

## PRESS RELEASE

## 34th AMR Jazz Festival – 24-29 march 2015 – Sud des Alpes, Geneva

**Geneva, the 28th of January 2015. Contemporary Jazz will have pride of place at the 34th edition of the AMR Jazz Festival, with two groups on every one of the six evenings: the first part with a local group representing the best of the homegrown jazz scene, followed by international musicians, selected for their reputation in the world of jazz and improvised music and for the integrity of their art.**

Having had to cancel his concert at last year's Festival, he promised he'd be back: On the opening day of the Festival we will welcome one of the most important jazz pianists of our time: **Craig Taborn**, who will present a solo concert of totally improvised pieces. The opening group, the **Manuel Gesseney Quintet**, with an original line-up: three horns, double-bass and drums, will juggle between subtly-arranged melodies and beautiful improvised sections, ranging from the most poignant lyricism to the utmost powerful liberation.

Four musicians with different backgrounds and influences are the foundation of **Contro Vento**. Opening Wednesday evening, they offer a jazz with African-inspired rhythms, lyrical and contrapuntal compositions, meridional songs and wide open spaces. **Kuara** will follow: a Scandinavian trio who will immerge us in their impressionist and meditative universe with psalms and popular folklore melodies from the wide open North.

On Thursday, guitarist **Antoine Thouvenin** will present a series of his compositions, reflecting his love and knowledge of the new musical tendencies of the New-York Jazz scene with their complex rhythms, floating melodies and generous amounts of space where each of the fine local musicians making up his band have a place to express themselves. A delicate, sensitive and powerful blend of jazz, funk and rock played by **The Impossible Gentlemen** will follow: a hard-playing quartet with exceptional musicians from both sides of the Atlantic. Steve Rodby on bass and Adam Nussbaum on drums, both true masters at their craft and both from the United States make up the rhythm section in this band featuring versatile guitarist Mike Walker and virtuoso pianist Gwylim Simcock, both from England.

Jazz with a strong oriental influence will be heard on Friday with the **Soriana Project**. This trio headed by **Basel Rajoub**, a Syrian musician living in Geneva, will concoct a myriad of melodic modes and microtonal subtleties of Arabic music blended with contemporary music. **The Danilo Pérez Trio** will end the evening. The American pianist, originally from Panama, is equally at ease in Latin music, jazz and even classical music. His talent and wide musical spectrum has made him the choice of many legendary musicians such as Steve Lacy, Dizzy Gillespie and, since the year 2000, he has been a member of the Wayne Shorter Quartet.

Saturday, the **Mathieu Rossignelly Trio** will start the evening. The pianist from Geneva is well known for his elegant and sensitive playing as well as for his mastery of the instrument, he has a great respect for the legacy of the important jazz trios but that does not hinder him from having, with his fellow accomplices, a sound and an energy that is fully his own. The second part of the evening will feature the sound of the Hammond organ: groove, blues and jazz will be at the forefront of trombonist **Ray Anderson's** newest project. His **Organic Quartet** will light up the room with the magnificent musicians that are Gary Versace on Hammond organ, Tommy Campbell on drums and Steve Salerno on guitar.

A beautiful and too-scarce meeting between a jazz trio and a classical chamber quartet of international fame will open the last evening of the Festival on Sunday: **Maël Godinat Trionyx & Terpsycordes** will release their album « Dédalles », featuring the music of pianist and composer Maël Godinat, much of which was inspired by the poems of Gabriel Alanis. Long-standing partner of pianist Bobo Stenson, Swedish double bassist **Anders Jormin** presents us, for the last concert of the Festival, an original ensemble, **Ad Lucem**, two singers, a rhythm section and a saxophone player. The music moving from hushed melancholy to extreme expressionism. Another magical encounter between jazz and the resonance of chamber music.

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