



**FRANÇOIS CARRIER
MICHEL LAMBERT:
KATHMANDU**

(FMRC236-0607)

François Carrier (alto saxophone)

Michel Lambert (drums)



Two leading lights in the Canadian Improv scene descended on Nepal on invitation, to play the Jazzmandu Festival, and this fine recording is the result of two concerts that they gave to the very welcoming and enthusiastic local contingent. These 11 improvisations capture the two players in fine song, delivering performances that embraced the love and spiritual energy that greeted them upon their arrival. An energy that will never leave them, and one that will hold the listener's attention for a long time to come!!

BELOVED ALTO AND SOPRANO SAXOPHONIST FRANÇOIS CARRIER OPENS HIS DIARY

One's immersion in the sounds and culture of a faraway land can often shape the spirit and the music of a travelling musician with good, open-hearted intentions. Some may not admit to it, but most of us travel in search of a certain enlightenment, a different point of view - a cleansing of sorts.

As you will read in this engaging story by Montreal's improviser François Carrier - culled from a recent October 2006 trip - it's all about discovery. Discovery of a country, naturally, but also of one self.

Now you, too, can share in the journey.

ERIC THERIAULT

Namaste,

Drummer Michel Lambert and I arrived in Kathmandu Nepal on October 12th 2006 to play two concerts of improvised music at Jazzmandu, a jazz festival organized by native Nepali jazz drummer and musical director Navin Chettri.

For this 5th edition, Navin invited us as a Trio but the third musician couldn't make it. The trip to Kathmandu took about 30 hours and we were very tired when we arrived on Thursday afternoon. Leaving from Montreal on October 10th we had a transfer in Paris and a long 12 hours transfer in India where we went to a three stars hotel in Delhi. The stop by Delhi was very short but we could already see and feel the difference from Indian people. The real thrill though was when we arrived in Kathmandu. As I said to Navin in a recent e-mail I sent him: *"In all my life I have never reached a level of connection as deep as with the Nepali people."*

What I meant by that is I felt a very deep energy of love right from the instant we put our feet on the ground. Our stay in Nepal lasted only for six days but the feeling will stay in my heart forever. I really felt like I was "Ho Tei" the monk of contentment and happiness, every instant.

Of course Michel and I were there to play music so we played our first concert on Friday October 13th at Gokarna, which is a resort owned by a guy from Singapore. Most groups invited by the festival were playing thirty minutes concerts, one after the other, from 18h to 24h. It was very interesting to be part of this melting pot of music from so many parts of the globe. Navin played his drums with half of the groups during the whole 10 day festival event. A good way for him

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TRACKLISTING:

1. White Summit (07.43)
2. Dancing Light (04.59)
3. Joyfulness and Playfulness (05.32)
4. Prayer For Peace (03.41)
5. Himalayan Beauty (05.00)
6. Monkeys on the Green (03.37)
7. Impro for the Monks (03.49)
8. Namaste (09.07)
9. The Silence of the Bellst (05.59)
10. Buddha's Homeplacet (04.32)
11. Candle in the Temple† (05.21)
12. Amarawati Garden (04.05)

total running time (64.14)

music entirely improvised by
François Carrier and Michel Lambert
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October 13th at Gokarna Forest Golf Resort †
October 15th at 1905 of Kantipath
Producer, sound and
mastering **François Carrier**
Artistic consultant **Édith Fortier**

Executive Producer for FMR: Trevor Taylor
Cover Photographs by François Carrier
Musicians photos by
François Le Goarant de Tromelin
Design & Layout by Ewan Rigg



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to play jazz in a country where they ignore almost everything about the style.

So indeed we played our improvised music there, without any compromise. The most important is that the Nepali people appreciated it a great deal although this music of ours is quite different from anything they have heard.

As I always do, I recorded this concert with my own equipment that I always carry with me. The day after, on the morning of the 14th I invited two young Nepali flute players to join Michel and I for a recording in our hotel room. The result is a 20 minutes of very nice two pieces of entirely improvised music. Their names are Krishna Thapa and Dhan Bahadur Gurunj. In the afternoon Michel got sick, probably from food poisoning so I left him to go to the Jazzmandu peace parade. This parade which took place from the Upstairs Jazz Bar Lazimpat to the Shangri-la Hotel was more like a carnival atmosphere down the streets of Lazimpat with vintage bikes, cars, jazz musicians, school children, Maruni dancers, Buddhist monks, Lakhe Dancers, Folk Dancers, all spreading the message of "Music for Peace." I got back at the end of the day at the Summit Hotel where Michel was still sleeping.

The day after Michel was already feeling much better and we played a concert still as a duet – drums and sax – for an evening called Valley Jazz. We shared the stage with a Norwegian group which was also a duet – voice and electronics. We played under the stars for a very nice audience mostly composed of Nepali people. Fortunately I also recorded this one hour concert.

On the 16th Michel and I played individually with other groups as guests for one song each. This was a very interesting experience for me because I played with this unique traditional Nepali singer « Guru Dev Kamat ». Michel played a standard song called « In a Sentimental Mood » with a mixture of all the western musicians. This same evening was also very inspiring due to the fact that we were playing at the Patan Museum.

Of course, besides playing our few concerts, we visited Kathmandu a bit. We went to the Monkey Temple (Swayambunath Stupa) which is, as I recall, an old Buddhist temple. I took about two hundreds pictures there. It was very deep and also filled with love and spirit. All together I took 1001 pictures of the entire trip.

Michel and I had to come back on the 17th so we left the Kathmandu airport around 14h and thirty six hours later we were back to Montreal.

Of course, lots of things happened during our short stay in Kathmandu but the most important is the love and peace that we felt from every single individuals. Now that I am more aware I will probably go back to Nepal to discover more of this unique energy. In every word they say, the Nepali people look at you with their eyes wide open by transmitting you their need for peace. The country struggles with poverty, pollution and chaos but the hearts of the people are more powerful than all the fear.

You can hear this call in the music we played there.

Love, heart and spirit,

FRANÇOIS CARRIER

