



Phoenix Rising. Sculpture by Lucy Slivinski. Photo by Sandro Miller

## **Phoenix Rising: Intuitive Music in the Colabyrinth**

**April 23, 2022 | 7:00 PM.**

**Colabyrinth**

**A Franco-American Adventure in Improvised Music**

### **Fulcrum Point New Music Project**

Stephen Burns, Artistic Director

Katie Ernst, bass

Angelo Hart, piano

Kahil El'Zabar, drums/voice/conduction

Special Guest Artist: Marvin Tate

### **The Bridge**

Alexandre Pierrepont, Artistic Director

Corey Wilkes, trumpet

Gilles Coronado, electric guitar

Emilie Lesbros, voice

## Phoenix Rising: Intuitive Music in the Colabyrinth

Welcome to the first Franco-American collaboration in improvisation and conduction between Fulcrum Point New Music Project and The Bridge. We are grateful to the First Nations' Council of the Three Fires—the Odawa, Ojibwe and Potawatomi—for their curation of this land that we share and upon which we hold this concert. As we bring together different cultures, generations, genders, and musical styles we honor their tribal elders as well as the legacy of the great musicians who came before us and upon whose shoulders we stand.

This is truly a singular event for these artists, some of whom have met for the first time this week. They will spontaneously create music through deep listening and collaboration, improvisation, theme & variation, as well conduction - a structured improvisation directed by Kahil El'Zabar. In addition, the poetic interplay in English and French will embellish the rich textures offered by the blend of piano, percussion, electric guitar, bass, and trumpet.

We thank Lucy Slivinski and Kahil El'Zabar for hosting us in their creative space, The Colabyrinth.

Stephen Burns

A few days after Mike Reed was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres at the Alliance Française, like Kahil El'Zabar was in 2014, The Bridge – together with Fulcrum Point New Music Project, Kahil, and Lucy Slivinski – is particularly proud to offer you this evening of another kind, *Phoenix Rising*. This is a profound moment of exchange in a long line of moments of exchange that are like pearls on a necklace, because the sharing is unstoppable: male and female musicians, of many backgrounds, many genders, many generations, made to get along. Coming together. Because it's still a kind of *homecoming*, through music, except that this house is tomorrow's planet. A colabyrinth, indeed.

Alexandre Pierrepont

## Bios

Guitarist and composer **Gilles Coronado** is a near-constant presence on the French jazz and improvised music scene. Influenced by the muscular and uniquely French jazz-rock fusion of the '70s zeuhl scene as well as European guitarists like John McLaughlin and Robert Fripp, Coronado has played and recorded with such bands as Thot, AKA Moon Electric, Urban Mood, Triple Gee, and Collectif Alka; as well as composing and performing music for a variety of theater and dance performances. His albums as a leader include 1999's *Urban Mood* and 2016's *au pire, un bien*, released on the ECM label. He lives in Paris, France, where he leads a quartet named Coronado.

**Kahil El'zabar** is considered by his peers to be one of the most prolific innovators of his generation. He is a master musician, composer, and educator, as well as an accomplished/exhibited visual artist and designer, along with being a published writer and poet. El'Zabar's belief is that art expressed first from the heart into the higher mind, inspires the journey to the soul. An internationally acclaimed musician and composer El'Zabar has worked with such luminaries as Dizzy Gillespie, Cannonball Adderley, Stevie Wonder, Pharoah Sanders, Neneh Cherry, Nina Simone, David Murray, and Lester Bowie, to name a few. He has scored feature films "How You Like Me Now," (Warner Brothers) "Mo Money," (Columbia Pictures) and "Love Jones," (New Line Cinema). He also scored arrangements for the theatrical version of Disney's "The Lion King". He has been featured in the 2014 documentary "BeKnown," (which is on the life of El'Zabar) and scored "America the Beautiful III," by Darryl Roberts. Dr. El'Zabar holds a PHD in Inter-Disciplinary Arts from Lake Forest College (2006). He has taught and held the position of Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska (Lincoln) and at the University of Illinois (Chicago). He has also served on several prestigious panels such as the National Endowment of the Arts, the NPN (National Performance Network) and the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Fund. El'Zabar is a former Chairman of the internationally acclaimed AACM, and a founding board member of the NCFE (National Campaign for the Freedom of Expression). As a cultural events specialist, El'Zabar created and produced Underground Fest (one of the most famous Avant-garde Jazz Festivals ever). He also created and curated "Traffic," for Steppenwolf Theater (an inter-disciplinary arts series which also spawned the National Public Radio show also titled "Traffic"). In 2014, Dr. Kahil El'Zabar was knighted by the Counsel General of France, and christened as a "Chevalier Medal of Letters". He has been awarded the 2012 International Ambassador's Award in the Arts, 2006 Chicago Tribune Chicagoan of the Year, and served on the 1994 National Task Force on Arts Education.

Bassist/vocalist **Katie Ernst** is described by the Chicago Tribune as "a versatile young bassist who plays in far-flung bands and sings with uncommon delicacy and authenticity." She is co-leader of the adventurous Chicago-based jazz trio Twin Talk and has received widespread critical acclaim for her Dorothy Parker poetry song cycle Little Words, which premiered at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC in 2015. Some recent notable performances and awards include performing in Mexico City, MX for a Chicago/CDMX Improvised Music Exchange in 2020; performing with MacArthur Fellow and renown pianist/composer Jason Moran at the Chicago Symphony Center and the Kennedy Center; receiving a composing residency at the Ragdale Foundation; multiple performances at the Hyde Park Jazz Festival and Chicago Jazz Festival; representing the USA as bassist and vocalist for the 2018 EuroRadio Jazz Orchestra in Riga, Latvia; and being named a Luminarts Fellow in Jazz in 2013. Katie is an active sidewoman in the jazz and improvised music communities of Chicago, and travels throughout the US as a guest artist/clinician for young musicians. She is the director of the jazz ensemble at Wheaton College and teaches at Birch Creek Music Academy for the Jazz I summer program. Katie holds a Bachelor of

Music in Jazz Studies & Contemporary Media and a Bachelor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. More information about Katie and her music can be found at [www.katieernst.com](http://www.katieernst.com).

**Angelo Hart** has always had an unique and expressive approach to his instrument. Angelo has spent personal time studying jazz and classical legends such as Thelonius Monk, Art Tatum, Cecil Taylor, Oscar Peterson, Keith Jarrett, Herbie Hancock, and Chick Corea, Debussy, Liszt, Chopin, Beethoven and many more. Time spent with the great educators and musicians in Chicago, along with his natural innovative musicianship has molded him into the great musician that he is today. He approaches the piano with command and finesse, displaying a unique relationship and connection between the two of them. He is currently co-curator of two Fulcrum Point New Music Project program series: AuxIn: Connected! and Discoveries, Hear & Be Heard. His album My Song For You will be released in May 2022. [www.angelohartmusic.com](http://www.angelohartmusic.com)

Born and raised in Marseille (France) and later in Paris, **Emilie Lesbros'** career led her from town to town, playing her own music. She has worked as a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist (violinist, pianist, guitar player) in various contexts, engaging in eclectic musical projects ranging from rock, classical, jazz, electronic music, experimental, and performing art. Led by an insatiable curiosity of the modalities and sounds of the voice, and writings, Ms. Lesbros' singing and compositions have captivated audiences and music experts internationally. Her solo album *Attraction Terrestre*, released on the French label DFragment/Full Rhizome in 2011, earned considerable acclaim and radio airplay. She produced and released in 2015 a new EP with her band called "Miss Elie Sorbsel Sings Emilie Lesbros." In 2000 she met the American bass player Barre Phillips with whom she collaborates since. After lots of concerts together they created the Company Barre Phillips with EMIR the collective of 8 musicians. In 2014 they created "La Vie Est Songe" a Barre Phillips's contemporary opera where she had Rosaura's role. Her rock band Rosa (2004 to 2009) has toured extensively in Europe, also her band Single Room with Julia Kent and Rafaele Rinaudo (2011-2013). In 2013 Emilie Lesbros did a collaboration with Darius Jones quartet. The saxophone player invited her to write lyrics and melodies in his music, the CD came out in 2015: Darius Jones Featuring Emilie Lesbros "Le Bébé De Brigitte" Lost in Translation (AUM Fidelity). [www.emilielesbros.com](http://www.emilielesbros.com)

**Marvin Tate** is a multidisciplinary artist and Educator. He has been active in the Chicago music scene since 1993. He has collaborated with Visual Artist Theaster Gates Jr. and the Black Monks of Mississippi, Video Artist Jefferson Pinder, and a motley crew of musical talents that include: Leroy Bach, Angel Olsen, Bill MacKay, Tim Kinsella; and Jazz Artists Ben LaMar Gay, Angel Bat Dawid, Mike Reed, French experimentalist, The Bridge, Ernest Dawkins, and Soundscape Artist Joseph C.Mills. Marvin's art is exhibited in many galleries and museums, including The Intuit Museum in Chicago, one of the world's premier museums dedicated to presenting self-taught art. In 2021, 5 Points Arts Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, will show 'Bird Watch,' a collection of birds that Marvin has constructed out of burnt wood and other found objects. Tate is represented by The Hana Pietri Gallery in Chicago, IL. [www.artistmarvintate.com](http://www.artistmarvintate.com)

**Corey Wilkes** has established himself as one of the best improvising trumpeters in the modern era. Having the skill and maturity to approach avant-garde to mainstream jazz standards along he combines them with his own unique sensibilities. Corey continues to bring his brand of musicianship and talent to the forefront of the genre. As a child, growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, Wilkes was surrounded

by the sounds of Blues, R&B, Soul, Funk and Jazz. He picked up the trumpet for the first time at the age of 10 participating in his school band programs. Corey's natural talent immediately began to flourish. His confidence and maturity were well beyond his years. As a student at Rich South High School in Richton Park, Illinois, his hard work and dedication secured him a spot in the Illinois All State Honors Jazz Combo; the first student in the school's history to do so. Corey has also shared the stage with numerous Jazz Masters including but not limited to; Art Ensemble of Chicago, Roscoe Mitchell, David Murray, Hammiet Bluiett, James Carter, Wynton Marsalis, Roy Hargrove, James Moody, Kurt Elling, Von Freeman, Greg Osby, Marcus Belgrave, Clark Terry, Harry "Sweets" Edison and Mulgrew Miller. [www.coreywilkes.com](http://www.coreywilkes.com)

### **Fulcrum Point New Music Project**

Created in 1998 by Stephen Burns, Fulcrum Point New Music Project pushes the boundaries of the musical experience globally by supporting new compositions, creating and performing new music experiences, and educating audiences to imagine the possibilities of music. We embrace a broad range of experimental styles and multimedia content. Our programs are influenced by popular culture, literature, film, dance, jazz, Latin and world music. We create dynamic new programming with an emphasis on cross-cultural exchange, improvisation, technology, and collaboration. Through multi-disciplinary programs, we encourage audiences to make cross-cultural connections between new music, art, and technology, gaining greater insight into today's diverse world. Fulcrum Point New Music Project empowers artists and communities to create new art music that enriches people's lives and brings about a more empathic world.

[www.fulcrumpoint.org](http://www.fulcrumpoint.org)

### **The Bridge**

The Bridge has been building itself since 2013, inspired by a simple observation: If it is now well known that jazz and improvised music, in France and in Europe, have found their flight, their specificity and their independence, some North American stages, particularly in Chicago and the Midwest, continue to develop at their own rhythm(s). The autonomy acquired and the originality developed by both sides should not prevent new forms of cooperation. On the contrary, we believe that they should even encourage them. To *durably* bring together French and North American musicians; to give them space, time, and the opportunity to get to know each other, in their similarities and differences, to develop their exchanges and creative projects, in reciprocity and complementarity: such is the objective of The Bridge. Our system therefore provides that each Franco-American ensemble circulates in turn on both continents during tours designed as exploratory trips: the ensembles that began in France then move to the United States, and vice versa.

[www.acrossthebridges.org](http://www.acrossthebridges.org)



### **Fulcrum Point New Music Project staff**

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