

Francine Luce

Songs and Sounds

BIOGRAPHY

Francine has been on the international music scene since 1980. Born in France, she started her career as a singer songwriter in Martinique where she is originally from. In the last few years she has appeared at major jazz events worldwide: the **Big Chill Festival** (England 2007), **Jazz Britannia Festival** (London 2005), the **Return To Roots Festival** (South Africa 2005 and 2003), the **Varna International Jazz Festival** (Bulgaria 2003) and has regularly sung at one of the most famous London music venues the Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall eg: with **Jerry Dammers'** tribute to Sun Ra at the **Meltdown Festival** in June 2007, the **Francine Luce Band** in April 2000 supporting Archie Shepp and in Nov 1999; with **Lester Bowie** and **Louis Moholo** at the **Oris Jazz Festival** (London 1998) and with the **Louis Moholo Quintet** supporting Art Ensemble of Chicago in 1997.

Her unique vocal talent has brought her in contact with many of the world finest musicians including Louis MOHOLO, Alex MAGUIRE, Pule PHETO, Jason YARD, Evan PARKER, John EDWARDS, Steve BERESFORD, Maggie NICOLS, Pat THOMAS, Thèbe LIPERE, Mark BOUKOUYA, Alex and Jaky BERNARD, Joëlle LEANDRE, Alex KOKOSKY, Luther FRANÇOIS and many more.

No surprise, then, that Francine is in great demand from bandleaders and, in addition to leading her own band, has been involved with a number of different groups including: the LOUIS MOHOLO septet "VIVA LA BLACK" and 26 piece band the "DEDICATION ORCHESTRA", the "RETURN TO ROOTS ORCHESTRA", the "STEVE BERESFORD ENSEMBLE", the "EVAN PARKER EXTENDED PROJECT", the "BEN PARK ENSEMBLE", the LOZ SPEYER ensemble "RAREMIX".

Francine's collaboration with most of these artists led her to appearances at a large number of International Jazz and Improvised Music Festivals including, amongst others, the **CMAC Jazz Festival** (Martinique 1999), the **Bimhuis Festival** (Holland: Amsterdam 1996), the **Duisburg Jazz Festival** (Germany 1995), the **Canaille Women Festival** (Germany: Franckfurt 1995), the **Clusone Jazz Festival** (Italy 1995), the **Moers Jazz Festival** (Germany 1994), the **Contemporary Improvised Music Festival** (Holland: Den Haag 1993), the **Zurich International Jazz Festival** (Switzerland 1992), the **Linz Jazz Festival** (Austria 1992), the **Jazz Valley Festival 90** (France: Val d'Oise 1990), the **Sardegna Jazz Festival** (Sant' Anna Arresi 1988).

Always inspired and inspiring others with her spiritual beliefs; Francine currently sings for the **OKI DO YOGA** based in Colbordolo (Italy) and for the **Women's Federation for World Peace** based in London, helping to support love, peace and harmony throughout the world. She also sang for **OKI DO YOGA** in Japan and at the **Global Peace Festival** (London 2007).

Her work has encompassed dance and theatre companies notably **Fin Walker Dance**, **Pan project**, **Public dreamers**, composer **Ben Park** and poet **Joby Bernabé**.

In 1999 Luce released her acclaimed first CD **Bò kay la vi-a** (OGUN) featuring **Louis Moholo**, **Paul Rogers**, **Keith Tippett**, **Paul Rutherford**, **Claude Deppa** and **Evan Parker**.

Francine Luce welcomes the new season with her new band.



Pic: Peter Symes

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