

# youn sun nah

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## WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT ?

As the jazz world welcomes more and more female singers, Youn Sun Nah continues to stand out from all the rest. With the support of a talented group of musicians, she has succeeded in making her mark on the jazz scene, despite being outside the typical promotional circuit.

Who is she? How does she define her music? She likes to say that her group's music is a manifestation of the best in jazz- free, without borders, constantly evolving - and drawing inspiration from French chanson, pop, and contemporary music.

Youn Sun Nah5 are first and foremost live performers, and they are at their best when they find themselves together on stage, testing their creative limits, developing new arrangements, and losing themselves in improvisation. They electrify their audiences, carrying them from emotion to emotion, thanks in no small part to Youn Sun Nah's haunting voice.

## YOUN SUN NAH BIOGRAPHY



Korean singer born in Seoul on the 28th August 1969. Daughter of a Choir Director and an Opera Singer, Youn Sun Nah starts her musical career with the Korean Symphony Orchestra at the age of 23 without having studied singing before.

She then participated in numerous Korean musicals of national scale and for which she has often been rewarded. She has even been demanded by one of the biggest Japanese company of the genre (Sakye), but declined the invitation.

As she did not find suitable fulfilment in these musical environments, due to all their constraints, Youn Sun decided in 1995 to go to Paris in order to study jazz and French songs. She registered at CIM school, one of the oldest jazz school of the French capital, at the National Music Institute of Beauvais and at the Nadia and Lili Boulanger Conservatory. Her natural fondness for jazz reveals itself when she starts playing in the Parisians jazz clubs in 1996-97 with David Georgelet and Yoni Zelnik (still playing together today). She rapidly provokes considerable attention, notably by Jacques Vidal who invites her on his record 'Ramblin' (1999). She receives numerous prizes (Jazz à La Defense, Saint-Maur, Montmartre...), continues to comb jazz clubs and also

participates at festivals.

Parallel to this French life, Youn Sun performs in Korea. Some opportunities have her living a double life, one in her native country, one in the country that has adopted her. In order to make this feasible, she is working with two different teams. In Seoul, she created her own production structure, Bis Music, with which she produced two records as a leader. Those were distributed by SONY MUSIC. In Paris, she almost exclusively worked with her quintet whose records are produced by an independent label, In Circum Girum.

In 5 years, Youn Sun Nah has recorded 4 albums (2 of which are exclusively distributed in Korea) and has extensively performed in various jazz festivals in France, Europe and Korea. In 2003 she obtains a full recognition by the Korean audience and media who declare her Jazz Artist of the Year. A few months before, she had been broadcast with her quintet on a program for ARTE Channel called *Paris Jazz Club - Rue des Lombard*. In 2004, the release of Youn Sun Nah5's 'So I Am...' is widely celebrated by the French specialised as well as generalist press which fully recognise her talent and present her now like one of the most remarkable singer of the new generation. Lastly, her live performances are awarded by an impressive jury of jazz professionals at Jazz à Juan Revelation 2005. And Get a The Young Artist of the year (2005) from Dept of Culture & Tourism in Korea

## *YOUN SUN NAH IN A FEW DATES*

1989

wins the French Song Contest organised by the French Embassy in Korea and travels for the first time in France where she stays 9 months.

1995

comes back to France to study jazz

1996

first combo with David Georgelet and Yoni Zelnik , both met at CIM Jazz School.

1998

First Prize in singing at the National Music Institute of Beauvais.

Teaches at CIM Jazz School

1999

Graduates from the Nadia and Lili Boulanger Conservatory. Soloist Prize at the Jazz de la Défense national contest. First Prize at Saint-Maur contest.

2001

Reflét', first record as a leader distributed only in Korea (Bis Music/Sony) and first tour of the quintet in Korea.

2002

'Light For The People', first record with the quintet (In Circum Girum/Socadisc).

2003

'Paris Jazz Club – Rue des Lombards' on ARTE, broadcast of a concert filmed at Duc des Lombards jazz club. 'Down by Love', second record as a leader distributed only in Korea (Bis Music/Sony).

2004

'So I Am...', second record of the quintet now known as Youn Sun Nah5. Release party at New Morning jazz club on october 1<sup>st</sup>.

2005

Youn Sun Nah5 wins the First Prize at Jazz à Juan Revelation. Performs on the mythical stage of the 45<sup>th</sup> Jazz à Juan Festival.

French tour from octobere 15<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>TH</sup>

Korean tour from december 20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>

*Youn Sun Nah's voice is disturbing* : an astonishing blend of varied musical influences and of her Korean origins. Her playing is full of nuances and harmonically very subtle and allows her to transport the audience on a soft airy mattress as well as in an energetic flood of right notes.

She uses these qualities to express a wide variety of feelings and emotions. Exceptional improviser, she possesses a large range of colours and tones and masters perfectly scat technique. She is gifted : a constant and unshakeable fluidity made possible thanks to her great vocal technique and her concentrated listening. Her quite unique singing is rarely compared to any other. However, a few journalists have sometimes mentioned the names of Jeanne Lee and Susanne Abbuehl for jazz, Björk or Kate Bush for pop music. Her repertoire is made of original compositions, written by her or by her musicians. She usually does not sing standards anymore with this quintet like she used to. Her particularity is also that she can use a few different languages in her repertoire : korean, french, hebraic, spanish...

## THE “YOUN SUN NAH5”



Youn Sun Nah5’s music goes straight to the essential, avoiding to show off. It is all dedicated to the band’s imagination. It is as minimalist as ambitious jazz which either looks for inspiration in silence and what could be defined as close to austerity, either get carried on the physical energy of the band supported by rhythmical elements as well as more contemporary arrangements. This movement is nourished by the cosmopolitan personality of the band and relies on the diversity of its five members. A jazz of varied influences which transports from Occident to Orient.

The musicians surrounding Youn Sun Nah are all young talents of the French jazz scene : the drummer, David Georgelet, and the Franco-Israeli double bass player, Yoni Zelnik, were there at the beginning ; David Neerman, the Franco-British vibraphone player, is essential to the blooming of the quintet ; The pianist Benjamin Moussay, the last to arrive, is largely acclaimed in by the French critics. All these musicians are based in Paris. They constitute together the best jazz combo that Youn Sun Nah could have hoped because it has all the qualities of the best groups : a cohesion born thanks to a common experience build during time and united by the friendship and the band life developed on tours. This precious complicity well felt when the quintet wanders around this intimates atmospheres which they like to explore with reduced instrumentation in duo or trio is also developed in density during the improvisation moments on stage. This quintet has a necessary maturity and intelligence to the elaboration of this solid and durable project. This quintet is today considered by many as one of the most innovative combo on today’s jazz scene.



## LINE UP

### **BENJAMIN MOUSSAY - piano**

Born in 1973. After studies in Physics, he devotes himself to music

He has studied classical piano with Jean Fassina and Jean-Louis Hagueneur. He has studied jazz, composition and arrangement at in the Jazz Class of the Paris Conservatory where his teachers were François Jeanneau, Hervé Sellin, François Théberge and Jean-François Jenny-Clark.



He was lucky to be sideman of musicians like Louis Sclavis, Glenn Feris, Archie Shepp, Jerry Bergonzy or Dave Liebman. He has played all over Europe as well as in North America.

He got a prize at the Martial Solal International Jazz Piano Contest in 1998 and had the Second Soloist Prize of the Jazz à la Défense National Contest in 1999.

He has a trio with Luc Isenmann (drums) and Arnault Cuisinier (double bass) with which he develops his own musical universe and composer talents.

He has composed the original soundtracks of 'Marie et le Loup', movie directed by Eve Heinrich, as well as of 'Yogabs', directed by Jean-Marie Martz. He has also played music for a live music and screening of 'The Navigator' by Buster Keaton.

He joined Youn Sun Nah's band in October 2003.

He continues to teach jazz at Strasbourg Conservatory.

Discography :

Youn Sun Nah 5 - 'So I Am...' (2004, In Circum Girum/Socadisc)  
Vladimir Anselme - 'Deuxième Round' (Acousti)  
Laurent Geniez Quartet - 'Blow' (autoproduit)  
Bernard Struber Jazztett - 'Les Arômes de la Mémoire' (Femfata/Socadisc)  
Benjamin Moussay Trio - 'Mobile' (Iris Music/Harmonia Mundi)  
Benjamin Moussay Trio - 'Conciliabules' (CNSM)  
Bernard Struber Jazztett & Louis Sclavis - 'Le Phare' (Enja/Harmonia Mundi)  
Philippe Lemoine - 'Kassalit' (ZZ/Harmonia Mundi)  
Vladimir Anselme - 'Mauvaises Herbes' (Le Loup du Faubourg/Scalen)  
Cécile Solin - 'Jeux d'Enfants' (Radio France/Night & Day)  
'La Grand Parade en Direct du Cirque du Bord des Mondes' (U.D. Bas-Rhin)  
Candela (Salsa) - 'Amor Eterno' (Studio Chrystal)  
Cotton Fields (Gospel) - (CF)

### **DAVID NEERMAN - vibraphone**

Born in England in 1969, he settled in France at the age of 10 and starts playing drums and percussions. After studies of percussions at the Geneva Conservatory, he chooses vibraphone as his main instrument.

He performs in multiple contexts which vary from contemporary music to drum'n'bass going through mandingo music (with the Malian balafon master Lansiné Kouyaté and Guinean Kora master Yakhoubou Sissokho), jazz (with guitarist Manu Codjia, sax player Thomas de Pourquery, Bruno Angelini, Jean-Philippe Morel, Philippe Gleizes...), reggae (Kana), and uncategorisable (Collectif Slang)....



With all those groups he has performs in most of the French clubs, many European festivals and has made residencies in Switzerland.

He has also composed music for a theatre company (La Vache Angora) who has played their seven creations in maney large French theatres as well as Festivals (Strindberg Festival in Stockholm...).

He has fully joined Youn Sun Nah's band in 2000.

Discography :

Youn Sun Nah 5 - 'So I Am...' (2004, In Circum Girum/Socadisc)  
Youn Sun Nah Quintet - 'Light for the People' (2002, In Circum Girum/Mélo die)  
Youn Sun Nah - 'Refl et' (2000, Bis Music - Sony Music)  
Kana - 'Kana' (Warner-Chapelle)

### **YONI ZELNIK – double bass**

Born in 1975 in Haifa, Israel, he started playing electric bass in rock bands as a teenager. He starts working on jazz in 1994 at the Jerusalem Music Academy. He settled in France in 1995 and starts studying at CIM Jazz School as well as the 14<sup>th</sup> District of Paris Conservatory.



Since then, he has played in litteraly of the Parisian clubs as a very demanded bass player. He has been or still is side man amongst others of Franck Avitabile, Sarah Lazarus, John Betsch, Benjamin Henock, Emil Spanyi, Misha Fitzgerald-Michel...

He plays with Youn Sun Nah since 1996.

Discography :

Youn Sun Nah 5 - 'So I Am...' (2004, In Circum Girum/Socadisc)  
Youn Sun Nah Quintet - 'Light for the People' (2002, In Circum Girum/Mélo die)  
Youn Sun Nah - 'Refl et' (2000, Bis Music - Sony Music)

### **DAVID GEORGELET- drums**

Born in 1976, he starts music at the age of 12. He discovers jazz at the Niort Conservatory. Arrives in Paris in 1995 to study at CIM Jazz School to follow the classes of Georges Paczynski.



His professional career then starts in the parisian jazz clubs followed by participations to the major French Festivals (Marciac, La Villette, Vannes, Orléans, Antibes, Crest...)

He plays with Youn Sun Nah since 1996.

Discography :

Youn Sun Nah 5 - 'So I Am...' (2004, In Circum Girum/Socadisc)  
Youn Sun Nah Quintet - 'Light for the People' (2002, In Circum Girum/Mélo die)  
Youn Sun Nah - 'Refl et' (2000, Bis Music - Sony Music)