

ARGHA

ارغ

ن

NUN



**MOSTAFA TALEB | JEROME BERTIER | HARMONIA SACRA**

## IN A FEW WORDS

**Argha/nun - ارغ / ن** is a poetic-musical encounter between the Persian and European worlds, bringing together Jérôme Bertier (organ), Mostafa Taleb (kamancheh), Camille Bordet (vocals, tombak), Luna Silva (vocals, percussion) and Shahab Azinmehr (vocals, tar, setar). Putting their singularity to good use in the service of a common identity, they have created a unique language blending baroque music, Persian musical themes and mystical texts from the secular and religious traditions of both cultures.



## THE BAND

**Argha/nun - ارغ / ن** is a musical and poetic encounter between Persian and European cultures, a powerful sensory experience encountering a humanity that disarms frameworks and borders. The adventure began between Mostafa Taleb, an Iranian musician playing the kamancheh, and Jérôme Bertier, a harpsichordist, organist and improviser navigating between ancient, romantic and traditional repertoires.

Jérôme Bertier and Mostafa Taleb have been introduced to each other by Harmonia Sacra on the set of Lisaboa Houbrechts' Bruegel from summer 2019. Over the course of two years, they have exchanged ideas to arrive at a common musical language based on improvisation, and extended their conversations around the great figures that inspire them: the poetry of Hâfez, Rûmi, the music of Bach, Marin Marais and Shajarian. They also explored in depth the artistic and religious issues common to these musical traditions.

When the kamancheh was invited to the organ loft at Saint-Géry (Valenciennes, Northern France), the project was born, finding an ideal setting in the church's contemplative atmosphere and inimitable acoustics. The timbres of the grand-orgue, kamancheh, târ and voices blend together, creating new and unexpected sounds. Supported by BOZAR Brussels and the Goethe Institute, the group is enriched by three singular voices: those of Iranian classical singer Shahab Azinmehr, opera singer Camille Bordet and traditional singer and ethnomusicologist Luna Silva. The three singers also bring the color of their instruments: târ, tombak and traditional percussions. The five of them have forged a unique identity at the crossroads of oral tradition, written repertoire and improvisation.



**festival  
off  
avignon**

In 2023, **Argha/nun - ارغ / ن** was selected for a week-long residency and daily recitals at the medieval basilica of Vézelay (Cité de la Voix), where the Persian language resonates for the first time. In this place of silence and prayer, steeped in centuries of inter-religious history, the five musicians performed for an audience of over 1,500 visitors, overwhelmed by this extraordinary encounter.

Invited by FEVIS in 2024, the group received six consecutive standing ovations at the Festival Off d'Avignon as part of the Interférences festival.

## THE MUSICIANS

*Jérôme Bertier, organ, musical co-direction*  
*Mostafa Taleb, kamancheh, musical co-direction*  
*Shahab Azinmehr, singing, târ, setâr*  
*Camille Bordet, singing, tombak*  
*Luna Silva, singing, percussions*

## LAST VIDEOCLIP



## FULL CONCERT VIDEO

Available on request (only for professionals)



**Jérôme Bertier** discovered improvisation at an early age as an extension of his passion for the Romantic repertoire. After graduating from the Freiburg Hochschule in piano, he went on to study harpsichord at the CNSMD in Lyon, where he developed a passion for early keyboards. Today, Jérôme Bertier is a performer, improviser and composer, playing five different instruments. He regularly collaborates on fortepiano with conductor Martin Wahlberg, with whom he recorded *The Magic Flute* and the *Mozart 1773* album, on piano with Clément Mao-Takacs (Secession Orchestra) and on harpsichord with La Fenice. In 2022 he performs Massenet alongside Monica Bellucci in *Callas, lettres et mémoires* by Tom Volf. In 2019 he founds the historic piano trio 1905 with Gauthier Broutin and Amaryllis Billet. He has been premiering works by composer Brice Le Clair since 2017. Passionate about Persian music, he was keyboardist and singer in Lisaboa Houbrechts' *Bruegel*, where he met Mostafa Taleb. This encounter gave birth to the Argha/Nun ensemble. In 2023, Jérôme collaborated with Lisaboa Houbrechts as composer and vocal conductor in Euripides' *Médée* at the Comédie Française.



**Mostafa Taleb** was born in Khorramabad (Iran) in 1993. He studied architecture and music in Tehran, and traveled through his country listening to traditional musicians, nurturing himself with the melodies and dance steps of Lorestan, his native region, as well as Kamancheh's. He arrived in Europe in 2016. His talent and musical personality enabled him to overcome the difficulties of exile, and made him known as a Kamancheh player and improviser. At the invitation of renowned gambist Jordi Savall, he performed in numerous concerts in Europe as part of the Orpheus XXI ensemble, notably at Fontfroide Abbey. In 2020 he created the ensemble "About that magic circle", in 2022 he recorded the album "Chapelle de Verre" with Ananta Roosens, and in 2024 released his solo album "Unity". In 2019, he performs on the set of the play "Bruegel" by Flemish playwright Lisaboa Houbrechts. There he met Jérôme Bertier, with whom he formed the Argha/nun ensemble.



**Shahab Azinmehr** Born in 1985 in Teheran, Shahab Azinmehr trained both as a soloist with a master's degree in the interpretation of classical Persian music, and in organology with a bachelor's degree in the restoration of historic instruments. He took his first musical steps as a singer before perfecting his shooting and setâr skills. He has studied with Mohammad Musavi, Dariush Talâ'i, Mas'ud Sho'âri, Behruz Hemmati and Rezâ Parvizzade. Since 2020, he has performed at numerous festivals in Europe, and is a member of Orpheus XXI under the direction of Jordi Savall. In 2021, he records his first solo album with the Showq-e Mastur setâr. He meets Luna Silva during the Making Track residency in 2021.



**Luna Silva** Born under the double sign of musical poetry and the meeting of worlds, Luna Silva is a child of the ball. Her parents met while they were students at the Fratellini circus school: he, a Spanish acrobat and clown, she, an Englishwoman with a talent for acting and directing. She develops a rich imagination where popular melodies and learned harmonies intertwine. She has produced two CDs of her own compositions with her label The House of Wonders, and two CDs with her second traditional polyphony project Samaïa. Entrepreneurial and independent, she is also a London-trained ethnomusicologist and choral conductor for regional projects (300-strong children's choir with La Ferme du Buisson (2022), Koral Mesopotamia in Iraq with the Institut Français, (2023)). She also played a lead role in the Netflix series *Osmosis* (2019). Winner of the Prix Icart Session 2021 (France Musique), she has been selected for the Prix des Musiques d'Ici 2022 (MaMa and Villes des Musiques du Monde).



**Camille Bordet** is distinguished by an original career path, linking the European classical repertoire with music from the East. The opera singer is a laureate of the Gordes melody competition and the Fondation Royaumont, and a graduate of SciencesPo Paris, ENSAD and the Basel Musikhochschule (Switzerland). Since 2021, she has performed Nero (Agrippina, Haendel), Vitellia and Dorabella (Mozart), Orfeo (Gluck), Dido (Purcell), Déméter (Berne, title role of the creation, Opéra de Clermont Ferrand 2024). She is particularly fond of Baroque music, which she sings with Jordi Savall's Capella Reial. A polyglot (Armenian, Persian...), she plays the tombak and works with musicians from all horizons. With Jean-Luc Borrás, she has written three one-woman shows combining theater and a cappella singing: "On ne naît pas libre..." (We're not born free...) (2021), "Holi" (2023), and "Au temps qui dort" (2024). She approaches music as a complete and universal art form, embracing literature, history, theater and spirituality.

## DATES

**03/25** Concert at International Kirkemusikfestival Oslo

**07/24** 6 concerts at festival d'Avignon through festival Interférences - FEVIS

**09/23** release of the videoclip « Sufinameh »

**07/23** Residency and daily concerts at Cité de la Voix, Vézelay

**05/23** Concert as part of the Embar(o)quement immédiat festival (Valenciennes)

**09/22** HerMaP live concert online

**07/22** Concert at Notre-Dame de Bonne-Nouvelle (Paris)

**07/22** Production of an EPK

**07/22** Creative residency

**03/22** Restitution of HERMAP/Goethe Institut creative residency at BOZAR Brussels

**02/22** Second résidence at Notre-Dame-de-Bonne-Nouvelle, Paris

**11/21** First images created for BOZAR <https://youtu.be/llam0Qk3ZR8>

**10/21** First residence at Saint-Géry church, Valenciennes

**06/21** Selection BOZAR residence HerMaP

## PARTNERS

**Argha/nun** - ارغ / ن is coproduced and corealised by HARMONIA SACRA  
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