

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

«Jazz in Carthage»

by TUNISIANA

**from 12th to 16th April 2005
on the Carthaginian coast**

Winter has been hard on the system for one and all but spring will make up for it: Tunisiana, the top private mobile phone operator, is bringing you a jazz event to remember.

Majestic Carthage is about to host an important event: from 12th to 16th April its venerable walls will resound with New World music.

The Carthage and La Marsa municipalities, ONTT together with the participation of the French Cooperation Institute (IFC) are about to launch «**Jazz in Carthage**» the first edition of a full-blown cultural event that will have the whole region humming in tune. Top-notch concerts and «**Master Classes**» (9.30 a.m. on 10th April at *Ennejma Ezzahra*), an exhibition of photographs «**Citizen Jazz expo**» (*Essadi Gallery from 8th to 16th April featuring work by Mohamed El Hedef, Anis Mili, Malek Lakhoua, Chafik Gaies, Mounir Mabkhout and Salah Jabeur*) and a wealth of «**Jazz Attitudes**» including «**Jam Sessions**», not a detail is missing, the very walls will breathe musicality.

For the opening, on **Tuesday 12th April**, the Acropolium, a promontory suited to the outstanding stature of the visiting musicians, will welcome the Julien Lourau Quintet - «Fire and Forget» proposed by the French Cooperation Institute. This is a formation that is symbolic of the jazz renewal in Europe; Julian Lourau, an outstanding saxophonist - the Tunisian public will remember him from 1997 when he came here with his tremendous «Groove Gang» - along with four wonderful musicians, Bojan Z on piano (Fender Rhodes), with an international reputation, Daniel Garcia Bruno on drums, Eric Löhner on guitar and Vincent Artaud on double bass.

Julien Lourau is a paradox: remarked early on as an exceptional saxophonist, in his first albums he chose to explore electro and dance, melding digital effects with improvised rhythms to secure a stunning «live» dimension. Hundreds of concerts and a world tour later, in «The Rise» he returned to acoustic music with emotion in a creative dialogue with formal rigour, a succession of ballads with Latino and Balkan influences. On the

Acropolium, he will present his latest work, «Fire and Forget», released at the end of February 2005.

On Wednesday 13th, to follow up on «Le pas du chat noir» that was a big success at the Acropolium last spring, **Anouar Brahem** is bringing his trio «**Astrakan Café**» back to Carthage. With his trio, the magician of the Oud (lute) will crystallize the allure of the Orient in unforgettable terms.

The versatility that Anouar Brahem exploits with his compatriot Lassaad Hosni and Turkish clarinetist Barbaros Erkoşer defies any label. Jazzmen are bound to recognise the styles and forms developed by these exceptional musicians. Their superb compositions and the enormous respect each musician offers his companions make for an unequivocally rich atmosphere. This is musical poetry in the making.

When it was released in 2001, the album «Astrakan Café» caused an admiring stir and rose to the top of the jazz stakes in several countries in Europe. In Germany it hit No. 1 in the jazz sales and for radios throughout Europe it was one of the most played «world music» records. The trio embarked on a long tour of Europe, the U.S. and the Middle East. Now for Carthage !

Thursday 14th April, Steve Coleman & Five Elements will present their stunning music, a jazz that incorporates funk, soul and hip hop. Steve Coleman plays alto sax and composes; he is from Chicago where he grew up playing R & B and funk in admiration of his hero Macéo Parker. A move to New York saw him transfer his major allegiance to jazz. He has played in a number of big bands and worked with David Murray, Abbey Lincoln and Dave Holland, among many others. He has a strong philosophical streak and an abiding interest in ancient religions and civilisations, with a particular penchant for Yoruba music and culture that he studied on site, his compositions strongly reflect this West African influence.

The founder of several groups of which «Five Elements» is the most recent, he has over twenty albums to his name and has produced countless others.

Friday 15th April will resound with the virtuoso technique of another brilliant saxophonist: «**Johnny Griffin**». Also from Chicago, he has played with Lionel Hampton, and is famous for his luminous rapid solos. Think Hard Bop and it is his tenor sax you hear. His relentless talent has made him a regular of world tours and a fixture of Festivals and major musical events. On 12th April he will be playing at the Paris Olympia alongside Kenny Garrett and «Jazz in Carthage» is his next stop in a busy schedule.

Last but not least, on **Saturday 16th** the legendary Barbara Hendricks will sing in the **Carthage Hall** (*at the Carthage Palace - Marsa Gammarth*). Her talent thrives on renewal, on exploring new styles. Classical music, Gospel, Jazz each can claim her for its own. This is the first time she will sing in Carthage with a jazz formation and it is

prestigious indeed. She will appear with the **Magnus Lindgren Quartet** who received a Grammy Award at the Montreux Jazz Festival.

This musical meeting of minds will bring together two generations of jazzmen: Johnny Griffin and the jazz rap representative Steve Coleman. Old world jazz will be here too with Julien Lourau, fittingly, all three big names are hot on the saxophone, the emblem of jazz. The programme has been devised to present the Tunisian public with musicians who have the gusto to leave tested and tried paths behind them and innovate. Their creativity hints at the future of jazz and convinces us that its vigour will keep it exploring new dimensions.

Anouar Brahem, whom people might try to cast as a representative of «ethnic» jazz, defies classification. His artistry is an invitation to savour music freed of restrictions and preconceptions and a reminder of the polymorphism of jazz.

«Jazz in Carthage» will be more than a programme and big names, a tribute to the aesthetic nature of jazz it will emphasize the interactive nature of this music and the generosity of both its interpreters and its audience.

Big events bring others in their wake, a new radio programme «**Studio Jazz FM**» will cover the musical event on Mosaïque FM: a team of young journalists will take you behind the scenes every day from 12th to 16th April from 1.30 to 2.30 p.m.

Leaving no dimension neglected, the photo exhibition «**Citizen Jazz Expo**» will give jazz lovers a fuller taste of jazz in Tunisia and take them back to the early 1970s.

The «**Master classes**» and «**Jam sessions**» will be a chance for jazz aficionados to indulge their curiosity and for Tunisian musicians to play alongside confirmed jazzmen and extend their repertoire. These conditions are ideal for talent-spotting.

«**Jazz in Carthage by Tunisiana**» is sure to set new trends and confirm the site of our historical town on the modern map.

www.scooporganisation.com

www.jazzacarthage.com

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