



**Mind The Gap**  
**30 MARS 2014**

Water Music Studio (USA)



**Nos Sons Unis (2011)**  
Studio Lakanal (34)



**Big Four (2009)**  
Studio Mesa (77)

# Big Four

**Big Four** is a jazz quartet initiated in 2009 by Julien Soro.

The singular instrumentation of this quartet with two woodwinds and two percussions (saxophone/sousaphone and vibes/drums) reveals from the first listening a **unique band sound** and a **large set of timbres** rarely used in this kind of small music groups.

Julien Soro's compositions become, in time, a field of **collective exploration** where spontaneity and rhythm profusion are in the centre of debates. A music both **round and angular** in which evidence meets paradox. Big Four's musicians are seeking this space between consciousness and release that would permit them to give motion to the sound. Retouch this childish state where the « game » is omnipresent...

- **Concerts / Actualités** -

03 > 09-10-2014 • French Tour w/ Tony Malaby

*Le Périscope (69) • La Java / Son Libre (75) • Le Pannonica (44) • Le Caillou (33)*

13-11-2014 • Studio de l'Ermitage, Paris (75) + Yes is a pleasant country

27-06-2014 • Le Triton, Les Lilas (93)

**2014** : File7, Magny le Hongre (77) • Cité Universitaire / L'Age d'Or (75) • Mandala, Toulouse (31) • Celtic Pub, Tarbes (65) • IMFP / U-percut (13) • Südtirol Jazz Festival, Bolzano (Ita) • Festival «Pan!», Caen (14)

**2013** : Enregistrement avec Tony Malaby (USA) • Terrasses du Jeudi, Rouen (76) • L'Age d'Or / Studio de l'Ermitage / Sunset Jazz Club (75)

**2012** : Jazz Act' / Studio de l'Ermitage / Cité Universitaire / L'Age d'Or / Jazz sur le Vif, Radio France (75) • Le Châtelet (18) • Jazz à la Tour, La Tour d'Aigues (84)

**2011** : Jazz à Saoû (26) • Charlie Free, Vitrolles (13) • Le Cri du Port, Marseille (13) • Marly Jazz Festival (57) • Sury Es Bois(18) • 38 Riv' / Studio de l'Ermitage / La Centrale / Paris Jazz Festival, Parc Floral / Sunset / Olympic Café (75)

**2010** : Olympic Café / 38 Riv' / Selmer / Festival Jazz Week / Olympic Café / Studio de l'Ermitage (75) • Festival « Touzazimuts » (36) • L'Atelier 203, Orléans (45) • La Fabrica'sons, Malakoff (92)

Since the beginning, Big Four has recorded two albums very well received by the press (« **CHOC & \*\*\*\*** » Jazz magazine, « **Discover** » Jazz News) and has found a converted public during some intense concerts where the **creative force** of the quartet can be fully expressed.



In the spring of 2013, Big Four went up a gear by going to **New York** to record a **third album with Tony Malaby** as guest, real spearhead of current jazz and improvised music. This « initiatory journey » achieved to bring the musical intention of the quartet **a little further** : a talking sousaphone that laughs in its mouthpiece; a drum skimming through challenging metrical; vibes installing a soundscape and using most extreme dynamics; a saxophone exploring the limits of sound and improvised language...

**Big Four**, always ready to refresh your ears, has to be lived in the present !



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# PRESES

« Imagine three tamers playing with fire by teasing a horny beast : you can get an idea of what felt the Mandala Jazz Club audience during this 1st set. Joyful, collected and thoughtful, Doctor Soro ? Wild, furious, insane, Mister Big Four ! »  
**L. Florin, JazzMagazine – Mars 2014**

« Seeing Big Four in concert set the esthetic choices as evidences : roundness of tuba low range breath contrasts with dancing vibes high pitched notes, sharpness of the burning and carving saxophone sound together with implacable percussive tightness of toms and cymbals hits. Big Four members knew how to communicate with how much fun they play this music as a game : The message was well received by a disparate but delighted audience ! »  
**T. Giard, Culture Jazz – Septembre 2012**

« Rough and heavy on tenor sax, incisive and insistent on alto sax, Julien Soro's playing is about necessity to play that music instead of anyone else. »  
**D. Gastellu, CitizenJazz – Février 2012**

« This is fascinating, this is exciting, this is joyfull, this is sad, all at the same time and it sounds great according to the acoustical balance of those four personalities. (...) This band managed to increase its independance. »  
**F. Bergerot, JazzMagazine – Avril 2011**

« Big Four plays well with nutty layered structured, build its music like a four stars' Chef his mille-feuilles and produces a vertigo music giving us good cold sweats. »  
**M. Durand, JazzNews – Novembre 2011**

## JULIEN SORO . Saxophones & Composition

Ever since he was born, he has been bursting with jazz. He began to learn the piano at 5 and focused on the saxophone from the age of 11.

From 2004 to 2008, in the CNSM's Jazz class, Julien improved his skills as a musician and a composer. In the end, he obtained the first prize with distinction.

In June 2007, with the 6tet **Inama**, he was the second prizewinner of the national competition «Jazz à la Défense», the soloist prizewinner and group prizewinner at the musical springboard «Esprit Jazz» from the «Saint Germain des Prés» festival. He recorded with this band his first disc («La Boîte Noire» / Cristal Records / 2008).

He collaborates with the percussionist **François Kokelaere** and the kora player Kora Prince Diabaté. **François Jeanneau**, Jean Louis Chautemps and **Glenn Ferris** didn't make a mistake when appealing to his reeds...

At the moment, he runs many groups as a sideman : Fred Maurin's orchestra **Ping Machine** with which has recorded two discs («Random Issues» / Neuklang / 2009 & «Des Trucs Pareils» / Neuklang / 2011, Choc JazzMag), guitarist Pascal Charrier's **Kami Quintet** («Human Spirals» / Ajmi Series / 2011) and **Light Blazer**, Jonas Muel's Jazz Rock - Hip Hop Combo.

He's also playing in a duet with the bass player **Raphaël Schwab** (Neuklang / 2014) and planning a trio with the guitarist **Pierre Durand** and his fellow bandmate Rafaël Koerner.



## STEPHAN CARACCI . Vibraphone

It is now ten years that Stephan has been playing his vibraphone. First in Marseille, where he made his debut with Cyril Benhamou (In & Out) and **Raphaël Imbert** (Newtopia, NY Project) with whom he still collaborates regularly. Then in Paris, where he participated in the creation of such original bands as Big Four, **Rétroviseur** ou **Slugged**. With them he won several awards, including the national competition «Jazz à la Défense» which allowed him to play in the major clubs and festivals in France, Belgium and Germany.

When he can, he likes to serve other repertoires like playing with **Hervé Sellin**'s tentet or composer Michel Musseau when creating «Welcome to Paradise». More recently, he participated in **Patrice Caratini**'s «André Hodeir» project, commissioned by Radio France.

In 2013, we heard him beside **Sophie Alour** and in pianist Mico Nissim's releases. He's now a permanent member of **Ping Machine**.



## FABIEN DEBELLEFONTAINE . Sousaphone

Fabien discovered saxophone at 8 years old and learned «classical» music at the neighbourhood music school, and plays in since 1996 in every kind of marching band, where he juggles between **Saxophones** and **Sousaphone**.

In 2001, he studied jazz at Conservatoire du 9ème arr. de Paris where he learned with **André Villéger** (reeds), **Emyl Spanii** (composition, harmony, workshops), Nicolas Folmer and Tony Russo (big band).

Between 2004 and 2008, he set up and led the big band **L'Oreille Cassée** and co-led **Inama** with Julien Soro and Amina Mezaache, both of which bands he writes music for. He discovered Sousaphone in 2005 by himself, and learned with Fred Marillier, and «on location» in New Orleans (2012).

In 2014 he creates the **1000 Bornes Trio**, writes music for it and plays saxophones & flute and the **112 BrassBand**, horny Hip Hop band with Jonas Muel. He plays with **Ping Machine**, **Les Oignons** and the **BeBop Stompers** (Dixieland) and **Maracuja!** (Brazilian music).

## RAFAËL KOERNER . Drums

Rafaël began learning drums when he was 7. At the age of 16, he devoted himself entirely to music. At various workshops, he had the chance to work with major musicians that influenced the evolution of his playing such as **Jim Black**, Steve Coleman, **Tom Rainey**, Fat Kid Wednesdays, **Ralph Alessi**, Tyshawn Sorey, Marc Ducret and Dave Liebman.

In 2000, when he was 18, he began performing on stage with many bands ranging from reggae, pop and rock to traditional and contemporary jazz.

In 2003, he recorded his first album with Chilean singer **Mariana Montalvo**. He is currently the drummer for many projects, notably **Ping Machine** (contemporary jazz large ensemble), **Kami Quintet** (jazz/rock), Matthieu Rosso's **Eiffel Quantum**. We heard him recently in Stéphane Payen/Daniel Erdmann « **Inselmusik** » (contemporary jazz), **Taranta Babu** (jazz/pop/folk) and **Cartel Carnage** (métal/jazz). Many of these projects received major awards by french critics. Since 2012, he has played with a trio in a live music cinema performance of the French silent film « **Le Manoir de la Peur** », 1927.

He currently teaches drums at the Conservatory of Ivry-sur-Seine.

