



DLM  
éditions

presents:

# THE MUSICIANS OF BREMEN

**Musical tale** for children and their parents after the fairy tale  
by the Brothers Grimm

**Spectacle of 45' for all audiences**

Music and text: Denis Levallant

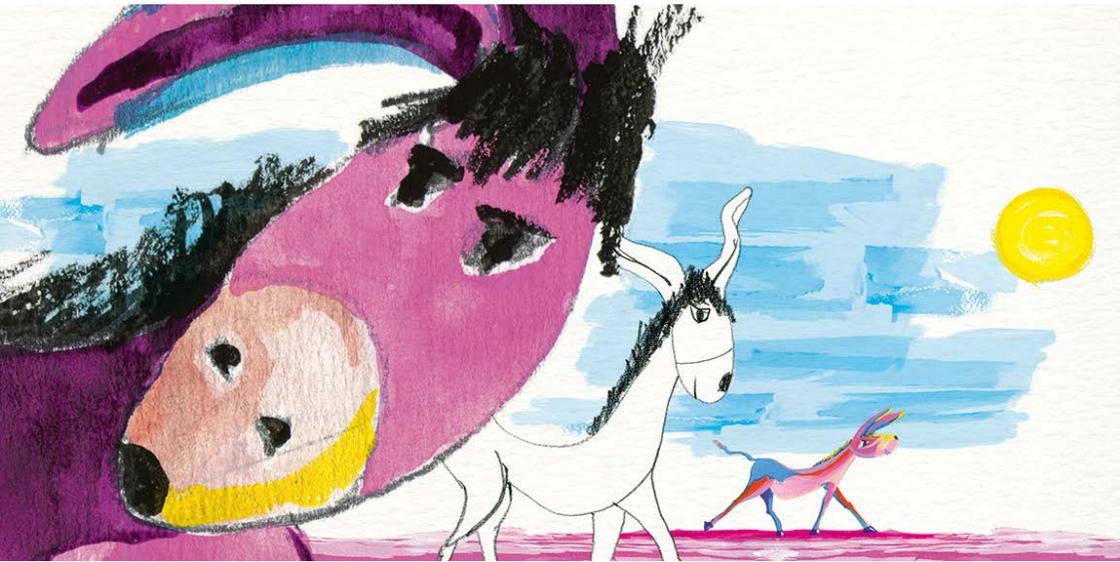
Images: Michel Jaffrennou and Julien Mélique

Cast: to be completed

[www.denislevallant.net](http://www.denislevallant.net)

# INTENTIONS

Denis Levailant: music and text



After having set Jacques Prévert's *l'Opéra de la Lune* to music (with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio-France), I stayed on the shores of childhood. I translated, adapted and set to music *The Musicians of Bremen* by the Brothers Grimm, for seven musicians and narrator. Who does not remember these four old animals quite decided to save their skin, who tell us the lovely story of human solidarity?

I published a CD-book illustrated by Michel Jaffrennou (one of the pioneers of video art in France, trained as a painter); the text was spoken by Jacques Bonnaffé with a team of top-notch soloists:

Saxophones: Jean-Michel Goury (soloist with the Philharmonique de Radio France and Paris Opera, among others)

Clarinets: Jean-Marc Foltz (formerly with the Ensemble Intercontemporain)

Trumpet: Bruno Nouvion (1st trumpet in the Philharmonique de Radio France)

Trombone: Antoine Ganaye (1st trombone in the Philharmonique de Radio France)

Accordion: Olivier Innocenti (soloist with the Philharmonique de Radio France and Paris Opera, among others)

Double bass: Jean-Paul Celea (formerly Ensemble Intercontemporain)

Percussion: Daniel Ciampolini (formerly Ensemble Intercontemporain)

A very lively prologue presents the musical instruments to the children, for each one portrays a character:

The Cock is played by the trumpet

The Cat by the soprano saxophone

The Dog by the trombone

The Ass by the bass clarinet

The House by the accordion

The Traffickers by the percussion

The Butcher by the double bass

# INTENTIONS

Denis Levailant: music and text

The show lasts 45' and is aimed at a family audience (school children, suitable for all). After the presentation of the instruments, the narrator takes up the tale, which is accompanied by the projection of images by Michel Jaffrennou, who, with the complicity of graphic artist Julien Mélique, who had a tremendous time executing much more than a classic illustration; these are veritable paintings in mixed techniques: watercolour, drawing, gouache, pastels (with a few animations). The whole is quite lively, funny and colourful. The music embodies all the moments, from the ass's march up to the horrible concert, by way of the discovery of the magic house in the forest. A march theme, easily memorised, combines with an amazing mixture of instrumental colours.

This show was first performed in January 2016 by students of the Pôle Supérieur of the Boulogne-Billancourt Conservatory. A video can be viewed on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h9lh-QKVNMM>

It was next given in March 2017 by the Orchestre de Douai, which gave ten school performances in the Conservatory's auditorium. <http://www.lavoixdunord.fr/132152/article/2017-03-14/l-orchestre-conduit-des-milliers-d-ecoliers-jusqu-a-breme>

It will be performed again in 2018 by an ensemble of teachers at the La Roche-sur-Yon Conservatory.

DLM Editions is proposing this show on tour, with several teams of musicians trained by the creators of the CD, without conductor, and several narrators (Arnaud Dupond, Isabelle Carré-Légrand).



# BIOGRAPHIES

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Denis Levaillant**  
par David Sanson

French composer and pianist Denis Levaillant is one of today's major musical talents. Since 1973 he has managed to develop a personal, highly varied oeuvre, allying the rhythmic energy of jazz and popular musics to a new orchestral colour in the French tradition, appealing to all audiences.

He approached music by studying classical piano, demonstrating precocious gifts. At the same time, he distinguished himself brilliantly in general studies at the prestigious Lycée Louis-le-Grand and the Sorbonne in Paris, where he earned a Masters in philosophy in 1974. In 1983, Denis Levaillant was awarded a fellowship to the Villa Medici in Rome.

Initially making a name for himself with the general public in the 1970s as a performer and top-notch improviser (his book *L'Improvisation musicale*, published in 1980, has become a reference on the subject). In the 1980s, he was one of the pioneers in musical theatre in France, and the originality of his opera *O.P.A. Mia (My Tender Bid)*, with sets by Enki Bilal and premiered in 1990 at the Avignon Festival and the Opéra-Comique in Paris, made a strong impression.

In the following decade, he devoted most of his creative efforts to symphonic writing. His ballet, *La Petite danseuse*, commissioned by the Paris Opera, met with great success at the Paris Opera in 2003 and has been revived in 2005 and 2010.

Winner, in particular, of the RAI Prize at the Italia Prize in 1988, Denis Levaillant has had most of his recorded catalogue regularly synchronised in cinema and television the world over.



## Michel Jaffrennou

Painter and stage designer Michel Jaffrennou has devoted himself to video creation since the '80s. He created his first piece of video-theatre, *Les Totologues*, in 1980 and developed a new form of spectacle in which live actors and electronic actors play together on the same stage (*Electronique Vidéo Circus* at the Pompidou Centre, *Vidéopérette* at the Grande Halle at La Villette, Paris).

Starting from the same play of synchronisation between images, he realises installations (*Le plein de plumes*, world tour), *La Caverne aux images* for the Vidéothèque de Paris, *Le grand manège de la forêt* at the Cité des Sciences at La Villette).

Television offers him another stage for which he realises programmes of creation: *Videoflashes* (1st prize, JVC Video Festival in Tokyo), *Jim Tracking*, *Ulysse au pays des merveilles*, *Pierre et le loup* in computer-generated images (7 d'Or 1996 for the best animated TV film), *Désert Blues*, a musical journey to the heart of Mali (musical documentary for the Arte channel).

In 2000, he began using the new computing means to create multimedia spectacles: *Via Kaboul* at the English National Opera in London; *Désert Blues*, griots and poets of the sands at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris; *Kirina*, Mandingo opera at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes and Acropolis in Nice; the interactive spectacle *Diguiden.net*, and realised CD-ROMs (*La Collection du Centre Pompidou*, Jean Tinguely Basle, Moëbius international critics Prize).

Michel Jaffrennou was named Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres in 1992.

