

# The Great Harry Hillman

## Dossier sur le groupe

### Texte de presse

Onze ans après la formation de The Great Harry Hillman, les quatre membres fondateurs de l'ensemble sont encore désireux d'expérimenter leur son collectif. Après de nombreuses tournées en Europe, au Japon, en Russie et en Inde, ils ont enregistré leur quatrième album lors de trois concerts donnés dans un club berlinois à l'été 2019. Au lieu d'une production précise en studio, ils ont cette fois-ci capturé l'énergie et les moments surprenants d'un concert live. Le son du groupe vit toujours de nappes et textures sonores planantes, mais il est devenu beaucoup plus énergique dans son mélange de jazz, de rock et d'improvisation. Le groupe balance entre retenue et explosions flamboyante et intègre en permanence de nouvelles influences. En 2015, ils ont remporté le ZKB-Jazzpreis au Moods. Leur créativité se retrouve également dans leurs pochettes d'albums, leurs photos et leurs vidéos au travers desquelles ils font souvent un clin d'œil au coureur de haies américain et multiple champion olympique dont le groupe porte le nom : Harry Hillman.

### Groupe

**Nils Fischer** - clarinette basse

**David Koch** - guitare

**Samuel Huwyler** - basse

**Dominik Mahnig** - batterie

### Links

**Website** [thegreatharryhillman.com](http://thegreatharryhillman.com)

**Youtube** [youtube.com/thegreatharryhillman](https://youtube.com/thegreatharryhillman)

**Spotify** [sptfy.com/4Ns0](https://sptfy.com/4Ns0)

**Apple Music** [itunes.apple.com/ch/artist/the-great-harry-hillman/id730108273](https://itunes.apple.com/ch/artist/the-great-harry-hillman/id730108273)

**Instagram** [instagram.com/thegreatharryhillman](https://instagram.com/thegreatharryhillman)

**Facebook** [facebook.com/thegreatharryhillman](https://facebook.com/thegreatharryhillman)

**Twitter** [twitter.com/tgharryhillman](https://twitter.com/tgharryhillman)

## Texte publicitaire

When a record is referred to as cinematic what this usually means is that the music has something sweeping, epic and larger than life about it. Live At Donau115\*, the fourth full-length release from Swiss post-jazz quartet The Great Harry Hillman, is also very filmic, but not in that big silver screen sort of a way. Instead, what it evokes is the institution of the arthouse cinema, the mercurial space where underground, experimental films are incubated. Where the language of film is abstracted, deconstructed and appreciated for what it is, without it having to adhere to calcified, functional blueprints designed and streamlined to serve the needs of standard narrative structures.

*After 11 years of playing live shows all over the place, we developed a very unique way of how we interact with each other in a live setting. We stopped playing with a setlist and starting improvising the order of our tunes and the transitions between them. - TGHH*

Listening to these seven songs is very much like watching a compilation of Stan Brakhage experiments. Colourful, amorphous things appear, flicker and pulse. The textures, the scratches, the paint on the celluloid and the amplified film grain become the very point of the work, a collection of visual poems - beautiful and open to interpretation like a Rorschach test. What's amazing is that the band painted these moving pictures in real time. A progression of ephemeral scenes resulted from free improvisation around themes lifted from previously written compositions, alloyed with the energy which was latent at the venue during the performance. You can almost hear them mining for this energy and transforming it through intense dialogue into a hypnotic reverie - tactile and textured sonics, teetering between the lyrical and caustic noise.

*We come together to rehearse two to three times in a year. Usually, everyone brings some new material with them. We improvise around these ideas until we all know what each new tune is about. When that's the case then we can set the song free on stage and it can change its state every night, but without losing its core identity. - TGHH*

There are also moments on this record - though they are few and fleeting - where there is a clear shift away from mere abstraction towards the formally familiar. Something reminiscent of retro jazz (whether fusion or traditional) might cut through a composition like a flash frame or what feels like a perpetual zoom might slowly cross fade into a montage sequence based around a strong Americana twanged theme. But like in a David Lynch film these moments are the definition of uncanny. Rife with atmosphere and utterly surreal, as if what is off-frame has equal importance to what was readily apparent and was interfering with the main signal, distorting it just a pinch. It's safe to say that The Great Harry Hillman make music which is layered literally and figuratively, very much like a short film based on multiple exposures.

*The Band is the concept. The way we are and the way we feel. Every show is like a mixture of the four of us. We often hear that our music sounds cinematic, but we don't shoot for that. - TGHH*

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\*Live At Donau115 is a document of a band achieving that telepathic level as an improvisatory unit. Their chemistry is impeccable, marked by a sensitivity to each other's playing and the ability to channel the emotional truth of the moment. The material found here was recorded live at club Donau115 in Berlin. The band played three consecutive concerts in three days, out of which the last two were selected for this release.

## Biographie du groupe

- 2020** Tour CH/DE/BE avec 14 concerts pour la sortie d'album "Live at Donau115"
- 2019** Russie Tour, Live Recording Session à Donau115 Berlin, Inde Tour
- 2018** Ressort tour CH/DE/BE avec 14 concerts, Bejazz Winterfestival, Schaffhauser Jazzfestival, Residence Südpol Luzern, JazzOnze+ Lausanne, Jazz & The City Salzburg AT, Jazztournée 10-ans dans l'automne UK/CH/DE/AT/FR,
- 2017** Japon Tour, Gig à Moods Zurich (Suisse) avec en direct clip-production, production d'un clip 360 °, Collaboration "The True Harry Nulz" avec la bande "Edi Nulz" - gagnant du "BeJazz Transnational", Concert Tour en Italie et en Allemagne, sortie de 3ème album studio "Tilt" (2017 - Cuneiform Records), Uncool Residence Poschiavo
- 2016** Festival Show "Kultursommer Germersheim" (DE), Label Swiss Festival (CH), tournée (BE/NL/DE/CH/LI), Studio 3ème Album (Label: Cuneiform Records)
- 2015** Festival de jazz Suisse Diagonales en janvier/février, enregistrements en studio pour le deuxième album en février, gagnant du ZKB Jazzpreis 2015, tournée de 3 semaines en octobre (Allemagne, Belgique, R.U, Suisse) pour la sortie du CD
- 2014** Tournée de printemps CH/DE avec 5 concerts, enregistrement vidéo « Rabbit People » à l'automne.
- 2013** Participation au festival des journées musicales de Stans, concert de master - LU, concert de sortie d'un CD à Zurich en automne, tournée d'automne DE/BE avec 13 concerts
- 2012** Petite tournée de printemps avec des concerts en AT/DE/CH (coopération avec le sextuor Piotr Pawlak- Graz/AT), concert de bachelor - Cologne, participation au festival Kultursommer de Germersheim, tournée d'automne DE/CH avec 19 concerts, puis session studio pour un album (« Livingston »)
- 2011** Concert de bachelor - LU, tournée d'automne DE/CH avec 10 concerts, nouvelles maquettes
- 2010** Premiers concerts à l'étranger
- 2009** Premiers concerts en Suisse
- 2008** Fondation du groupe à Lucerne

## Concerts précédents (Sélection)

- Suisse** Jazz Festival Willisau, Schaffhauser Jazzfestival, JazzOnze+ Lausanne, BeJazz Winterfestival Bern, Jazznojazz Festival Zurich, Stanser Musiktage Stans, Label Suisse Festival Lausanne, Theater Tuchlaube Aarau, BeJazz Bern, Moods Zurich, Café du Soleil, Saignelégier, Casa Cavalier Olivone, Jazz in Olten, EXIL Zurich, Literaturcafé Biel, Kleintheater Luzern, Bird's Eye Basel, Casa Hasler Poschiavo, Isebähnli Baden
- Allemagne** A-Trane Berlin, Loft Köln, Donau115 Berlin, Jazzclub Hirsch Moosburg, Kulturzentrum Lagerhaus Bremen, Café Wagner Jena, Galerie KUB Leipzig, Salon Hansen Lüneburg, Kulturhaus III & 70 Hamburg, b-flat Berlin, Dumont Aachen, Stecken Köln, C-Keller Weimar, Kiste Stuttgart, Schon Schön Mainz, Saxstall Pohrsdorf, Stadtkirche Darmstadt, Humboldthain Club Berlin
- Belgique** Hot Club Gent, Café Roskam Brussels, De Kleine Kunst Gent, Lokerse Jazzklub Lokeren
- UK** Marsden Jazzfestival, Vortex London, Canteen Bristol
- Italie** JAM-Festival Venedig, Macao Mailand, Café des Arts Turin
- Autriche** Jazz & the City Salzburg, Sargfabrik Wien, GMS Graz, KUG Graz
- France** Le Périscope Lyon
- Pays-Bas** Intro in Situ Maastricht
- Japon** Apollo Tokyo, Gig Yokohama, Star Eyes Nagoya, Mokkiriya Kanazawa, UrBANGUILD Kyoto, Left Alone Ashiya, Bird Hiroshima, Candy Chiba, Club Meguro Tokyo, Airegin Yokohama
- Russie** Kozlov Club Moscow, Nikitin Nizhny Novgorod, Tipographia culture center Tula, JFC jazz club St. Petersburg, Dreadnought Kaliningrad, Sound Museum St.Petersburg, City Jazz Center Yaroslavl, Jewish Culture Center Moscow, Petrovsky book club Voronezh
- Inde** Bay 146 Chennai, International Jazz Festival Hyderabad, Levi's Lounge Mumbai, The Piano Man Jazz New Delhi and Gurgaon, Shisha Jazz Festival Pune, Jazz Fest Kolkata, Jazz India Circuit Goa

## Photos publicitaire

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