



# NUITS SONORES 2025

## Nuits sonores 2025, A promise fulfilled!



Celebrating the ephemeral, capturing moments of joy and festivity, opening up spaces of freedom and happiness, resisting the world's polarisations, and truly living together — even if only for a few days: such was the intention behind Nuits sonores 2025, driven by an undiminished desire to come together again.

The festival delivered on its promise, celebrating artists, youth, and the freedom to dance, to think, and even to protest. **More than ever, this 22nd edition demonstrated the transformative power of celebration — for everyone.** What a joy it was to see thousands of festival-goers filled with wonder, emotion, and movement; what a pleasure to witness the glowing faces and feel the energy of the crowd — especially diverse and intergenerational this year — in perfect sync with the intensity of the artistic performances. **For five days and four nights, the festival radiated an incredible atmosphere of kindness and joy.**

The public showed up in force, with **all major programs** — the Days at Les Grandes Locos and the Nuits at La Sucrière — **completely sold out**, a first in the history of Nuits sonores.

## ARTISTS DELIVERED POWERFUL AND UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCES.

For five days, the festival continued its exploration of its main site, **Les Grandes Locos**, introducing new stages with unique experiences and a layout further optimised to enhance audience flow and continually improve the visitor experience.

Artistically, this edition was made especially unique by the powerful and captivating presence of female artists across all genres: from Korean superstar Peggy Gou to Lyon-based duo eat-girls, from Colombian sensation Anto<3 to the iconic The Blessed Madonna, as well as rising talents like Effy, Mimi Géniale, and Karissa.



On Wednesday, May 28, Nuits sonores opened with **Khalil Epi** and his project Aïchoucha, presented on the Nef stage. This opening performance took the audience on a musical and visual journey celebrating the richness of Tunisian culture. The evening continued with the eagerly-awaited audiovisual live set by Lyon's own **LB aka LABAT**, followed by a performance from **BICEP**, enhanced by a stunning stage design: a visual and sonic poetry blending synthetic music, lasers, LED screens, and floating drapes suspended from the vaulted ceiling. Offering a completely different aesthetic, the Garage stage emerged as a true sonic laboratory. From **Nadah El Shazly's** intense experimental set to **Takkak Takkak**, and the **Brazilians of Mimosa**, who moved

fluidly between música popular brasileira and baile funk — blending underground shadows with carnival lights — the audience experienced striking contrasts. The highlight was a singular, arrhythmic, asynchronous, and dystopian closing set by Chinese artist **Goooooose**. A longed-for return from electronic legend **Luke Vibert** delivered a refined set marked by slow tempos and acid textures, followed by **Fasme**, whose soaring melodies propelled the Soundsystem stage into another dimension. The duo **Minna-no-kimochi**, meanwhile, delivered a masterfully crafted set that brilliantly embodied the emerging Japanese "post-trance" scene.

At night, **La Sucrière**, upgraded this year in an **augmented version with three complementary stages** offering multifaceted experiences and programming, fully captivated the audience and left a lasting impression. One standout performance from the first night was the **European premiere of TIMES**, which combined poetry and video. In a timeless moment, artificial intelligence transformed the live set of **Heith, James K, and Günseli Yalcinkaya (The Talk)** in real time.





The following day at Les Grandes Locos continued this series of powerful artistic encounters. The meeting of **Ellen Allien** and Brazilian producer **BADSISTA** was electrifying, as was the intense back-to-back set between **Flore** — a key local talent — and **Special Request**, which will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the festival's most powerful performances. In a similar spirit, British dubstep reached new heights with **Digital Mystikz**, while the Garage stage echoed with the haunting vocals of **Lyra Pramuk** and **Abdullah Miniawy**, who was joined by **Simo Cell**. Psychedelic music was put under the spotlight with **FÖLLAKZOID**, the Chilean trio delivering a hypnotic set blending drums, guitars, and synthesizers. Led by the graceful intensity of Domingæ, their performance became an ode to slowness and introspection — a moment disconnected from the chaos of everyday life, allowing the audience to slip into a state of collective trance.



Nuit 2 took on a more extreme tone, pulsing with the sounds of Lyon's hard techno scene, as well as French hardcore embodied by legendary figure **Manu le Malin**. The night also featured the singular intensity of Japan's **Violent Magic Orchestra**, whose explosive mix of metal and trance peaked in wild stage dives and unrelenting energy.



A deeply emotional moment opened Day 3, with a performance by **Syrob** on the Nef stage — a legendary DJ from the now-closed club 101 — who stirred hearts and reminded everyone of the vital role club culture plays in our cultural ecosystems. He was followed by a powerful back-to-back set from Hamburg artists **Helena Hauff** and **DJ MELL G**. Later, the Soundsystem stage transformed into a blazing Brazilian baile with the electrifying energy of **MU540**. Over at the Garage stage, co-curated with media **Grünt**, the day oscillated between powerful discussions and escalating club energy, culminating in a politically charged, impactful set from **Julmud**, expressing solidarity with Palestine.

Nuit 3 saw La Sucrière transform into a vast, dense Berlin-style club, with two immersive techno live sets by **Fadi Mohem** and **Polar Inertia**, and a memorable performance from **CHLOE** on the Central stage.



Another powerful opening came on Day 4 with **Renick Bell**'s algorithmic live performance — where music was coded live before the audience's eyes, transforming the Nef stage into a living interface of sonic and political communication. Emotion surfaced once again during the moving **tribute to Célélé**, with heartfelt performances from **Swooh, Smogo, Marjo, and LB Marszalek**. Tears and smiles combined, reminding everyone of music's deep power to carry memory — especially for an artist so dear to our hearts.

The Soundsystem stage overflowed with euphoria during **LEGIT GIRL DJ**'s set — a blend of techno, trance, and hyperpop — while the Outdoor stage witnessed an impressive live performance by Photons, a rising figure in a new French scene merging jazz and club music, capable of getting over 2,000 people dancing. Meanwhile, **Salma Rosa & Johnnah** stood out with their masterful sound design, and **Gargantuan Collapse** electrified the Garage stage with a thrilling take on electronic doom metal.



The final night welcomed the return of **Tshegue**, performing as a duo, with the singer improvising and engaging directly with the crowd — creating one of the most warm-hearted concerts of the festival. Then came **MC Waraba and Furie Soundsystem**, who, after a week-long residency in Lyon,

transported Le Sucre into an imaginary realm woven between Brazil, France, and Mali. Another sublime moment: a waacking dance communion on the Club stage, symbolizing the festival's shared vibrancy and spirit.

To bring to an end this artistically bold edition, the last day lived up to the festival's every promise. Magic took hold at the Théâtre des Célestins, where **Suzanne Ciani**, pioneer of electronic music and modular synthesis, delivered a rare, exceptional performance. Playing in quadraphonic sound, specially designed for the occasion, the American artist presented a symphonic piece paying homage to Mozart as her inspiration. The audience, visibly moved, gave a standing ovation to this masterful act.

Back at Les Grandes Locos for the Closing Day, the rare and essential presence of **Raïna Raï** — true legends of Algerian raï music — set the tone before three unforgettable closing acts: first, **Vel**, resident of Le Sucre and a local pride; then, the great **Jeff Mills**, dressed in his signature radiant attire, who after an enchanting Cinemix performance the day before at Théâtre de la Croix-Rousse, delivered a precision-crafted techno set in the Nef. Finally, **Cassius, Myd & Bambounou** closed the night with the iconic French Touch anthem «**I Love You So**» — its lyrics echoing a clear message of love and unity, in a timeless, suspended moment.





## NUITS SONORES LAB: A COMMITTED INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM AND A PLATFORM TO QUESTION THE TECHNO-POLITICAL ALLIANCES OF OUR CONTEMPORARY WORLD.

Never disconnected from the real world, the festival was furthered by **Nuits sonores Lab**, its discourse and thought-provoking program. At the heart of the Days site, a partnership with media **Grünt** brought together rap journalists **Mehdi Maïzi, Sandra Gomes, Jean Morel, and David Bola** for a panel tackling a burning question: *Are we witnessing the repoliticisation of rap?*

Nuits sonores Lab also expanded into a radio platform, welcoming **Mutant Radio (Georgia)** and **Radio Alhara (Palestine)**, giving voice to artists and cultural figures from these regions of resistance. The "A Conversation With" series — a one-on-one talk format designed with three of the festival's longtime media partners, **Resident Advisor, Crack Magazine, and Libération** — allowed the public to meet and engage with artists such as **Lyra Pramuk, Special Request, Jwles, and Jennifer Cardini**.



In 2025, **Nuits sonores Lab** also unfolded at **Hôtel71**, becoming a platform to question **the techno-political alliances shaping today's world**. Over three days, seventy speakers contributed to unpacking the

entangled power structures linking Big Tech and politics. Among them was **Meredith Whittaker**, president of the encrypted messaging app **Signal**, who delivered an inspiring speech on the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and reclaiming the narrative from toxic tech industry discourse.

The programme at Hôtel71 was also characterised by hands-on tools and learning workshops aimed both at the general public and at industry professionals.

One major highlight was a panel moderated by **Histoires Crépues**, where speakers analysed and unpacked the racist biases present in facial recognition and AI technologies. The large turnout for this talk made it one of the standout moments of the 2025 edition.

European projects led by Arty Farty once again enriched Nuits sonores Lab program. **The Independent Movement for Electronic Scenes (TIMES)** — a collaborative project bringing together 10 European festivals — introduced two new formats this year alongside the original creation The Talk: the **Video-Club**, screening more than 15 documentaries throughout the festival, and the **Sampler**, a simplified electronic music production software for both beginners and experienced users. Additionally, **Reset!**, the network of independent cultural and media organisations and the new initiative **TMLAB**, focused on representation and visibility for underrepresented scenes in the music industry, also contributed significantly to this year's Lab programming.

## A STRONG PRESENCE IN THE CITY THROUGH PARTICIPATORY EVENTS

Just a few steps from Hôtel71, the **Nuits sonores open air** events at **HEAT** — free and unifying — added to the magic of this year's edition. The first carte blanche was given to the Brazilian queer collective **Batekoo**, whose art of committed and inclusive performance electrified the crowd, creating unforgettable moments of collective joy. On Friday, **High Budub's soundsystem** shook the space with deep basslines, while Saturday was marked by a powerful artistic exchange between the **Georgian and Ukrainian scenes** — a strong symbol of unity across borders.



And finally, what would the festival be without the fifteen participatory events of the **Extra!** programme, which allowed the festival to deeply engage with the city of Lyon, or without **Mini sonore**, a unique event specially designed for children? Once again, these programs — co-created with local cultural players and artists specialising in young audiences — were enthusiastically received and widely attended.





## RESISTING MELANCHOLY AND EXPERIENCING AGAIN THESE SHARED MOMENTS

We all experienced a monumental edition of the festival — one of those rare moments that stay with you forever, so overwhelming was the joy and sense of fulfillment. "It was incredible," people kept telling us. Yes — so much so, that after the euphoria, we now find ourselves having to resist the melancholy. Nuits sonores 2025 is already over.

And yet, we're already looking forward to feeling that invigorating energy again — that joyful, electrifying horizon.



We wish to address a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you.  
We'll see you again from May 13 to 17, 2026, for the 23rd edition of Nuits sonores!

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