

HARMATTAN

When breath becomes landscape

PRODUCTION DOSSIER

Electro-organic solo performance for three saxophones

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Writing, saxophones, composition

Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France · harmattan.live · contact@harmattan.live

1 — Statement of intent

Three saxophones in conversation. One calls, another answers, and at times the three merge into a single harmony. HARMATTAN is a 45-minute solo performance conceived as polyphonic writing for baritone, tenor and soprano saxophones: calls, responses and harmonisations. On stage, one voice is played live; the others, written and recorded by the artist, return through the tape, carried by an organic-house texture. Nothing is a mere backing: everything is composition. Each saxophone embodies an element — baritone as Earth, tenor as Breath, soprano as Light. The title comes from the warm Saharan wind: the piece tells of a landscape born from breath. The aesthetic is mineral (black, sand, copper), far from both folklore and new age.

2 — The writing: three voices, one performer

HARMATTAN is not a saxophonist playing over a backing track. It is three-part writing, shared between the live instrument and the tape.

Two writing gestures shape every piece. Dialogue: one phrase calls another, in the opposite register, into the silences deliberately left open. Harmonisation: the voices layer around a banned note that gives the piece its colour. The proof lies in the chorus of Appel, where the artist plays both voices: the baritone's answer fills exactly the gaps left by the first. The tape does not accompany him — it answers him. Three further signatures complete this language: building on an absence (each piece banishes one note, which creates its identity); climax by subtraction (the peak is reached by removing material, not adding it); and the true gesture (on stage, during tape passages, the hands do something real — changing saxophone, striking a pad — never miming).

3 — The form

Element	Value
Format	Solo, 45 min, 9 pieces of about 5 min, played without a break
Writing	Polyphony for 3 saxophones: calls / responses and harmonisations
Set-up	Baritone, tenor, soprano — one voice live, the others carried by the tape, over an organic-house texture
The 9 pieces	Appel, Marche, Mirage (composed); Souffle, Reprise, Transe, Ascension, Extase (climax), Rituel (to come)
Sound world	Organic / afro house: Stavroz, Fakear, NTO, Bonobo, Hugel, MoBlack
Staging	A control-desk totem, two illuminated percussion pads, programmed lighting (DMX)

4 — Technical set-up

The tape, played from a Sony NW-ZX300 (one stereo file per piece), carries the saxophone voices composed and recorded by the artist together with the electronic texture. The live saxophones sit 3 to 6 dB in front of it, the tape leaving room through a slight dip in the mid-range. Composition and mixing in Ableton Live, bus-based mixing, target -11 LUFS (organic-house standard).

Saxophone	Microphone	Link
Soprano — Light	DPA 4099S	Shure GLXD14R+ wireless (bodypack fixed to the horn)
Tenor — Breath	intraMic Viga	Shure BLX4 wireless, separate band (fixed to the horn)
Baritone — Earth	intraMic Viga	Wired (played on a stand, immobile)

5 — Staging & identity

Centrepiece: a rolling control-desk totem that hides the technology and becomes a sculpture. Burnt-wood finish (Shou Sugi Ban) or concrete surface, marked with a copper stencilled logo; engraved copper cups hold the sticks. The totem stands at an angle, the artist in front, the whole body visible. Palette: mineral black, sand, copper — raw materials, never garish. Graphic signature: the HARMATTAN wordmark with open joins, topped by a wave. Pitfall to avoid: any folkloric or new-age sign; the work stays abstract, mineral, contemporary.

6 — Distribution & communication

A teaser shot on the Landes coast translates the mineral world and the breath into images; it feeds the harmattan.live site, social media (vertical format), the distribution dossier and direct outreach to programmers. A live capture is planned from the first dates. Targets: contemporary-music and electronic festivals, contemporary-music venues, hybrid spaces, electro / organic-house support slots, club nights with live programming. The self-contained solo format eases programming: light technical rider, quick set-up, no additional musician fees.

7 — Provisional budget (equipment & production)

Item	Estimate
Totem / finish (plywood, burning or surface, magnets, cups, logo, paint)	110 – 135 EUR
Percussion pads (2 x 12-inch pads + 2 cymbal stands)	120 – 160 EUR
Baritone stand (stable, tiltable tripod)	80 – 120 EUR
DMX lighting (standalone controller and fixtures as required)	150 – 400 EUR
Cabling (jack, adapter, long baritone cable, straps)	40 – 70 EUR
Teaser (shot with existing gear, optional editing)	0 – 300 EUR
Finishing sundries (leather cord, varnish, consumables)	30 – 60 EUR
Indicative TOTAL	530 – 1245 EUR

8 — Roadmap

Phase	Content	Status
Composition	3 of 9 pieces (Appel locked, Marche, Mirage)	In progress
Teaser	Coastal shoot, editing, release	Imminent
Audio production	Ableton sound design, recording the 3 saxophones	To launch
Staging	Totem finish, logo, pads, baritone stand	In progress
Lighting	DMX programming timed to the pieces	Autumn
Composition (cont.)	6 remaining pieces, same method	To follow
Run-in / first dates	Full run, live capture, outreach	To schedule

HARMATTAN — When breath becomes landscape. A contemporary, mineral, precise performance in which breath truly becomes landscape. harmattan.live — contact@harmattan.live