



Photo : H. Siegenthaler

# The Boss Ensemble

Press Kit • 2019

**The Boss Ensemble is a duo embodied by Fanny Balestro on the cello and composer Julien Boss on the piano.**

### **The music :**

Between jazz and classic, the music of The Boss Ensemble is a fusion of the universes of two musicians. In his compositions, Julien Boss combines written scores with improvisation. The aptitudes of both artists compliment one another in perfect union.

Julien Boss is fascinated by film scores, in particular their association with the piano and chords. For several years he composes, including writing for the cello. The duo develops a personalised sound, fitting somewhere between the works of Steve Reich and Arvo Pärt. The writings insight contemplation, from dreams to trance, lifting the listener into their particular universe.

The music is polyrhythmic, organized in successive stratified layers. The simple musical material is subject to subtle evolutionary cycles. The melodies of the cello melt into the rhythmic magma of the piano.

The two instruments interlock in an elaborate harmonious construction. It is the union between the precision of the piano (digital); a reference to the background of computer science and electronics of Julien Boss; and the flexibility of the cello (organic) of Fanny Balestro.

### **Who are we ?**

**Julien Boss** is a jazz and modern music pianist from Nyon in Switzerland, where he grew up. From the beginning of his musical formation, he quickly chose the road to blues, jazz and pop music.

Carried by his passion for jazz harmony and improvisation, he enrolled in the jazz section of the HEMU (Haute Ecole de Musique) of lausanne in 2007. During his studies, he followed the composition course of Emil Spanyi and started writing music for his trio, the On Cue Trio. He then finished his Master in Music Pedagogy in 2012.

Since several years, Julien Boss has been a committed pianist in numerous modern musical projects, notably Aloan, Fanny Leeb, Mourah and Rootwords. These collaborations fueled his ambition to compose his own music. The creation of his personal body of work is part of his current artistic pursuit.

It is in this spirit that The Boss Ensemble came to be. In 2016, Julien Boss associates with the cellist Fanny Balestro; a musician of very diverse estetic horizons who integrates perfectly into the vision of his compositions.

**Fanny Balestro** commenced her studies in classical music in France. In 2010, she enrolled into the HEMU (Haute Ecole de Musique) of Lausanne, and obtained her Master in Interpretation by 2015. On this occasion, she received a distinction prize for her second recital called *Violoncelle en mouvement*.

She regularly performs within orchestras such as l'Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, or even l'Orchestre de Chambre Fribourgeois. She expands on her personal projects and opens up to other musical genres of various formations such as l'ensemble Lusido, Les DamoiZèles, Elynn the Green and Pascal Rinaldi.



## Evolution of the project :

The first objective is to produce an album. Nine compositions were recorded on March 3rd and 4th 2018 at Rainbow Studio in Oslo. The album, *circuits hybrides*, will be released in September 2019 on the Berlin label QFTF, that will also ensure physical and digital distribution.

In parallel to this, The Boss Ensemble is taking bookings for concert dates. Further advances have been made towards film directors with the aim of placing the music in films (fiction, documentaries, short and feature film) and to compose for the same.

## Links :

Website : <http://www.thebossensemble.ch>

Listen to the album on Soundcloud (private playlist) :  
<https://soundcloud.com/thebossensemble/sets/the-boss-ensemble-circuits/s-4Yn3e>

Facebook : [www.facebook.com/thebossensemble/](http://www.facebook.com/thebossensemble/)

Instagram : [www.instagram.com/the\\_boss\\_ensemble/](http://www.instagram.com/the_boss_ensemble/)

## Videos :

- « Circuit #1 » : <https://youtu.be/x9NyF0MPxas>
- « Circuit #6 » : <https://youtu.be/rsqqPDXZj6Y>
- « Radio Moscow » : <https://youtu.be/UqTBbgB4MBs>



Photo : Jenny Berger Myhre

## Biographies :

### Julien Boss

#### Musical career

Born in 1977 in Nyon, Switzerland. Currently living in Lausanne. Initially autodidact, having dabbled with the guitar, then the bass, and from singing to the keyboards, Julien Boss orientates towards his first instrument, the piano. After having finished his Master in Music Pedagogy at the HEMU (Haute Ecole de Musique of Lausanne), he multiplies his artistic projects and concerts as a keyboard player.

From 2012 till 2015, he played with Aloa, the trip-hop group from Geneva. In 2015, he collaborated in the creation of the album *Kardia* of Mourah; an international Swiss-Portuguese artist of the electro-pop genre. The album makes it to the finals of the Swiss Live Talents competition of 2015. Julien Boss worked on the chord arrangements that were recorded at Skopje by the FAME'S orchestra for the Macedonian Symphonic Orchestra.

Today, he plays with the hip-hop group Rootwords. In this context, he participated the tour in Peru in July 2016 and in Africa (Zambia, South Africa, Swaziland) in May 2017. Julien Boss collaborated on the album *Warning Signs* which was released in spring of 2018. He also appeared in the collective lynnu, a group of free improvisation, where he integrated his influences and his experience in sound manipulation, always in search of new acoustic plains. The album *From An Endless Day* was released in February 2018 on the German label Watch Me Win.

Julien Boss also participates in projects of a hybrid nature (classical and modern music), such as when he played the keyboard with the Sinfonietta Symphonic Orchestra (Spectacle *Pixar* at Mézières in July 2015 and *La La Land* at KKL in Lucerne in October 2017).

The amplification and diversity of his projects have nourished and brought him to create his own compositions and to develop his personalised artistic sound. Over the past years, he has been composing on his grand piano at the heart of the Flon in Lausanne.

His project, The Boss Ensemble is a duo comprised of piano and cello that he created with the cellist Fanny Balestro. The first album, *Circuits hybrides*, was recorded in Rainbow Studio in Oslo and is destined to be released in 2019.

#### Teaching career

In the context of his Master in Music Pedagogy in 2012, Julien Boss wrote a memoir on the development of a teaching tool titled "Self-Teaching, a tool to develop one's ear and autonomy."

Julien Boss has taught the jazz piano and modern music since 2008. He has been posted at Villeneuve (Ecole du Musique de Villeneuve et Environs, EMVE) since 2014.

Since 2016, he teaches musical theory for the Bachelor of Creative Performance in Modern music at the HEMU. His numerous musical experiences nourish his teaching courses and allow for him to efficiently transmit the necessary tools for the development of an artistic career.

[www.julienboss.ch](http://www.julienboss.ch)



## **Fanny Balestro**

Born in 1988 at Versailles in France. Currently living in Paris and Lausanne. Fanny Balestro started her musical studies in France along side Xavier Gagnepain, Pascale Michaca and Romain Garioud, all the while pursuing a cursus of Classe Préparatoire de Lettres Supérieures (hypôkhâgne). She also studied classical and contemporary dance, and developed a veritable love for the stage from a young age.

In 2010, she enrolled in the HEMU (Haute Ecole de Musique) of Lausanne and brilliantly obtained her Master of Interpretation in 2015; receiving a distinction prize for her second recital named *Violoncelle en mouvement*.

She regularly performs within orchestras such as l'Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, or even l'Orchestre de Chambre Fribourgeois. She doubles down on her personal projects and opens up to other musical genres of various formations such as the experimental ensemble Lusido, the bubbly Les DamoiZèles, the pop-folk tones of the universe of Elynn the Green, the singer Pascal Rinaldi, or in duo with the pianist Julien Boss.

An eclectic artist, she is driven to widen her scope of interpretation into other forms of expression such as improvisation or the theatre. She satisfies her need for creation and artistic exchange through her company Maunce since 2015, and with her objective to intimately link these disciplines through the musical monologue and choreographic gestures she interprets. Amongst her many collaborators are the Alternance Théâtre and Chariot de Thespis, l'Ensemble-Vide, or the Théâtre AmStramGram (Genève).

[www.fannybalestro.ch](http://www.fannybalestro.ch)

## **Contact :**

Julien Boss

[julien.boss@gmail.com](mailto:julien.boss@gmail.com)

<http://www.thebossensemble.ch>

+41 77 448 48 36