



# TEMPO, TEMPO!

A TONY ALLEN CELEBRATION

FIXI & Nicolas Giraud

Released on 25.06.2021



# **« Tempo Tempo! »**

**That's what the legendary Tony Allen, a true conductor behind his drums, told the young Fixi and Nicolas Giraud nearly 25 years ago, inviting them to follow him in his singular rhythm...**

# THE ALBUM



<https://linktr.ee/tempotempo>

## TRACKLIST

1. Tempo Tempo!
2. Just want to be me
3. We are one, feat. Tunji Allen
4. La vie est belle, feat. Djeuhdjoah
5. 79!
6. Injera, feat. Fatai Rolling Dollar
7. Oto, feat. Maïa Barouh
8. Single Malt
9. Esè Odò, feat. Ayo Nefretiti
10. Keep it simple
11. Baby cart
12. Patience, endurance and love

**Mastering : Mike Marsh**  
**Label : LA FAMILIA**

**Released on 25 juin 2021**

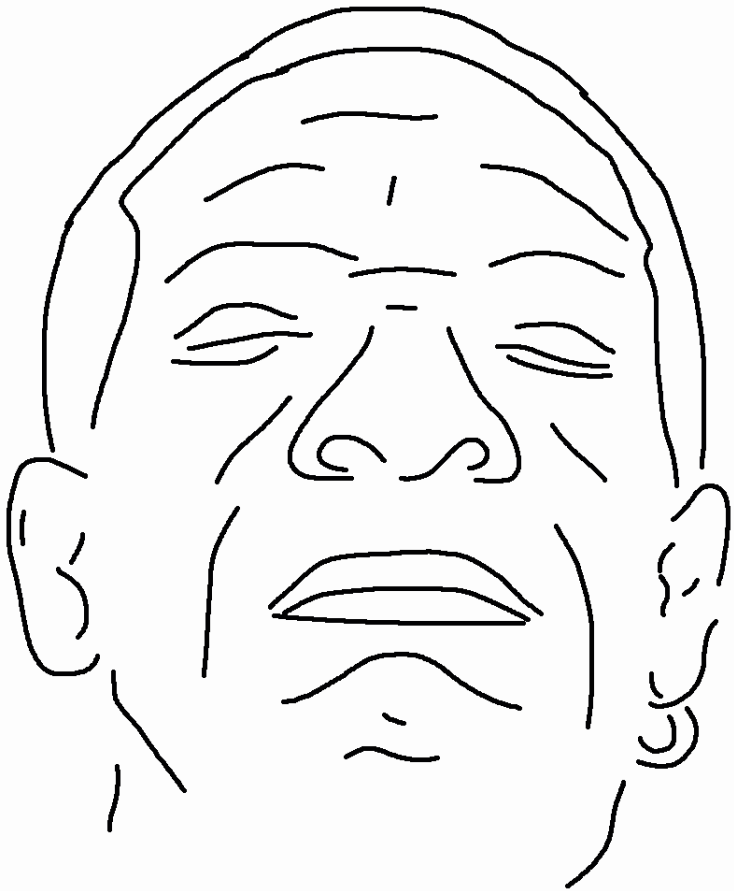


# THE PROJECT

« Tempo Tempo! » That's what the legendary Tony Allen, a true conductor behind his drums, told the young Fixi and Nicolas Giraud nearly 25 years ago, inviting them to follow him in his singular rhythm...

Fixi & Nicolas Giraud started with Tony.

Then they followed their path without ever leaving him. Fixi met with national success with Java, international recognition with Winston McAnuff while performing with M, Arthur H, Grace Jones or Keziah Jones. Nicolas Giraud has accompanied another legend, Claude Nougaro, and a wide variety of artists, from Angélique Kidjo to Roberto Alagna, including Keren Ann and Manu Dibango. Two parallel trajectories during 25 years with Tony Allen as a rallying point or as a port to tie up between two tours, between two musical adventures.



Much more than a spiritual father or a mentor, Tony Allen was a friend who transmitted values to them and showed them the way: to realize oneself («Just want to be me»), to go to the essential («Keep it simple») and «celebrate your life» («La vie est belle»)... The three of them were supposed to meet again to seal their friendship but Tony prematurely left to join the stars on April 30, 2020.

During the following months, the two companions hear every day «Tempo Tempo!»: the desire to renew contact with Tony is strong. Thus, around the recordings of his drums, Fixi and Nicolas meet, compose, and record their instruments (trumpet, accordion, piano, bass, percussion, voice, guitars). The dialogue is re-established. They invite their musical family Maïa Barouh, Djeuhdjoah, the Nigerians Ayo Nefretiti and Fatai Rolling Dollar, but also Tony Allen's grandson, Tunji, to participate and sing in their own way the genius of the great Tony Allen, master of tempo.

«Tempo tempo! «is a colorful and joyful celebration that brings to life the legacy of a true music legend.

# MEDIAS



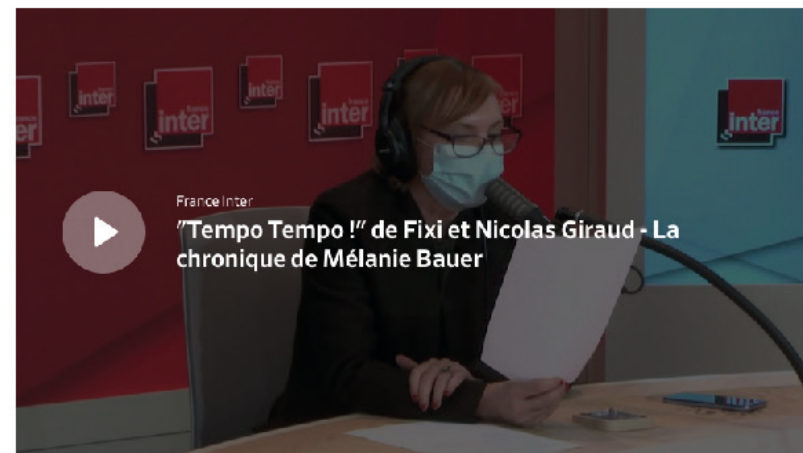
**Summer Playlist** : «La vie est belle» feat. Djeuhdjoah  
Chronicle from **Mélanie Bauer**  
**Le Mur du son** 17.06.21  
**Côté club** 29.09.21



arte **CONCERT**

**Les Concerts Volants** – 07.06.21 live from The  
Institut du Monde Arabe

«Tempo Tempo!» is the new project of Fixi, from the famous group Java, and the musician Nicolas Giraud, in tribute to Tony Allen, the legendary drummer of Afrobeat. In stores on June 25, 2021.



# L'OBS

**Live on social medias** La vie est belle, feat. Djeuhdjoah  
le 29.05.21



RFI : Tempo Tempo! in the **May Playlist**

**Musique du monde** : Broadcast  
in July

July 2021



# PRESS CLIPPINGS

**“A joyful seance!  
This tribute to Tony Allen turns his legacy into a philosophy.”**  
France Inter\*

**“A festively orchestrated celebration of Tony Allen’s immense legacy”**  
FIP\*\*

**“A record that celebrates the values of the virtuoso drummer. Songs that retain  
the composers’ touch while remaining true to Tony Allen.”**  
France Inter\*

**“Tony’s spirit is there”**  
Le Monde\*\*\* – Africa

\*first French public radio

\*\*French Jazz & World music public radio

\*\*\*leading French paid daily



## Maïa Barouh

Met in Tokyo about ten years ago in a club called Moon Romantique during a Java concert, Maïa, singer and flautist, is looking for the right note between Japan and France, between traditional Japanese songs and modernity.

Tony had a strong connection with this country and it was only natural to invite Maïa and her virtuoso flute to put her sound (Oto in Japanese) on our Tempo Tempo project!



## Tunji Allen

Tony's grandson. His grandfather dreamed of seeing him sing on his beats. Thanks to Sylvie Allen, we were able to realize this wish!

We are Love, we are One, ON THAT BEAT !



## Djeudjoah

Parisian figure and long time friend, Djeudjoah has worked and mixed his influences, afro, funk, song.

We often met on stage and in life to celebrate the Afrobeat of Tony and Fela\*, because like that «Life is beautiful»!

\*[NDLR] Fela Kuti

# FIXI & NICOLAS TELL... THE VOCALS



## Ayo Nefretiti

After making the demos for the album Secret Agent at Fixi's, Tony goes to Nigeria to find voices to record on our instrumental versions. Ayo, a great Yoruba priestess, puts her voice on several tracks.

Tony is impressed and decides to bring her for our European tour. Since then, we have never left each other...



## Fatai Rolling Dollar

We were all crazy about his voice and his style that he posed on Inse La from the album «Lagos no shaking». His motto to stay young at 84: no alcohol, sex and pineapple juice.

A great Yoruba voice and a great entertainer from Lagos, he was seen in London wearing a down jacket and tap dancing. It was the first time he saw snow at 80 years old.

He jumped on stage as soon as he arrived to sing «Ewa wa she la O» and we answered «Ewa wa she LA».

# FIXI & NICOLAS TELL...

## THE INSTRUMENTS



### **Ola Adams**

Ola loves music so much and playing percussion so much, that whenever he could, he would find an Air France connection (he was a steward at the time) to follow us on tour and Tony would invite him to join us and create the perfect rhythmic symbiosis with his drums.

A beautiful friendship has developed between us since that time.



### **Richard Olátúndé Baker**

English percussionist born of Nigerian parents, Richard is a specialist of JUJU music.

He arrives at a private concert in an English manor. Tony does not know him, he looks at him with suspicion and slips him a «Keep it simple» before he starts to play.

During this memorable evening, Grace Jones jumps furiously on our stage, Richard meets Tony's eyes: it's validated, Richard will do the 2007 world tour with Tony and us...



# BIOGRAPHIES

François-Xavier Bossard, aka Fixi, is a renowned composer, arranger, producer and musician. He started playing music at a very young age (drums at 5, piano at 9), then went on to perform in concert halls and consolidated his experience with a classical training at the Paris Conservatory (he graduated in musical writing, harmony and arrangements). He imposed himself on the musical scene by accompanying big names such as M, Arthur H, Grace Jones, Keziah Jones, Tony Allen, Damon Albarn, Salif Keita...

In 1997, he creates the group JAVA with his sidekick R.WAN. The accordion becomes more and more important in his creation. He revisits the Parisian roots by embellishing them with music collected in the four corners of the world. In 2006, he began his collaboration with the Jamaican artist Winston McAnuff. The album «Paris Rockin'» is composed with four hands.

In 2007 he composed the soundtrack of «Et toi, t'es sur qui?» by Lola Doillon, nominated at the Cannes Film Festival 2007, in the category «Un certain regard». The same year, he begins his collaboration with the documentary director Fanny Pernoud and signs music for Thalassa (TV program) and the channel Planète.

In 2009, he co-produced and arranged the album «Secret Agent» of his friend Tony Allen. In 2011, he composes the new credits of the program Thalassa. He also produces the album «Maloya Power» with his friends from Reunion, Lindigo. In 2013, he finished his new album with Winston

McAnuff, «A New Day» and his single «Garden of Love» released on Wagram. They then begin an international tour of 160 dates in Europe, Brazil, Haiti, Africa ... That same year, accompanied by Auguri and La Familia, Fixi launched his project L'Ultra Bal, a modern traveling ball open to all kinds of music with many guest artists including Flavia Coelho, Zaza Fournier, Pauline Croze, Kuku, Dom la Nena, Alexis HK, Chloé Lacan, Karimouche or Maya Kamati...

In 2014, he produces and arranges the new album of Lindigo «Milé cek Milé». He also composed the credits of the France Culture program «l'Atelier du pouvoir» by Vincent Martigny & Thomas Wieder, as well as the soundtrack of Olivier Loustau's film «La Fille Du Patron». In 2015-2016, Fixi multiplies the stays in Jamaica for the composition of his new album with Winston McAnuff.

In 2016, he creates the group PACHIBABA, with four members of Lindigo and drummer Cyril Atef, resulting in a series of concerts. He creates the music of the show «Mon coeur é fou» of the Compagnie Dorée. He diversifies his activities with composition for music therapy for the company Musicare, alongside Ernest Ranglin, Tony Allen and Vin Gordon.

In 2017, he leaves for Jamaica for a recording phase on the project «Inna de Yard». In France, this project leads to a concert at the Philharmonie de Paris followed by an international tour and a performance at the Olympia in 2019. Fixi also participates in the concerts «Le Chant des Colibris» to benefit the Colibris Movement of Pierre Rabhi, alongside

many French artists including Emily Loizeau, Gaël Faure, Izia, or Jeanne Cherhal.

2018 is devoted to the production of the album «Big Brothers» with Winston McAnuff, released on February 21, 2019, which is followed by a 90-date tour ending in February 2020.

In 2019, work with Nicolas Giraud and Tony Allen is launched.



Nicolas Giraud started playing the trumpet at the conservatory of Vitry sur Seine at the age of 9. Throughout his apprenticeship, he discovered and developed a passion for jazz and world music.

In 1995, he joins Tony Allen's band (mythical drummer of the afro beat) with whom he will perform all over the world (Japan, Australia, Brazil...) until 2020.



From 1999 to 2001, he went on tour and played on Claude Nougaro's records «Embarquement Immédiat» and «La note bleue». He remains very close to Claude Nougaro until his death. In 2002, he tours with Keren Ann and Johnny Hallyday (percussion).

In 2008, he joined the bands of Manu Dibango, Ivan Jullien, and performed with Roberto Alagna for the tour «le sicilien».

He is a soloist on the records of Claude Nougaro, Keren Ann, Charles Aznavour, Kôan, Maurane, Serge Lama, Roberto Alagna and Tony Allen. He also played with Cheick Tidiane Seck, Ray Lema...

His recording collaborations with Tony Allen :

*Black Voices*

*Secret Agent*

*Tony Allen live 2004*

*Film of life*

*The source*

*Tribute to Art Blackey*



On April 30, 2020, Tony Allen passed away at the age of 79. Although his fame had long been based on his many years of complicity with the illustrious Fela Anikulapo Kuti, the Nigerian drummer had always sought to distinguish himself by embracing the era of the times and by infusing his own repertoire with a savvy cadence.

Although he was one of the masters of Afrobeat, a form of expression inherited from Ghanaian high-life, Tony Allen claimed Jazz-Funk influences borrowed from the legends of the past. A fervent admirer of Gene Krupa, a formidable pillar of Benny Goodman's swing orchestras, he also acknowledged having conscientiously listened to and studied the playing of his American elders, Art Blakey and Max Roach. This Be Bop tone infused by the great elders had gradually enriched the African texture of Tony Allen.

Afrobeat was thus the fruit of several tempos and sound universes that Tony Allen made a point of shaping to his liking over the decades. His 2014 album *Film of Life* (Jazz Village) was a perfect illustration of this. Beyond the narrative intent of a lifetime devoted to kneading a relentless metronomic musicality, this record teemed with amazing rhythmic finds that set his playing in the musical mood of the 21st century.



His artistic friendship with the British multi-instrumentalist and producer Damon Albarn had also contributed to revitalize a cultural identity too long reserved for the African continent alone... Tony Allen

was able to escape this pitfall by opening his creative spirit to other colors, even if it meant momentarily moving away from the sap of the original Afrobeat.

Tony Allen knew that selflessness and consistency were the values necessary for a musician's longevity among his contemporaries. The World Circuit label had released in March 2020 an album to which he was deeply attached. Recorded in 2010 in London, the studio sessions brought together two longtime friends, South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela and Tony Allen himself. *Rejoice* was a majestic artistic conversation between two maestros. The addition of these rhythms and harmonies was the final echo of a thrilling destiny that Tony Allen loved to tell every time he was handed a microphone.

On November 15, 2014, it was the film of his life that he had agreed to look into the face. His youthful years listening to the jazz of yesteryear, his meeting with Fela Kuti, his eclectic collaborations and his desires as a mellow septuagenarian, animated a radio discussion preciously preserved in the archives of «The Epic».

### **Tour manager**

Laurent Carmé | La Familia

+33 9 81 75 95 36 – laurent@la-familia.fr

### **Tour Broadcaster**

Boris Jourdain | In Vivo Agency

+33 6 68 86 88 88 – boris@invivo.agency

### **Press Relations**

Marie Britsch

+33 6 09 95 36 02 – mariebritsch@gmail.com



**Pictures:** Frank Loriou & Radek Zawadzki

**Production:** La Familia

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Biographic source for Tony Allen: RFI

23 rue Boyer  
75020 Paris . France

**la-familia.fr**

La Familia SARL  
Code APE : 90.01Z  
RCS Paris 494 551 120  
TVA intra : FR 57 494 551 120  
**contact : Christelle Florence**  
**christelle@la-familia.fr**