

Etenesh Wassié

Presentation pack



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Etenesh Wassié
Mathieu Sourisseau
Sébastien Bacquias
Fabien Duscombs



FREDDY MOREZON
Creative musics collective
since 2002 · Toulouse, France

Etenesh Wassié

A meeting of Ethiopian tradition, jazz, rock and improvisation

The artistic relationship between **Ethiopian singer Etenesh Wassié** and **the musicians of the Toulouse-based collective Freddy Morezon** has been flourishing for more than a decade. Following the cult album *Zèraf !* with **Le Tigre des Platanes**, bassist **Mathieu Sourisseau** developed a long-term collaboration with Wassié through the acclaimed albums *Belo Belo* and *Yene Alem*.

Their new project, *Arada*, marks both **the culmination of years of collaboration** on stage and **the beginning of a new creative chapter**.

Rooted in the rich heritage of Ethiopian Azmari songs, *Arada* expands far beyond traditional forms. The quartet creates **a powerful and contemporary musical language** where Ethiopian modes meet free jazz, blues, alternative rock and improvised music.

On stage, **Etenesh Wassié's singular voice** – raw, profound and intensely expressive – is carried by the warm resonance of double bass, the textured sound of bowed strings and the rhythmic drive of drums. The result is a music of **striking intensity, balancing tradition and invention, intimacy and energy**.

Far from exotic clichés, the quartet proposes **a genuine encounter between musical cultures**. Their repertoire transforms Ethiopian ballads and cabaret songs through influences as diverse as **Charles Mingus, Tom Waits** and **Sonic Youth**, while preserving **the emotional depth and storytelling power at the heart of Azmari music**.



Line-up

Etenesh Wassié – vocals
Mathieu Sourisseau – double bass, acoustic bass
Mathieu Werchowski – violin
Fabien Duscombs – drums

Etenesh Wassié · Biography



© Erik Damiano

Etenesh Wassié is one of the most distinctive voices in Ethiopian music today. Deeply rooted in **the Azmari tradition**, she first gained recognition as one of the leading singers of **Addis Ababa's legendary cabaret scene**, notably in the iconic Datsun Sefer district. Equally at ease in **traditional and contemporary contexts**, she has become a sought-after collaborator among Ethiopian and international musicians alike.

Her introduction to European audiences began in the early 2000s through the Ethiopian Cabarets curated by Francis Falceto, founder of the acclaimed **Éthiopiques** series. In 2007, she embarked on a landmark collaboration with the French ensemble **Le Tigre des Platanes**, leading to the album **Zèraf !** (2008), extensive European touring and a celebrated tour of Ethiopia documented in the film **Yezemed Yebaed**.

Since 2009, her long-standing artistic partnership with **French bassist Mathieu Sourisseau** has produced the acclaimed albums **Belo Belo** (2010) and **Yene Alem** (2018), as well as numerous international tours and collaborations. In 2026, they released **Arada** on **the Mr Morezon label**, a powerful new album widely praised by critics for its intensity, originality and its bold dialogue between Ethiopian traditions, jazz, blues, rock and improvised music.

Today, Etenesh Wassié continues to perform internationally, affirming her place as one of the most compelling and singular voices on the contemporary Ethiopian music scene.

With **[NA]**, Etenesh Wassié explores a vibrant musical dialogue rooted in listening, improvisation and collective energy. Drawing on the expressive richness of the Azmari tradition, this collaboration brings Ethiopian vocal heritage into conversation with contemporary improvised music and raw, dynamic soundscapes.

Among her current projects, **Crocodile** brings Etenesh Wassié together with French storyteller **Myriam Pellicane** in a unique dialogue between song and storytelling. Inspired by **Ethiopian legends, personal narratives and powerful female figures**, the project explores a shared poetic territory where voices, cultures and imaginations meet.

Discography



Zéraf!
with Le Tigre des
Platanes (Buda
Musique, 2008)



Belo Belo
with Mathieu
Sourisseau (Buda
Musique, 2010)



Yene Alem
with Mathieu
Sourisseau
& Julie Läderach
Buda Musique, 2018



Arada
Mr Morezon, 2026

[Site](#)

[Bandcamp](#)

[ARADA Press reviews](#)

“The elemental queen of Ethiopian Tezeta.”

Télérama

*“A fiercely intense music that explodes
all mental and geographical boundaries.”*

Indiepoprock

“Mesmerising.”

À Découvrir Absolument

*“A music that reaches the listener through
presence, texture and a gravity that slowly begins
to dance.”*

Solénopole



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Freddy Morezon

Founded in Toulouse in 2002, Freddy Morezon is an artists' collective bringing together musicians from diverse backgrounds who share a taste for hybrid forms and cultural crossovers. Emerging from jazz and improvised music, the collective's activities extend to traditional, experimental, folk and contemporary music through touring, record production and place-based artistic projects.

FREDDY MOREZON

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Production

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