



The contagious groove of Abraham, Inc. at the Trans Musicales in Rennes

AFP: December 4, 2009

RENNES: The contagious groove of Abraham Inc, the new group formed by David Krakauer, Fred Wesley and Socalled, was on fire the second night of the 31st TransMusicales de Rennes, an event as always eclectic, between Serb polyphony and new English Soul.



© AFP | Fred Wesley, trombone
Trans Musicales de Rennes, December 3, 2009

From funk to klezmer to electro and hip-hop: On paper, it's a mix that should not work. Except, that is, when one is klezmer virtuoso on the clarinet (David Krakauer), a giant on the trombone (Fred Wesley, longtime collaborator with James Brown and Funkadelic), and one who is a genius of electronica beats and hip-hop (Socalled).

Their collective project, initiated in 2006, was successfully launched in October with the appearance of a first album -- the excellent "Tweet Tweet" (Label Bleu) -- and with their presentation at the TransMusicales.

On the stage, the alchemy between the musicians (one drummer, two guitarists, a bassist, a trumpet player, a saxophone, and a rapper accompany the trio) and the audience was immediate.

Everyone was carried by the music -- Krakauer oscillating the rhythm of his clarinet, Socalled hovering over his keyboards in the wash of a joyous fanfare.

Side by side, Krakauer and Wesley riffed together -- the clarinet playing funky to support a blast from the trombone, then the trombone goes all klezmer when the clarinet revels in both the Yiddish theaters of the 1930s and the musical traditions of Moldavia. Raydar Ellis's rap -- at once smooth and sporadic -- blended remarkably with the groove.

"I hope you appreciate this cultural blend. All is possible today! It's 2009!" exclaimed Socalled when the crowd called for more.

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