinshasa. With the photo essay completed, he returned home and was quickly picked up by Getty Images for the reportage section after it was noticed by some editors at the NYC office. 2004 was a watermark year for Alpeyrie, as he started covering wars, from West Africa to the Caucasus, all for Getty Images.

With almost a decade of experience behind him and half a dozen wars under his belt, Alpeyrie decided to go on his own and leave the agency business partially behind. Reeling directly with his own clients while still working for various photo agencies, he started covering wars in the Middle East and Central Asia, furthering his resume as a war photographer. A year later, the Arab Spring launched a new phase in his career.

With the various conflicts erupting all around the Middle East, Syria started to attract war reporters from all over the world, interested in covering this new hot conflict. After two trips to the war-torn country in 2012, Alpeyrie decided to return in 2013, at which point he was kidnapped for three months by Islamic rebels.

By 2014, right after his release from Syria, Alpeyrie embarked on another voyage, this time into Slavid land to start covering the new hot war: Ukraine. After almost 14 months of coverage, he was injured during a gun battle in Mariupol.

That year, Alpeyrie's career took another turn, as he almost permanently stopped working for agencies and focused on some of his big clients like Vanity Fair, CNN, and others, which interestingly was a reminiscence of the earlier part of his career when he was solely doing photo essays and almost no news. He focused on personal projects which took him closer to new regions from his previous travels, like Mexico and Central America, while keeping an eye on South America.

After a hiatus from covering wars, Alpeyrie went to Iraq to cover the battle of Mosul in 2017, and took another break from war in 2018, except for some time spent on the front lines in Ukraine, he decided to focus on the drug wars in South America, and more specifically in Brazil. Covid19 cut short his project and he focused on the pandemic thereafter, with an exception: the war in Armenia at the end of 2020.

The war in Ukraine, that started in 2014, never ended but rather was in a state of hiatus with upsurges of fighting once in a while. In February 2022, everyone was surprised by the scale of Russia's aggression, with the invasion of its neighbor. When the fighting erupted, Alpeyrie was in Mexico shooting a story on the drug war. As soon as his assignment ended, he departed for the front in



Central Ukraine. He spent a month covering the war between the two Slavic nations. Once more, he was drawn back into a conflict.

Alpeyrie has worked as a freelancer for various publications and websites, such as the Sunday Times, Le Figaro Magazine, ELLE, American Photo, GLAMOUR, Aftenposten, Le Monde, & BBC among others. Jonathan Alpeyrie's career spans over a decade, and has brought him to over 36 countries, covering 14 conflict zone assignments, in the Middle East and North Africa, the South Caucasus, Europe, North America and Central Asia. A future photography book about WWII. Veterans with verve editions are in the works.

Alpeyrie has been published in magazines such as Paris Match, Aftenposten, Times (Europe), Newsweek, Wine Spectator, Boston Globe, Glamour, BBC, VSD, Le Monde, Newsweek, Popular Photography, Vanity Fair, La Stampa, CNN, Bild Zeit, Elle Magazine, Der Spiegel, Le Figaro, Marie Claire, The Guardian, The Atlantic.

### ***Artists:***

**Laurent Elie Badessi** (<https://badessi.com/>)



Laurent Elie Badessi is a Franco American fine art photographer born in France. He belongs to a family with three generations of photographers. From an early age, this enabled him to explore and appreciate the art of photography.

After studying language and communication sciences at Université des Lettres d'Avignon, Badessi enrolled in a photography course at Université Paris VIII. Curious about the psychological aspects of the interaction that occurs between a photographer and his sitter during a photo session, he decided to base his M.A. thesis on that subject, and spent several months in Niger, Africa taking photographs of isolated tribes that had never or very rarely been exposed to the medium. For this project, he received many prominent awards and grants including La Bourse de l'aventure with Fujicolor and the Humanity Photo Award with UNESCO.

Badessi started his career in Paris and continued working abroad before moving to the United States in the early 90s.

After spending ten years focusing on the human figure, his work SKIN, was compiled in a book of the same name internationally released in 2000 by Edition Stemmler. The book contains a foreword written by Sondra Gilman, Founder and Chairperson of the photography committee at the Whitney Museum.

He uses symbolism, mythology, historical and cultural references to create his images. His work often addresses subtle and relevant questions on social, political, and cultural issues, such as the relationship with religion, war or the environment.

Badessi's photographs are part of many important private and public collections. He has received several prestigious awards, including a grant from the French Department of Cultural Affairs for his Paris show *Métamorphoses*.

A large-scale photograph from his latest project *Age of Innocence, Children and guns in the USA* was exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London for the prestigious Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize. A book with this series was internationally released last year by Editions Images Plurielles

Solo and group shows of his work have taken place around the world in major cities like New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Miami, London, Milan, Rome, Paris, Nice, Barcelona, Kuwait City, Beijing, Monaco and Dubai.

Laurent Elie Badessi lives in New York.

### **Julien Comte-Gaz** (<https://juliencomtegaz.com/>)



Julien Comte-Gaz has always felt the need to create. After his diploma in interior architecture in Toulouse, he went to Paris to pursue a degree in design at the Sorbonne University. To enter the curriculum, he has to start again with a bachelor of Plastic Arts, which turned out to be a revelation. Julien still talks with gratitude about the professors who pushed him out of his comfort zone.

An internship at the Galerie Dominique Fiat turned into a full-time job, which he kept for seven years. Not only did this formative experience familiarize him with the life of a gallery, but mostly, it offered him a contact with the artists which helped him assuming the status for himself. In 2017, he fully devoted himself to practice and never stopped.

**Tristan Govignon** (<https://www.tristangovignon.com/>)



Tristan Govignon is a multidisciplinary contemporary artist with over 25 years of professional experience working between Paris, France, Boston, and New York City.

Govignon personal practice of creating inspired photographic, painting and sculpture series often lead him to curate spaces in collaboration with architects and designers that present inventive narratives with new visual vocabularies for reimagined spaces.

The art work Tristan creates shares tangible energetic expressions of the creative process with nature and the divine as inspirations. Tristan exhibits widely in group and solo shows. His work is in numerous private and corporate collections.