



Nuits sonores, turns 20

IN A SPIRIT OF ENTHUSIASM, OPENNESS AND
TOGETHERNESS



The twentieth edition of Nuits Sonores in Lyon was marked above all else by its air of joyfulness, openness, respect and generosity. Against a tense social backdrop, this vibration of shared enthusiasm was felt throughout the 25 sites hosting the festival, reminding us that it serves first and foremost as a space for harnessing our collective force of imagination.

This twentieth edition was a triumph for audiences, staff members, volunteers and artists alike. Over the course of five days, around 102,000 people attended the festival in a spirit of celebration and curiosity for the different daytime and night-time programmes. And what a magnificent gift it was, on the occasion of the festival's twentieth birthday, to see this joyful collective effervescence spread throughout the city.

THE POWER OF THE PUBLIC SPACE



Following a three-year absence, **Nuits Sonores joyfully returned to the public space** with specially curated free events at the Place Guichard, Le Transbordeur and the forecourt of Le Gros Caillou. The aim was not only to bring music to the streets, but to shine a light on the role played by the Guillotière district in the history of Raï music and showcase the ways in which artists on today's electronic scene are reviving this heritage. Meanwhile, in the Croix-Rousse neighbourhood, Dom Peter (founder of the High Tone group and the Blanc Manioc label) and the Maraboutage collective rekindled the multicultural history of their surroundings. Here as elsewhere, festival-goers rubbed shoulders with local residents in a celebratory and good-natured atmosphere. Images such as these, capturing scenes of jubilation in public spaces and at the various sites that make up the festival, were also exhibited in situ in the city as part of the 20 Sleepless Years exhibition, a retrospective exploring the festival's urban footprint.



That same feeling of urban effervescence was also rekindled by **the return of the Extra! programme**, which presented 15 celebratory artistic projects by cultural actors from the local area...

...as well as **Mini Sonore, an event for children and their families** comprising workshops on subjects including "How to be a DJ", "Make a Festival out of Kapla" and "Joube's bike", as well as the Pixmix exhibition and a special kids' electro party.



Articulant débat d'idées et musique, **Nuits sonores Lab** a proposé panels de discussion, workshops, plateaux radio et performances qui ont **fait une large place aux scènes indépendantes en résistance**, dont la scène ukrainienne, avec l'artiste Nastia ou le label de musique Standard Deviation.

THE CITY: A PLAYGROUND IN CONSTANT EVOLUTION

For 20 years, **Nuits Sonores has treated the city as its own playground**, transforming with every passing year the shape of the festival, its venues, its visual identity and its urban detours.



Chosen once more to be the site of this year's Days and Closing Day programmes, **the sets staged at the Esplanade of La Sucrière will live long in the memories** thanks to the beguiling mirrors and incredible Void Acoustics soundsystem. The stage witnessed performances by artists including The Soft Moon, LSDXOXO and Paula Tape, as well as a dazzling joint set by The Blessed Madonna and HAAi as the curtain fell on the festival.

Back inside La Sucrière, Salle 1930 hosted the emotional return of Ellen Allien, who had appeared at the very first edition of the festival back in 2003.

A MOBILE FESTIVAL

Another new dimension of this year's event was **its itinerant nature**, with festival-goers invited to explore Lyon thanks to the presence of three additional sites in the city centre: the former Fagor factories, H7 and Le Sucre. These three nocturnal sites offered a variety of experiences, changing in complexion with each passing night. Meanwhile, and for the first time, the line-ups at H7 were co-curated by local collectives, culminating in a magisterial joint set by Deena Abdelwahed, Flore and GLITTER55.

Hosting Nuits Sonores events for the very last time, the Fagor factories featured an immersive stage installation combining reflective graphics and disco balls. Against this enchanting backdrop, Marcel Dettmann fought back against the prevailing uptick in BPMs witnessed elsewhere at the edition – a perceptible reflection of current trends – as he harked back to a more textured, melancholic brand of Berlin techno. The stage also played host to the energetic live pop of Charlotte Adigéry & Bolis Pupul and a sonically and visually impeccable performance by Moderat.

A RICH MUSICAL DIVERSITY

It was Le Sucre that hosted the most diverse line-ups. The ambient scene was represented by Katarina Gryvul, Aho Ssan and Abul Mogard & Marja de Sanctis, performing to a contemplative and focused audience plunged into darkness and submerged in smoke. At other times, it was graced by figures from the modern jazz scene, including Echt! and Eabs meets Jaubi, witnessed upbeat sets by Mim Suleiman, MC Yallah and Debmater, and a live performance by France's very own NZE NZE. Last but not least, for the Closing Day, Le Sucre offered a series of back-to-backs featuring local residents and established French artists. The fruit of a long-term project, crowds were treated to collaborative sets such as Chloé b2b Warum, François X b2b Vel, Saku Sahara b2b Teki Latex and Mézigue b2b Hyas.

This twentieth anniversary edition constantly stood out for its rich musical diversity. Other highlights included: the warmly received Hyph11e and Tzusing, from Shanghai; the dazzling return of different scenes such as indie (represented by Dame Area), rock and post punk (The Soft Moon) and Latino (Sassyggirl); the climax provided by Cardopusher / Safety Trance; an irresistible live performance by Baby Volcano, complete with in-crowd dancing; the presence of the entire Mama Told Ya crew, to whom Nuits Sonores feels like a home from home (Anetha, a first live festival set by Vel, Mac Declos); Leroy Burgess & Saving Coco performing at sundown; the energy of rappers Realo and winnterzuko, fusing hyperpop with techno and rap; a live show with dancers by Lazuli; and a special mention must go to the dub scene and Channel One, who injected the entire crowd with positive energy as they opened the daytime programme on Saturday.



And lastly, what turned out to be the highlight for many festival-goers: an exquisite live show delivered by **Darkside against a stunning visual backdrop enhanced by the huge glass roof at Les SUBS and an impeccable sound quality ; and Chilly Gonzales hypnotising 2,200 fans at the Auditorium de Lyon** with a wild live show and a thunderous foray into the French language.



NUITS SONORES ENTERS THE REALMS OF FICTION

With no fewer than 185 artists on its line-up – from the local area, France, Europe and further afield – the twentieth anniversary of Nuits Sonores was designed to be a showcase for diversity, emerging talent and fruitful collaborations between the festival's most iconic figures and tomorrow's stars, embracing the entire spectrum of electronic music and beyond.

As a nod to history on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary, Nuits Sonores is entering the realms of fiction: Pierric Bailly's story, *Le roman de Jim*, whose magnificent final scene takes place at Nuits Sonores, is being turned into a film by the Larrieu brothers, who were present with their cameras at this year's festival, slipping in among the crowds on the dancefloors at La Sucrière and the Fagor factories.

To mark its twentieth anniversary, Nuits Sonores has written one of the most glorious chapters of its colourful history, imbued by a collective and warm effervescence created alongside an audience that remains as curious and faithful as ever.



ARTY FARTY WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE TEAMS, VOLUNTEERS, ARTISTS AND PARTNERS WHO HELP MAKE THIS COLLECTIVE ADVENTURE POSSIBLE EACH YEAR.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN FROM 8 TO 12 MAY 2024 FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST EDITION OF THE NUITS SONORES FESTIVAL!

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