



sound creation in open spaces





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Internationally recognized as one of the most innovative French companies, Décor Sonore offers audiences distinctive performances that blend theater, pyrotechnics, poetry, technology, humor, and, of course, musical creation. Beside its performance activities, the company is also involved in creating sound installations for heritage sites or for special commissions.

The company uses the city as its medium and dramatic material. Its creations are inspired by the sounds, resonances, and harmonies of the natural or industrial elements that make up our urban daily life, offering a fresh way of listening to the world.



Sound creation in open space

Directed by the composer Michel Risse, the company Décor Sonore is a unique composition and production tool dedicated to sound creation in open spaces.



From intimate creations to gathering thousands of spectators, this "theater of sound", full of poetry and emotion, transforms everyday objects and urban spaces into musical instruments, and ordinary passers-by into discerning music lovers.

The company is also a unique "sound factory" focused on creation and research, as well as the transmission and awareness of sound ecology.

Chiche ! New performance

Chiche! is our new creation, aligned with the ecological challenges of our time: reusing waste, energy conservation, and the need for degrowth... concepts that are applied literally, as we have chosen to do without computers, electronics, or even electricity, offering a joyful remedy to eco-anxiety.



Chiche! is also designed to address the budgetary concerns of programmers in a constrained economic context. Created to highlight public spaces, its lightweight format allows it to adapt to all types of venues and to travel easily, even internationally.

Its innovative qualities do not rely on polluting, costly, or energy-intensive technologies; they are thus conducive to being embraced by all audiences.



**video extract : artistic approach
in situ sound research**

Partners;

Le Moulin Fondu, Oposito
La Maison de la Musique Contemporaine
Le Centre National de la Musique
Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde
La Lisière
De Rue De Cirque
Réseau Risotto

Confirmed performances:

Festival Mai Premières, La Transverse, Corbigny, mai 2025
Festival Les Zaccros, Nevers, mai 2025
Festival Et 20 l'été, Paris, juin 2025
Ouverture de la saison culturelle de la ville de Montreuil, septembre 2025

On tour

The company maintains a diverse repertoire: walkabout or fixed performances, outdoors or indoors, monumental or intimate, aimed at all audiences. Our contextual writings are renewed with each performance through interaction with sites, topographies, environments, and audiences. They address both urban policy challenges in so-called priority neighborhoods and efforts to enhance historical monuments.



Le Son qui vient du Ciel • created in 2020 **The Sound that comes from the Sky**

An ephemeral installation at the scale of the city, lasting one week, with no audience limit. Broadcast through (very) loudspeakers at great heights, this sound creation, made up of on-site collected elements, generates a hum throughout the city.

Last performances:

La ZAT, Montpellier, 2022

Tournée « Territoires du 92 » sur 4 villes, 2021



Les Kaléidophones • created in 2016 **The Kaleidophones**

Sound experiences of the landscape, through a collection of spectacular listening sculptures taking place in public spaces.

Last performances:

Journées Européennes du Patrimoine, Chaumont (52), 2024

Festival O berges d'été, Massy (91), 2023

Festival Renard Neuf 3, Bondy (93), 2021



Borderliners • created in 2014

Sound exploration walks inviting participants to explore the boundaries between industrial districts and residential areas, between remnants of the past and the construction sites of the future, and above all, between noise, sound, and music.



Urbaphonix • created in 2012

A walkabout performance with a mobile concrete music quintet, the musicians of Urbaphonix strictly follow John Cage's principle: "If a sound disturbs you, listen to it!"

Last performances:

Festival SPOT (Lituanie), 2021

Worldwide tour in 2016 and 2017



Les Chantiers de L'O.R.E.I. • created in 2009 **The sites of O.R.E.I**

Poetic-scientific tours of archaeological sound excavation sites.

Last performances:

Le Plus Petit Cirque du Monde, Bagneux, 2024

Musée Archéa, Journées Européennes du Patrimoine de Roissy-Pays de France, 2023



Les Collections du Don du Son • created in 2007 **The Collections of the Gift of Sound**

Visits to the collections of the Sound Bank: personal, domestic, or professional objects, family souvenirs, abandoned, intrusive, or endangered sounds...

Last performances:

Semaine Culturelle du Collège Raymond Poincaré, La Courneuve (93), 2024

Festival Si(non)Où!, Bièvres (91), 2021



Instrument / Monument • created in 2004

A creation program aimed at transforming a site, monument, or architectural structure into an urban musical instrument (commissioned by the State).

Last performances:

Gymnase Japy, Festival Formes Olympiques, Paris, 2023

Le 9-9bis, Festival Les Rutilants, Oignies, 2019



Le Cinématophone • revival in 2018 **The Cinematophone**

Walkabout Performance. Eight speaker-automaton characters create surprising soundscapes. A diva appears to make them perform episodes from the film of her life.

Last performances:

Festival Renard Neuf 3, Bondy (93), 2021

Special commissions and bespoke installations

In addition to its repertoire, the company responds to special commissions and creates bespoke works in collaboration with institutions and businesses, sometimes with the participation of amateur audiences.

Décor Sonore is thus involved in producing works at the intersection of permanent installations, staged visits, and immersive experiences, ranging from the initial concept to the technical installation. Its creations are particularly well-suited for enhancing heritage sites, whether historical, contemporary, or undergoing transformation.



Les Chambres aux Acousmates
The Acousmatic Sound's Rooms
permanent, immersive sound installation, 2024

A permanent sound installation for 10 years, immersive and invisible, allowing the place and its memory to be heard.

Commissioned by the Department of Cher as part of the new sound tour at the Noirlac Abbey, Centre Culturel de Rencontre.



Gymnophonies • bespoke show, 2023
from *Instrument* / *Monument*

As part of the Cultural Olympiad, Art'R and Décor Sonore have partnered to create a bespoke musical and immersive performance at the Japy gymnasium: *Gymnophonies*, with the participation of amateur athletes as well as athletes with disabilities.

Partners: Art'R, Ministère de la Culture - été culturel 2023, City of Paris

Éclair : Le Son révélateur • sound journey, 2022
Éclair : The Revelatory Sound

Sound exploration tour of the former "Éclair" film development factories in Épinay-sur-Seine, abandoned since 2013.

Commissioned by the Périféeries association (Saint-Denis' candidacy for the European Capital of Culture 2028), in collaboration with the Transmission collective. Winner of the Découverte Award from the Scam (2023) and the Public Prize at Phonurgia Nova (2022).

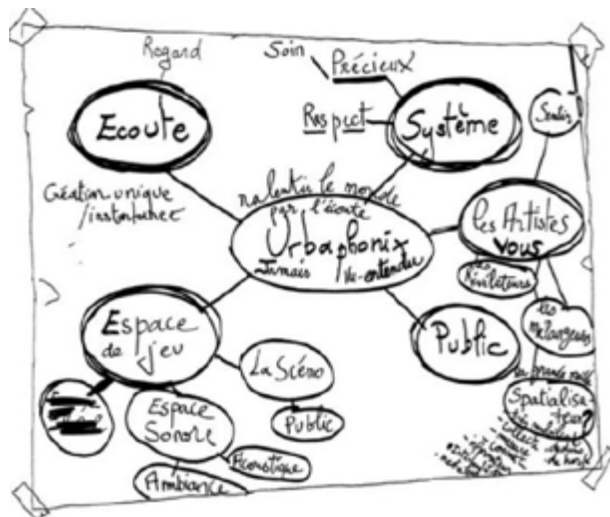
Project continuation: documentary series, excerpts broadcast at IRCAM, radio broadcasts, and public listening sessions at the Longueurs d'Onde festival in Brest, the Venice Biennale, and the Nuits Photos in Paris.





"The Sound Fabric": research and training project

La Fabrique Sonore is primarily a response, in terms of expertise and material resources, to a real gap observed in the field of musical and sound creation, particularly for street arts. It has a dual purpose: to contribute to the evolution of sound language in the diversity of contemporary creations and to draw "serious" musical creation towards new forms and different audiences.



Listening to the world differently and becoming aware of the issues surrounding a new "sound ecology" are ideas we address directly to the public. Thus, the sharing of knowledge and skills from La Fabrique is aimed not only at artists but also at enthusiasts, students, and future cultural professionals, through educational and awareness-raising activities in universities, schools, and artistic training centers.

A laboratory of ideas as much as a technical hub, it is also a reference point, with a sound and bibliographic documentation center focused on sound and musical practices.

Cultural and Artistic Education

Décor Sonore runs E.A.C. (Cultural and Artistic Education) programs, particularly for schoolchildren in Albertville and as part of the Educational Cities initiative, but also for users of Social Centers of all ages.

In the city of Aubervilliers, no fewer than 450 students benefited from the program, covering 33 classes across 8 schools in the area, from elementary school to middle school, in collaboration with the teachers.



Professional training

The training programs offered by Décor Sonore are designed to be cross-disciplinary, blending artistic and technical reflection, theory and experimentation, and raising awareness about sound ecology.

Décor Sonore is ensuring the sustainability of its collaboration with FAI-AR (Advanced and Itinerant Training in Street Arts) for the coming years, as part of the training program "Sound in Public Space", which began in 2024 and has been renewed for the fall of 2025.

Additionally, La Fabrique Sonore initiated its first training program, "Creating and Playing with the Soundscape", in its premises in the fall of 2024.

Les compagnonnages et accueils en résidence

Support for companies is provided in several ways: from consultation to the creation of the sound universe for a performance, including the study of technical cases, the provision and testing of dedicated sound devices. La Fabrique Sonore is a space where companies can express their artistic and technical questions, discover technologies, learn, and experiment, in an environment of mutual support and free access.

Since 2001, more than one hundred and thirty companies from across France, and sometimes from abroad, have benefited from this support.

Workshops within universities and conservatories

The company regularly conducts workshops with university students or those from CRR93.

Examples for the year 2025:

- Supervised research workshop (ARE) with students in the double degree program in Science and Musicology at Sorbonne University
- "Sound in Public Space" workshop for the Master's program in Public Cultural Projects at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
- Research workshops on sound devices in public spaces, with students from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris La Villette



Michel Risse, Artistic Director of Décor Sonore

Musician, composer, and author, Michel Risse began experimenting with his first "soundscapes" on magnetic tape in 1973 for exhibitions in galleries and public spaces (Palais de Chaillot, Fnac, Museum of Modern Art...).

From 1974 to 1984, he performed in theater and with numerous musicians, accompanied singers, produced, arranged, and composed (with about thirty discographic references).

He met Pierre Sauvageot, and in 1985, together they founded Décor Sonore from his personal studio. The duo's project from the start was to collaborate with writers, playwrights, and directors, and to produce spectacular musical forms in open spaces.

In 2000, Michel Risse continued the artistic direction alone and, starting in 2001, wrote and directed a landmark production: *Les Monstrations Inouïes!* In 2004, he received a major commission from the State for *Instrument/Monument*, a work-device designed to generate endless contextual creations on different types of sites. To date, 24 original creations have been performed approximately 40 times in 7 countries, reaching around 60,000 spectators.

Several sustainable and contextual forms followed, all still part of the company's repertoire: *Le Don du Son* (2006) and its *Collections du Don du Son* (2007), *Les chantiers archéophoniques de l'OREI* (2008), *Les Jardins Sharawadji* (2011), *Urbaphonix* (2012), *Borderliners* (2013), *Les Kaléidophones* (2016), *Le Son qui vient du Ciel* (2020)...



History of the compagny

Décor Sonore was born from the project of two composers, Michel Risse and Pierre Sauvageot, both shaped by their experience in theater and eager to create new musical forms outside of academicism and cultural industries. They found the most promising field of action and unexplored possibilities for invention in public spaces, rather than in traditional venues. They developed innovative approaches, writing styles, and technical devices to produce large, spectacular, contextual, and multidisciplinary works.

After 15 years of this fruitful collaboration, Pierre Sauvageot moved to Marseille in 2000 to take the direction of Lieux Publics. Under the leadership of Michel Risse, what was originally a duo became a team that expanded its projects designed for touring, offering a wide variety of formats while maintaining the same passion for contextual creation in public spaces.

Eager to share the company's experience and technical resources, Michel Risse developed La Fabrique Sonore, a center for research, project support, and raising awareness about sound ecology.

Since 2011, Décor Sonore has been a permanent resident of Villa Mais d'Ici, a local cultural hub located in Aubervilliers.



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