



# *Ingrid Laubrock* & the Grand Orchestre de Muzzix

Creation in big ensemble / Jazz and experimental music



## **Concert**

**Creation the 23/01/25 at Le Vivat d'Armentières  
and the 24/01/25 at le Théâtre d'Abbeville**

*Production : Muzzix*

Duration : 1h

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## DISTRIBUTION

**Ingrid Laubrock** Composition, artistic direction, conduction, saxophone

### Le Grand Orchestre de Muzzix

23 artists- Provisional list

**The core - Group 1 :** Sakina Abdou (saxophone), Ivann Cruz (guitar), Barbara Dang (keyboard), Raphaël Godeau (guitare), Frédéric L'Homme (drums), Nicolas Mahieux (bass), Maxime Morel (tuba), Stefan Orins (piano), Peter Orins (drums), Rosa Parlato (flute), Christian Pruvost (trumpet), Maryline Pruvost (flute, voice)

**Group 2 :** David Bausseron (guitare), Falter Bramnk (keyboard), Samuel Carpentier (trombone), Claude Colpaert (trombone, drums), Xuan Mai Dang (flute, electronics), Vincent Debaets (saxophone), Patrick Guionnet (voice), Philippe Lenglet (guitare), Fred Loisel (percussions), Yanik Miossec (clarinet, electronics), Marjorie Van Halteren (voice, electronics)

**Alex Noclain** Sound

## PRODUCTION

**Production** Muzzix (59)

Supported by Jazz & New Music, a program of the Villa Albertine and the Albertine Foundation. The piece composed by Ingrid Laubrock is the subject of an writing assistance from the Ministry of Culture

## DISCOVER THE DISCOGRAPHY

### Ingrid Laubrock recordings

- *Contemporary Chaos Practices*  
<https://bit.ly/Laubrock-CCP>
- *GGRIL Plays Ingrid Laubrock*  
<https://bit.ly/Laubrock-GGRIL>

### The Grand Orchestre de Muzzix recordings

- *Radiolarians* by Michael Pisaro-Liu  
<https://bit.ly/GOM-Pisaro>
- *Artifacts of translation* by Anthony Pateras  
<https://bit.ly/GOM-Pateras>

### Ingrid Laubrock's Interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EukhWrZnKwg>

### *Aquatic* teaser - Ingrid Laubrock and The Grand Orchestre de Muzzix

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyJvsy2OWzI>

## CALENDAR

### Creation

23/01/25 at Le Vivat d'Armentières

24/01/25 at Le Théâtre d'Abbeville

### Creation residencies

2-3 December 2024 : rehearsals

21>23 January 2025 : residency on stage at Le Vivat

**Available from March 2025**

## WELCOMING CONDITIONS

**Duration** 1h

**Artistic team on tour** 29 people max.

*Financial and technical conditions on request*

# Ingrid Laubrock and the Grand Orchestre de Muzzix

*"Saxophonist Ingrid Laubrock possesses one of the most fetchingly original free-improv styles out there—throaty, gutsy, bravely lyrical—but recently, her composing and arranging have proven as engaging as her soloing."*

- Paul de Barros, DownBeat

The words of Franpi Barriaux (Citizen Jazz) perfectly illustrate the trajectory taken by Ingrid Laubrock the past years: "Among the voices of international contemporary jazz, Ingrid Laubrock is certainly one of the most exciting. Based in New York for a number of years, the German-born saxophonist has succeeded in gathering many musicians around her, enabling her music to grow considerably and refine itself through a series of encounters". It is in the course of her artistic collaborations that we see Ingrid Laubrock's music becoming increasingly polymorphous, and musical labels disappearing, leaving the composer concoct her own recipe between jazz, improvised and contemporary music.



Those sources of inspiration resonate particularly well with the musical universe of the musicians of the Muzzix collective. Having crossed paths with Ingrid Laubrock on a number of occasions over the last ten years, what could be more obvious than to invite the saxophonist to exchange ideas with a few of Muzzix musicians in 2023 to begin a new collaboration? The chemistry was immediate, and the continuation of the work together seemed obvious: the composer, who has already made a name for herself on numerous occasions as a composer for orchestra - as in 2018 with the release of *Contemporary Chaos Practices* - composed in 2025 the piece **Aquatic** for the Grand Orchestre de Muzzix.

*"As a conductor, [...] Ingrid Laubrock, with her great inventiveness, leads projects that defy categories, with a penchant for unconventional instrumentation and disparate stylistic changes."* - Brad Cohan, JazzTimes

As always, Ingrid Laubrock prioritizes the individual expression of each musician above all else. Whether through traditional musical notation, a conduction system with signs developed with the orchestra, verbal instructions, or collective improvisation, she creates contexts that highlight the unique beauty and strengths of each artist in the Grand Orchestre, offering opportunities to embrace everyone's musicality.

Throughout 2024, she has been developing a composition as collaboratively as possible with the

orchestra, akin to a musical epistolary exchange across the Atlantic. Ingrid Laubrock presented her work alongside the Grand Orchestre de Muzzix on January 23, 2025, at Le Vivat in Armentières and on January 24 at the Théâtre d'Abbeville.

# Collaboration at the centre of Ingrid Laubrock's writing

« I've been following the music of Peter Orrins, Christian Pruvost, and other members of the Muzzix Collective for some time and admire the dedication and versatility of its orchestra. Its distinctive instrumentation featuring many "doubles" and even "triples," as well as numerous electronic artists, presents a particularly intriguing sonic palette for me as a composer.

*I've been following the music of [...] the Muzzix Collective for some time and admire the dedication and versatility of its orchestra.*

Collaboration stands as the cornerstone of my work. Rather than adhering to a traditional hierarchical structure where the "composer" directs the ensemble from the top down, I propose that "Aquatic" will be partially crafted through workshops conducted throughout 2024 with the Grand Orchestre de Muzzix. I aim to better acquaint myself with the unique sound of this group before finalizing the composition, allowing me to customize the music for the ensemble and avoid treating the musicians as mere commodities.



My plan involves sending fragments and sketches to the group throughout the year, providing them with opportunities for exploration in their own time. As I live in NYC, I'll request musicians to share videos or recordings to incorporate their personal interpretations of the material. These explorations can be undertaken by individual musicians, smaller subsets of the group, or the entire ensemble – depending on availability. It's envisioned as an organic and enjoyable process, resembling an exchange of letters.

*Ma pièce ne sera pas seulement une composition mais un voyage musical collectif façonné par les diverses voix de l'orchestre.*

By involving the ensemble in the creative process through an ongoing exchange of musical ideas, I am hoping to nurture a sense of ownership and investment in the final piece and embark on an organic and iterative creative journey that allows for customization and tailoring the music to the unique sound and capabilities of the ensemble, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, fostering a deeper connection with the music. »

Ingrid Laubrock

## ***An orchestra with a flexible line-up***

Muzzix and Ingrid Laubrock wanted the piece allow to adapt the size of the orchestra, with a view to possible collaborations with other professionals or opening up the orchestra's ranks to musicians in training.

The composer wanted to adapt her piece to the musicians of the Grand Orchestre de Muzzix as much as possible, so a large part of the piece is written specifically for the 10 musicians who make up the orchestra's fixed core, taking into account the specific musical universes and interpretations of each musician. The rest of the piece is written in order to encourage collaboration within the project, so that different musicians can join the orchestra and take free rein of the piece.

### ***The participation of other professional musical ensembles***

Meeting and confronting other musicians is inseparable from the practice of improvised music, which is why the Muzzix musicians, like Ingrid Laubrock, are keen to collaborate with other artists. Muzzix and Laubrock hope to present the piece alongside other musical ensembles or artists' collectives, depending on the booking opportunities. Discussions are currently in progress with ARFI, a collective based in Lyon which, like Muzzix, is active in the fields of jazz, innovative and experimental music.



### ***The participation of musicians in training***

Muzzix makes a point of involving students from conservatoires in its artistic projects whenever it gets the chance. The collective regularly organises participatory workshops and meetings with artists and composers, but nothing beats live performance to give young musicians a real understanding of a composer's artistic intentions and the subtleties of a work.

In 2021, Muzzix invited around twenty amateur musicians to join the Grand Orchestre de Muzzix for the premiere of Michael Pisaro-Liu's work, *Radiolarians*, at Le Vivat in Armentières. People from Le Vivat's audience, members of socio-medical institutes, amateur musicians and students from ESMD (École Supérieure Musique et Danse Hauts-de-France - Lille) took their places alongside the orchestra's professional musicians for 3 days of rehearsals and the creation of the work.

Today, the collective hopes to invite musicians in training to join the orchestra around the work composed by Ingrid Laubrock. Rehearsals could be organised for musicians in training with one of the artists from the collective or Ingrid Laubrock, before rehearsing alongside the orchestra's permanent core with a view to a concert conducted by the composer.

In January 2025, Muzzix took also advantage of the composer's presence in France to organize workshops with students from the jazz departments of the Lille and Tourcoing Conservatoires, leading to two public performances.

# Ingrid Laubrock

*Composer, conductor, musical director*



Ingrid Laubrock is an experimental saxophonist and composer, interested in exploring the borders between musical realms and creating multi-layered, dense and often evocative sound worlds. A prolific composer, Laubrock was named a “true visionary” by pianist and The Kennedy Center’s artistic director Jason Moran, and a “fully committed saxophonist and visionary” by The New Yorker. Her composition *Vogelfrei* was nominated “one of the best 25 Classical tracks of 2018” by The New York Times.

Laubrock has performed with Anthony Braxton, Muhal Richard Abrams, Jason Moran, Kris Davis, Nels Cline, Tyshawn Sorey, Mary Halvorson, Myra Melford, Zeena Parkins, Tom Rainey, Tim Berne, Dave Douglas, Wet Ink and many others. She has composed for ensembles ranging from solo to chamber orchestra.

Awards include Fellowship in Jazz Composition by the Arts Foundation, BBC Jazz Prize for Innovation, SWR German Radio Jazz Prize and German Record Critics Quarterly Award. She won best Rising Star Soprano Saxophonist in the 'Downbeat Annual Critics Poll in 2015 and best Tenor Saxophonist in 2018.

Ingrid Laubrock has received composing commissions by The Fromm Music Foundation, BBC Glasgow Symphony Orchestra, Bang on a Can, Yarn/Wire, Grossman Ensemble, The Shifting Foundation, The Robert D. Bielecki Foundation, The Jerwood Foundation, American Composers Orchestra, Tricentric Foundation, SWR New Jazz Meeting, Jazzahead, Wet Ink Ensemble, The Jazz Gallery Commissioning Series, NY State Council of the Arts, Wet Ink, John Zorn’s Stone Commissioning Series and the EOS Orchestra.

She is a 2022/23 Artist-in-residence of The Wet Ink Ensemble. She is a recipient of the 2019 Herb Alpert Ragdale Prize in Music Composition, the 2022 Herb Alpert Ucross Prize in Music Composition and the 2021 Berklee Institute of Gender Justice Women Composers Collection Grant.

Ingrid Laubrock is part-time faculty at Columbia University and The New School. She holds an MFA in Music Composition from Vermont College of Fine Arts.

# Le collectif Muzzix



Muzzix is a collective of around thirty musicians based in Lille, active since the late 1990's. Its musical universe spans from jazz to experimental and improvised music, in varied forms that range from solos to large orchestras, from concerts to sound installations and performances.

Muzzix's overall activity revolves around artistic creations emanating from the collective, exploring contemporary musical and sonic languages while focusing on experimentation. Today, there are over thirty projects annually that express the lively creativity of collective musicians, produced regionally, in France, and more and more crossing borders, into Europe, Asia, and North America.

Muzzix also programs events in different locations around the Lille metropolitan area. The highlights Muzzix & Associés (Muzzix and Associates) is organized every trimester, offering an opportunity to invite French and foreign artists on tour, try out new musical configurations with these artists, and to develop partnerships with cultural institutions in the region. The collective also offers activities to raise awareness, through concerts in partnership with local organizations or in private homes, as well as workshops aimed at educational, professional and amateur audiences.

*Outside the region and abroad, the collective collaborates with the Dedalus ensemble (Montpellier), the Coax collective (Paris), La Lutherie Urbaine (Bagnole), the transatlantic network The Bridge, Alternativa Festival (Prague, Czech Republic), Avant Art & AirWro (Wroclaw, Poland), the association E-IMP LTD (Katowice, Poland), the Impakt collective (Cologne, Germany), Le Tour de Bras (a collective and label in Rimouski, Quebec), and Citadelic (Ghent, Belgium).*

# **Ingrid Laubrock and the Grand Orchestre de Muzzix**

## **Photos**

**Ingrid Laubrock :**

Page 1 © Caroline Mardock

Page 6 © DR

**The Grand Orchestre de Muzzix :**

Pages 2 and 7 © Gérard Rouy

**Meeting between Ingrid Laubrock and Muzzix - April 2023 :**

Pages 3 and 4 © Philippe Lenglet

**Musicians of the Grand Orchestre and students :**

Page 5 © Gérard Rouy

## **Vidéos**

Ingrid Laubrock's interview Page 2 © Jeanne Siekaniek, Elisa Lesniewski

*Aquatic* Teaser Page 2 © Léonard Barbier-Hourdin

