

Spahni's

dancers

Jazz'n'Dub
Ska to Reggae

Spahni's Dub Dancers

Founded in 2000 by drummer **Daniel Spahni** (LKJ, Lee "Scratch" Perry, Dennis Bovell and many more), **Dub Dancers** was, at first, only a recording project, but was refounded in 2012 to present the music on stage to a live audience. From these early years come "**Cabatterista**" (2000) and "**Sunny spot**" (2004).

The new combo is an 8 piece band + singer(s), and proposes an original blend of jazzy tunes, on reggae to ska beats, served by a large horn section, with solid riddim and a hint of dub.

Mixed by **Dennis Bovell** (who also sings as lead or backing vocal on both albums), "**Back to ska**" and "**Across the rain and between drops**" present original music, written by Spahni and arranged by Dub Dancers, as well as intemporal classics of Jazz music interpreted in ska style.

Dennis can also be booked with us as backing band.

Also on the albums is **Phil POW Santschi** (HeartBeatBand feat. Rico, The Mad Lighters) with previously unreleased songs. Phil is our main singer, when playing concerts. From Ska to Lovers Rock and Reggae, **Spahni's Dub Dancers** play positive vibrations for you.

Musicians:

Daniel Spahni (drums), **Ivan Bessire** (bass), **Claude-Alain Biedermann** (keyboards), **Cyprien Rochat** (guitar), **Phil Balmer** (trombone), **Lionel Perrinjaquet** (alto sax), **Fred Stalder** (trumpet), **Amin Mokdad** (flute, tenor sax), **Phil Santschi** (vocal, percussions)
On special request: **Dennis Bovell** (vocal)



c/o Daniel Spahni, route de reuchenette 26, CH-2502 Biel/Bienne

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The Musicians

Daniel Spahni (Drums, composition, artistic director)



DANIEL SPAHNI was born on the 29th of May 1967, in Lausanne, Switzerland. As his parents were musicians too, he got into it very early, and entered the Conservatory with the age of six, where he first studied the Piano for a short while. Very soon, he fell in love with the sounds of Drums, and started practicing his instrument when he was eight years old. First of all in a Marching Band, where he received the Rudiments of Drumming, then during the rehearsals of his dad's band, he learnt about the pleasure of sharing Music...

Later, 16 years old, he studied more in the **EJMA** (Ecole de Jazz et de Musiques Actuelles), and got influenced by **Olivier Clerc's** advices (BBFC).

From these early years remain his need for musical friendship and high involvement into it. Lately he had the opportunity to get some advice from **Jojo Mayer** that opened to a wide new range of drumming perspectives (would advice his dvd "secret weapons for the modern drummer"). Jojo is definitely the best regarding drum techniques.

After playing in many cover-bands, "Les Sales Combles" a band leaded by Christian "Dodo" Addor (Ex-Débile Menthol), gave him the opportunity to do his first recording "Les Salles Vides" (1989). In 1990, "The Heart Beat Band" got together again, associating Daniel to its new identity: "**The Mad Lighters**" released their first CD "Play on Mr Music" (1991), featuring Trombonist **Rico** and went on tour... Another collaboration happend for the album "Shine" (2000) followed by "Freedom call" (2002) and lately "Move on" (2010) feat. **Vin Gordon**.

During the same period but in a totally other style, our percussionist tried something with sax player Gilbert Ummel, and this experienced went, with the help of bassist Andre Schenk, into the production of a CD "**Larsen Rupin: A Ban**" (1991) and a number of gigs. The rhythm section also got hired for "Die Vögel Europas" work: "Short Stories" (1993). Larsen Rupin releases a second album in 2001: "Contredanses" and "Procès verbal" (2008).

Spahni is well required session drummer (see Disco...), and it's during one of these sessions that he got to know **Victor "Fizzè" de Bros** (Mensch Records), with whom he worked frequently since: "Peeni Waali... The Return" (1997), "Fizzè: The Peeni Waali Phenomenon" (1999), "The Eve of... Peeni Waali" (2000). This Gentleman also introduced him to several productions like **Helmut Lipsky's** "Moontide" (1997), or **Pippo Pollina's** "Rossocuore" (1999), or even Jamaican Poet **Linton Kwesi Johnson's** "More Time" (1998) and **Dennis Bovell** "All over the world" (2006).

Other opportunities gave him the chance to play live with **Daniel Bourquin**, **Elliott Sharp** or **Archie Shepp**, for example..

Working with Dennis Bovell Dub Band since 2001, he was brought to Sweden where he met **Internal Dread** (RIP), and **JonahGold**, who used Spahni's playing for their own productions..

discography and more infos on: www.spahni.biz

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Phil POW Santschi (Vocal)



Born in 1966, Phil's musical activities can be splitted in 3 periods of time.

Firstly: **The HeartBeat Band** as leader-drummer-singer!

First swiss Reggae band, they played numerous gigs in Switzerland, from 1983 to 1987. On a trip to Jamaica they met Legendary trombonist **Rico Rodriguez** in 87 and invited him to join them in switzerland and help them get the real sound with the horn section.

Which Rico gladly did, and it resulted in the production of a 7" Vynil: "**Crossroads**" at Victor de Bros' Studio Mensch.

The Heart Beat Band featuring **Rico**, then toured Switzerland, Germany and Netherlands

Phil also collaborated with Victor for "**Peeni Waali**" as singer, percussionist and drummer: a recording project that gathered LKJ, Lee Perry, Dennis Bovell and many more.

2nd period : **The Mad Lighters**

Phil left the drums and got replaced by Spahni, to concentrate only on the singing.

Releases: **Play on Mr Music** (1990), **Shine** (2000), mixed by **Mad Professor** (Massive Attack, etc.), **Freedom Call** (2006), mixed by Mad Professor, **Move on** (2010) from 1991 to 2012 lots of conerts around Europe.

Also started to work regulary with the **Botanikal Roots Band** since 2004

3rd period : **Gardina POW** (Phil on his way):with various project ongoing:

Cédric Vuille (www.ensembleraie.ch)

14 Rocksteady tunes, recorded 2011-2012, release 2013

10 Lee Perry songs, unplugged, release 2014

Botanikal Roots Band:

8 nu-roots songs, Botanikal meets Gardina,release 2014

Gardina POW:

14 new songs POW is de GARDINA due 2014

The Mad Lighters:

12 tunes(ska and "traditional" Mad Lighters' stuff)

Ivan Bessire (bass)



Ivan B, born1973, musician, guitar and bass player, producer, tsound ingeener, radio host in the 90's.,

Collaborated, Played live or recorded worked as technician with: Christophe Meyer, Boubacar Traore, Liquid Hips, Julien Monti, Izul, Mong, Nino Fight, Mercurochrome records, Solex, Duja, Mxd, La Bande à Mani, Spahni's dub dancers, L5, Dj Idem, Manu Moser, Stevie Cochran, Glenn of Guinness, Magic Malik, Diego Rappachietti, Angie Schilliro, Kiki Crétin, les pièges à cons, les lapins, also active in short movies, theater music and all sorts of sonor creations.

Cyprien Rochat (guitar)



Cyprien Rochat was born 1980. Starting his musical formation age 5, he puts his predilection on the electric guitar age 8. he starts studying at the **Jazz Conservatory** in Bern, beside a guitar maker learning. He then enters the **Luzern Conservatory** and studies with guitar greats such as **François Colleta** or **Kurt Rosenwinkel** He ended his professional formation with the school diploma and pedagogics Master Cyprien Rochat is now a professional guitarist who took part to several recognized swiss projects: (Samir Essabhi Band, Geraldine Gerber, Kick da hobbit, Generation 70, Café sombre, Trio-Indigo, Fanny Diercksen Trio).

Since 2005, Cyprien Rochat is a modern guitar teacher at **l'école de musique du Jura bernois**.

He's also been active as a founder of Uptown Productions since 15 years, promoting concerts and cultural events.

Philippe Balmer (trombone)



Bom 1985, Phil plays slide-trombone, trumpet, tuba and bass,.

Started with trumpet lessons at Musique des Jeunes de Bienne (**MJB**) in 1995. Then entered de Music Conservatory, in classical section where he studied from 2005 to 2009..Workshops at the jazz section with **Thomas Sauter's** jazz/funk atelier.

Since 95 Musique des Jeunes de Bienne
Since 01 Big Band de la musique des jeunes de Bienne, directed by **Céline Clénin** then **Cédric Bovet**
Since 02 **DixieOnAir**
Since 09 Logistics and transports for MJB
Since 12 Private harmonics lessons with **Simon**

Petermann and Lukas Briggen.

Claude-Alain Biedermann (keyboards)

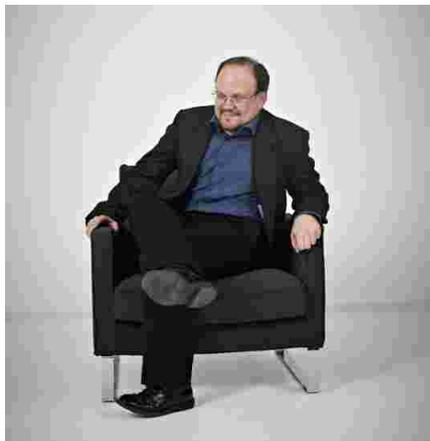


Bom 1976. Started study age 9, on the electric organ the the Piano In 1996 Claude-Alain moves to Geneva where he continues his formation at **l'Ecole des technologies musicales(ETM)** and gets his diploma in 2000.

Up to today, he worked as composer, arranger, producer and performer for:

Blind prod et X.M.S. studio (raga/reggae/hip-hop), Revox Dei (rock), Michael Iani (rock français), Waiting for Tobi (funk), Kick da Hobbit (jazz-drum'n bass), Ekaterina Tshetshelachvily (duo), Amary (rai), Café Sombre (easy latin-funk), Compartiment Fumeurs (chanson), Alessandro Sabatto (italo pop), Lord Wilo (raga dance hall), Samir Essahbi & Rai-X (Afro, gnawa, rai) The mad lighters (reggae), Cédric Myton (reggae), Dub dancers (Ska), Jahmangang (reggae, ska)

Fred Stalder (trumpet)



Born 1976, Frédéric Stalder studied the trumpet at the jazz department of **conservatoire de Lausanne HEM**, with **Matthieu Michel** et **Olivier Theurillat** and gets his teaching diploma in 2009. He followed Master Classes with **Enrico Pieranunzi**, **Bob Mintzer**, **Adam Nussbaum**, **Marc Copland**, **Dave Liebman** and **Alex Sipiagin** notably.

He played for **François Jeanneau**, « sound painting » specialist. In 2008, he's chosen to take part to a project directed by **Alexander Von Schlippenbach**, gathering students from all jazz school, and touring for 5 concerts.

His musical eclectism leads him to play in very various projects: **Nolosé** (Afro-cuban music), **le Trio de Poche** (Jazz), **Spahni's Dub Dancers** (ska-jazz). He also plays in a balkanic marching band

« La Reine Berthe ». He's very found of composing and arranging. As a recording musician, he worked for **Simongad** and **Junior Tshaka**. Frédéric is a trumpet teacher at **BBM74**, Neuchâtel and **Ton sur Ton**, La Chaux-de-Fonds. He's also a workshop moderator at **Just-Play**, **Cormoret**.

Lionel Perrinjaquet (alto sax)



Born 1976, he studied with **Michel Weber** at **the Montreux Jazz School**. For the last two years of his studies, he goes to the Jazz department of Lausanne's Conservatory with **Robert Bonisolo** and **Laurent Wolf** as teachers.

He took part to master classes by **Bob Minzer**, **Steve Swallow** or **Dave Liebman**. Gets his diploma in 2008. He was part of various jazz formations including big bands (Montreux's Jazz School Big Band -festival of music Pattaya, Thaïlande The dynamyc big band -recording o sacred concert from Duke Ellington-).

In 2008 he founded **Trio de Poche**, with drummer **Dominic Frey** and **Frédéric Stalder** on trumpet. First album was published by **Unit Records**.

He's also part of **Clément Strahm quartet** (Auvemier Jazz Festival), **Dash'r** (oriental music) and **Spahni's Dub Dancers** (Ska jazz roots).

Amin Mokdad (Tenor sax, flute)



Born 1984 Amin starts studying the flute in 1991 at La musique ds jeunes de Bienne directed by **Jean-Claude Clénin**. From 95 to 2000 is taught by classical flute player **Gabriel Ingivel** at the Music School in Bienne. After College he starts playing the saxophone as an autodidact .

From 2005 to 2010, he studies at Luzern High School, in jazz section and gets his **Master of Arts in Music**. These studies are the occasion to meet **Günter Wehinger**, **John Voirol**, **Natanael Su**, **Otmar Kramis** as well as **Pamela Stahel**, and to take part to master classes from **Steve Coleman**, **Dave Liebmann**, **Bobby Watson**, **Joseph Bowie** et **Billy Hart**.

En 2009 he wins the **Friedl Wald foundation award**.

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Dennis Bovell (Reggae Maestro, Dubmaster, Lovers Rock Pioneer, Matumbi band member, Producer, musician and engineer for Linton Kwesi Johnson and Alpha Blondy among others.)



Dennis Bovell has earned himself the reputation of being Britain's reggae maestro, from pioneering early developments in the genre over 20 years ago to producing classic hits. He is renowned as an accomplished multi-instrumentalist (playing guitar, bass and keyboards), sound engineer, composer, band leader and producer and continues to lead the UK scene with innovative and adventurous music.

Born in Barbados in 1953, Dennis Bovell joined his parents in London when he was twelve. Whilst still at school Bovell joined his first band, Road Works Ahead, before forming the group Stonehenge. Influenced by rock steady, this band gave birth to the three-part harmony section that was later to become the trademark of Bovell's next group, Matumbi, formed in 1970.

Matumbi (meaning 'reborn' in Yoruba) were to become Britain's premier reggae band at a time when the genre was spreading from Jamaica to a wider international audience. After a period backing visiting Jamaican artists such as Pat Kelly and Ken Booth, the band enhanced their reputation further with a string of successful singles. After Tonight, the band's first hit, is to this day played on continuous rewind in the Revival Hall of Fame and another single, The Man In Me is regarded as a British reggae classic. In 1979 Matumbi reached the UK Top Ten charts with Point of View . Altogether the band made four albums for EMI.

At the same time Bovell was building his formidable reputation as a musician, producer and sound engineer, collaborating with great artists including I Roy, Steel Pulse and Errol Dunkley and Johnny Clarke. After leaving Matumbi, Bovell continued to diversify his musical talents. He produced Janet Kay's huge hit Silly Games, which reached number two in the UK charts in 1979 and opened his own recording facility Studio 80. Bovell also formed the Dub Band, beginning an enduring partnership with reggae poet Linton Kwesi Johnson which has resulted in classic albums including Forces of Victory (1979), Bass Culture (1980), Tings An' Times (1991) and LKJ in Dub: Volumes One and Two (1981, 1992). It has also meant tours around the world playing to audiences from South Africa to Sweden, from Japan to Germany.

The 1980s saw Bovell in great demand as a producer, working with bands as diverse as The Slits, Chalice, The Thompson Twins and Bananarama. He re-mixed albums for the great Marvin Gaye as well as Wet Wet Wet and The Boomtown Rats and worked closely with Nigerian Fela Anikulapo Kuti. Other great artists that Bovell has worked with include Alpha Blondy, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Dexy's Midnight Runners, Edwin Collins and Pablo Moses.

Bovell has also carved a niche out for himself in the world of television and film. He was the musical director for the film Babylon and for the TV series The Boy Who Won the Pools (ITV). He wrote the theme music for the Channel 4 documentary series The Bandung File and for the BBC 2 programme Rhythms of the World .

Throughout this period Bovell continued his career as a solo artist, releasing a number of albums: A Who Seh Go Deh; Leggo A Fi We Dis; I Wah Dub; Higher Ranking Scientific Dub; Yu Learn; Strictly Dubwise, Brain Damage and Audio Active. His 1993 release Tactics was lauded as 'assured, polished reggae from a master producer and musician' (Elle magazine) and featured a wealth of great musicians such as Rico Rodriguez (trombone), Eddie Thornton (trumpet) and Steve Gregory (flute and saxophone). Bovell's 1997 album Dub of Ages with its 10 inspired tracks continued the dub excursions which began over 25 years ago when Bovell began making exclusive cuts for his sound system Sufferers Hi-Fi. It also heralded Bovell's 25th year in the music business.

In January 2011 he presented and performed on the acclaimed BBC series and live show 'Reggae Britannia'. Lately Dennis has been involved in projects with all girl Argentinian punk group Las Kellies on their album 'Kellies'. He engineered and performed on Alpha Blondy's latest gold selling album 'Visions' and did a dub remake of Steve Mason's album 'Boys Outside' titled 'Ghosts Outside' released in July 2011. He is also featuring on the Argentinian orchestra "Dancing Moods triple album "Non-Stop and helped coordinating and producing the featured UK musicians.

In 2011 he was a main feature of the film titled "The Lovers Rock Story" , by Menelik Shabazz, which was screened in cinemas in UK and worldwide from October 2011 onwards.

In 2012 Dennis released a new track 'Fall Babylon, a strict Roots track with Roots United, an Italian group and recently a new dub album titled 'Mek it Run' on Pressure Sounds. He spent time re-recording and re-mixing, in Mad Professor's Ariwa Studios, some of the, material from as far back as the 70's. In Steve Barker's words 'It's a ferocious beast of a record featuring some of the best remixes we have heard in a long time. The cream of the UKs reggae session player's feature on the record. There are also a couple of vocal guest appearances by one of Jamaica's greatest ever Djs I Roy'.

Recently Dennis has been working in the studio with artists such as Hollie Cook and Prince Fatty, Boy George, Alpha Blondy, Ava Leigh, Napoli Rockers Syndicate, Dub Dancers, General Roots, Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra and many others. He is also writing songs for a host of artists.

To date, Dennis Bovell continues to record, produce and play live all over the world.

Some discography::

- Strictly Dub Wize (1978), Tempus - as "Blackbeard"
- I Wah Dub (1980), EMI/More cut - as "Blackbeard"
- Dub Conference (Winston Edwards & Blackbeard At 10 Downing Street) (1980), Studio 16 - with Winston Edwards
- Brain Damage (1981), Fontana
- Audio Active (1986), Moving Target - as Dennis Bovell and The Dub Band
- Dub Dem Silly (1993), Arawak
- Tactics (1994), LKJ
- Dub Of Ages (2003), LKJ
- All Over The World (2006), EMI
- Dub Dem Silly Volume 2 (2006), Arawak - Dennis Bovell feat. Janet Kay
- Corean Jamaican Connection, Powerslave - Dennis Bovell & Yoonkee
- Dub Outside (2011), Double Six - Steve Mason & Dennis Bovell
- Mek it run (2012), Pressure Sounds
- Back to ska with Spahni's Dub Dancers (2013)

Discographie - Dub Dancers

2000 "Cabatterista"

Personnel: Daniel Spahni (drums, perc, keyboards), Greg Arbogast (bass, melodica, perc), Didier Landolt (guitar, perc), Laurent Viennet (guitar), Fred Letté (tenor sax), Sebastian Piekarek (alto & baryton sax), Allan Tidbury (bass trombone), Nick Tidbury (trumpet, flugel horn), Pier-Luigi Pisino (guitar), Vartan Fau (hammond C3 organ), Cesar Evora (perc), David Bonavita (perc), Steve Gregory (flute, soprano sax), Victor "Fizze" de Bros (piccolo)

2004 "Sunny Spot"

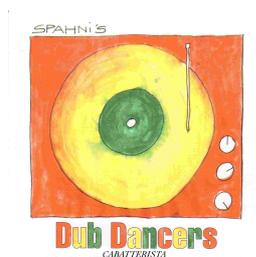
Personnel: Daniel Spahni (drums, perc, keyboards), Gino Berchicci (bass), Greg Arbogast (bass), Didier Landolt (guitar), Cédric Vuille (guitar), Laurent Viennet (guitar), Pier-Luigi Pisino (guitar), Fabio Marchiori (keyboards), Christina Lubello (melodica), Samuel Blaser (trombone), Allan Tidbury (trombone), Nick Tidbury (trumpet), Fred Letté (tenor sax), Sebastian Piekarek (alto sax), Steve Gregory (tenor sax)

2013 "Back to ska"

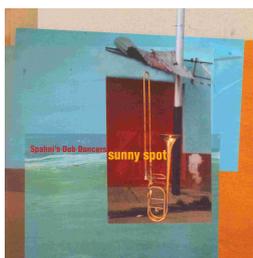
Personnel: Daniel Spahni (drums), Ivan Bessire (bass), Claude-Alain Biederman (keyboards), Cyprien Rochat (guitar), Phil Balmer (trombone), Samuel Blaser (trombone), Fred Stalder (trumpet) et Lionel Perrinjaquet (alto sax), Special guest: Dennis Bovell (vocal), Phil Santschi (vocal) & Samuel Blaser (trombone).

2015 "Across the rain and between drops"

Personnel: Daniel Spahni (drums), Ivan Bessire (bass), Claude-Alain Biederman (keyboards), Cyprien Rochat (guitar), Phil Balmer (trombone), Samuel Blaser (trombone), Fred Stalder (trumpet) et Lionel Perrinjaquet (alto sax), Special guest: Dennis Bovell (vocal), Phil Santschi (vocal) & Samuel Blaser (trombone).



cabatterista (2000)



sunny spot (2004)



back to ska (2013)



across the rain and between drops (2015)

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