



# Joni Mitchell in Jerusalem

Haim Isaacs sings and tells tales

I was fifteen when I first heard **Joni Mitchell**'s music in my upstairs neighbor's flat in Jerusalem. I'm sixty-four now, living in Paris, and the songs still elude me, they still slip through my fingers.

**Joni Mitchell in Jerusalem** has been brewing for over 20 years. Then one morning it's now... I must do it now. Throughout France, massive strikes, then Covid. I cloistered myself in a studio for three months, experimenting arrangements and soundscapes.

**I had a strong wish to share stories on how, in the 70's, Joni's music penetrated my heart in the Middle East.** Speaking in the third person, high schooler H wanders through the streets of Jerusalem, Jericho and Bethlehem, haunted by Joni. She follows him down to the Sinai desert where H, now a medic in the tank corps, sees her dancing in the dunes.

Our jazz quartet stays true to Joni's melodic lines and harmonies while creating fresh instrumental soundscapes. Three-voice harmonies abound. **We are currently performing throughout France and hope to share the music with other European countries.**

Here is the live teaser and other videos around Joni Mitchell: <https://haimisaacs.com/-/video-e/>



**Haim Isaacs**  
Voice



**Frédéric Reynier**  
Piano, percussions



**Jules Lefrançois**  
Battery, tuba  
Backup vocals



**Yann-Lou Bertrand**  
Doublebass, trumpet  
Backup vocals





SETLIST

Little Green

Blue Motel Room

Dreamland

All I Want

Slouching Towards Bethlehem

Chelsea Morning

The Blond in the Bleachers

The Dry Cleaner from Des Moines

Goodbye Pork Pie Hat

Black Crow

Shadows and Light

Cherokee Louise

Jericho

The Fiddle and the Drum

Both Sides Now



## Haim Isaacs

Voice

A red swing in a back yard... a kid singing his lungs out... up in the clouds with Mary Poppins... twirling atop the Austrian Alps with Maria Von Trappe. In New York, my family boards a boat, furniture and all, and lands in Israel. All I can say in Hebrew is: Hello... my name is Haim... how are you? That doesn't go far in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I daydream my way through History, Bible, Geometry, Chemistry. Language as abstract sound.

Then Jerusalem Experimental High School: hippie territory: the process is what matters, not the result. Then the army: just get there! We don't give a fuck how! Then a one-way ticket to San Francisco: harmony, counterpoint, piano, voice. Digging under the skins and into the mouths of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Ella Fitzgerald. Then the Iron Curtain: Hungary, I want to move there, but stop off in Jerusalem and find Barry and the **Roy Hart Theater** passing through. Kaya, Akhmatova. Crazy wild voice work: screaming, shouting, soprano, basso, industrial squeaks.

I follow their trail to the south of France and spend 4 years in a French kibbutz. Great. Terrific. Then Paris; **teaching voice, singing, recording** Jewish songs in Poland (Isaac Bashevis Singer's Krochmalna Street gutted and pockmarked).

Then 17 years of **composition: putting together groups, making records.**

Then improvising: voice, buto, clowning, tchatch. We're getting closer to now: **NazzazzaN Quartet**. Wild skydivers doing concerts in swimming pools and circus tents. And now: **Joni Mitchell**: queen of queens. My brother says I was born the day I first heard her. He's usually right.

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## Frédéric Reynier

Piano, backup vocals

Originally a percussionist, Frédéric moved on to piano at the National Conservatory of Bourgoin-Jallieu, followed by the **Geneva Conservatory of Music**.

He developed a taste for **improvisation and contemporary dance**: Recital for piano, two dancers and wind instruments (Cie Pas T'à Trac).

He composes for **theatre and contemporary art**: The two doors (Cie de la Bulle), Aka... Kraka, the Game of Protocol (Théâtre du tiroir), Érosion Sur Le Vif, improvised performance with the visual artist Qiang Ma.

Frédéric is deeply engaged with living composers: Three Melodies with Texts by Fabrice Villard (Martin Moulin); Urlicht, Feer am Klavier and Verstecklungen by François Rossé. The meeting with these two composers has led him to develop his own work: Puntiti et le Monstre des Grottes, a musical tale, published by Aedam Musicae; Ça Cheuyait des Chants, a performance for choir and chamber orchestra based on Mayenne songs, commissioned by the Mayenne department; En Quadrature, a piece for four pianos; C dans C, a chamber opera based on Camille Claudel.



## **Jules Lefrançois**

Battery, Tuba, backup vocals

As a young boy, Jules delved into both music and acrobatics. He immediately knew that these two passions would be his life. Since graduating from the **National Superior Conservatory of Paris** as a trombonist, Jules **performs freelance in orchestras** throughout France.

As an acrobat and clown, he has trained in France and China **and performs with multiple companies mixing music and circus.**



## Yann-Lou Bertrand

Double bass, trumpet, backup vocals

Born in Paris to a musical family, Yann-Lou Bertrand has been playing music all his life. In 2016, he obtained his JAZZ DEM diploma from the **Paris Music Conservatory**. He has attended master classes by Pierre Bertrand, Jean-Philippe Viret, Karim Ziad, André Minvielle, Marie-Christine Dacqui, Emil Spanyol.

**Yann-Lou has been a member of the group Monkuti, directed by Mario Orsinet**, where he shared the stage with great Afrobeat artists such as Tony Allen, Oghene Kologbo, Orlando Julius, Kiala King K, Cheikh Tidiane, Chief Udh Oh... He went on tour with the group, soaking up the sounds of different cultures that have enriched his music: South America, New Orleans, Portugal, Benin, Tunisia.

In 2018, he recorded Monkuti Vilé with the group.

In 2020 he recorded the jazz album **Garner on my Mind with Jean-Baptiste Franc and Mourad Benhamou**.

Yann-Lou is currently **collaborating with the singer Luna Silva**, exploring other traditional music, from folk to samba to North African beats. This collaboration has given birth to two albums: "After The Rain" in 2019 and "Breathe Out" in 2022. The group has been selected for the Prix des Musiques d'Ici.

Péniche Anako, Paris, November 21, 2023, 20h30  
 Folies Bérangères, Alex, November 2, 2023, 20h  
 Salle Christine Sèvre, Antraigues -sur-Volane, November 1, 2023, 17h30  
 La Bergerie, Saint-Étienne en Quint, October 31, 2023, 20h30  
 La Bellevilloise, Paris, June 17, 2023  
 Théâtre du Tiroir, Laval, June 3, 4, 2023  
 Carrières-sur-Seine, May 14, 2023  
 Point de fuite, 89770 Bœurs-en-Othe, January 28, 2023  
 Conservatoire des Coëvrons, 53600 Évron, January 20, 2023  
 Roy Hart Théâtre, les Cévennes, August 19, 2022  
 Théâtre Thénardier, Montreuil, February 6, may 1, 2022  
 La Pomme d'Ève, Paris, October 4, 11, 18 ; November 8, 15, 22, 29 ; December 6, 13, 2021  
 Centre Culturel de Rencontre de Neumünster, Luxembourg, October 3, 2021  
 L'Hyper Festival de la Ville de Paris, August 26, 28, 29, 2021  
 Festival Annecy Paysage, July 14, 15, 2021

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