

# FRANCESCA REMIGI ARCHIPÉLAGOS

*presents*

## IL LABIRINTO DEI TOPI

*- out on January 5th, 2021 -*



THEFOGHOUSE  
photography



# **LINE UP**

***Claire Parsons:*** vocals, effects (LUX)

***Federico Calcagno:*** bass clarinet (IT)

***Niran Dasika:*** trumpet (AUS)

***Simon Groppe:*** piano (FR)

***Ramon van Merkenstein:*** double bass (NL)

***Francesca Remigi:*** drums, compositions (IT)

**Album Recorded at Tube Recording Studio  
(Roma, IT) on July 13th & 14th 2020**

**Record Label:** Emme Produzioni Musicali

**Recording Engineer:** Francesco Lupi

**Mixing/Mastering Engineer:** Stefano Spina

**Photo Credit:** Patrizio Previtali

**Graphic Designer:** Silvia Carbotti

**TOTAL TIME: 54,17 min**

## **ARCHIPIÉLAGOS BIO**

Archipélagos is a jazz progressive band born in Bruxelles in May 2019 and led by the drummer and composer Francesca Remigi. Archipélagos was one of the finalist at the *Maastricht Jazz Awards 2020*, and winner of *All You Have to Do is Play 2019* and *Nuova Generazione Jazz 2021* (ItaliaJazz).

The band performs in festivals and venues all over Europe, such as the Rassegna in Montagnola 2020 (Festival della Balotta, Bologna), Jazz Maastricht 2020, So What's Next? Jazz Festival 2020 (Eindhoven), Roskam Brussels 2020,... Archipelagos' first album *// Labirinto Dei Topi* gets published in January 2021 by the Italian label Emme Produzioni Musicali. Compositional solutions and refined sounds inspired by modern jazz, by contemporary classical music, by progressive-rock music, by Indian Carnatic music, by electronic music and free jazz characterize the unique aesthetic of this ground-breaking musical proposition, melting pot of different cultures and musical heritages.



## USEFUL LINKS

**ALBUM FOLDER:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1x11ZxXLG6Am3lmT3pILcDmy6aF8S9MkC?usp=sharing>

**WEBSITE:** <https://remigfrancesca.com>

**INSTAGRAM:** [https://www.instagram.com/fraremigi\\_drums/](https://www.instagram.com/fraremigi_drums/)

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/fraremigidrums/>

**YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjZhYiuTCxwwZtonTfxebYg/videos>

**SOUNDCLOUD:** <https://soundcloud.com/francesca-remigi>

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## FRANCESCA REMIGI BIO

Milan-based musician, Francesca Remigi is a polyhedral drummer, an inquisitive improviser and a visionary composer from Bergamo, Italy. Winner of *Nuova Generazione Jazz 2021 (I-Jazz)*, Francesca is known for her international collaborations in the avant-garde and free improv jazz scene featuring musicians such as Steve Lehman, Joachim Florent, Kris Davis and many others, with appearances at EFG London Jazz Festival 2020, Brussels Jazz Weekend 2019 and Una Striscia di Terra Feconda Jazz Festival 2020.

In 2019, Francesca's band Archipélagos won the competition *All You Have to do is Play*, launched by the label Emme Produzioni Musicali. In January 2021, this Italian label published Francesca's first album as a leader *Il Labirinto Dei Topi*. Archipélagos was also one of the three finalists at the Maastricht Jazz Awards 2020.

The BGJI Master student Francesca Remigi has also participated in many different masterclasses and artistic residencies, such as UmbriaJazz 2012, SienaJazz 2018, Banff Jazz Residency 2019 directed by Vijay Iyer and Tyshawn Sorey, La Casa del Jazz Artistic Residency 2020, organized by MIDJ association.

## In Stéphane Galland's words:

*"Il Labirinto dei Topi" by Francesca Remigi is an album full of surprises, of various moods, daring musical approaches and extremely creative, interesting and exciting music. Francesca is not only a talented drummer, creative and original composer, she's also a true leader and surrounds herself by some of the best young talents to express her personal vision that won't leave you indifferent. In the end, all I wish to say is that I just LOVE this album and won't be able to express all the reasons why. Have a listen, but be aware... high addiction risk."*



## WHERE TO WATCH ARCHIPÉLAGOS:

**BE BEAR AWARE:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pG8tt7aEShM>

**GOMORRA:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKUI12z551I>

# ALBUM DESCRIPTION

## In Steve Lehman's words:

*"Ever since I've known Francesca, she has had an uncompromising vision as both a performer and a composer.*

*Her new recording is one of the most exciting debut albums I've heard in recent memory."*

The album ***Il Labirinto Dei Topi*** draws its inspiration from some socio-political concepts theorized by writers such as Noam Chomsky, Zygmunt Bauman, Roberto Saviano, Samuel Huntington and William McNeill, and aims to express some of the key notions of their thinking through music, such as the liquidity of social relationships, the decadence of the concept of "society" as perceived nowadays, the capitalist free market- based economy's failure, the evolution of mafia-like criminal organizations, the weapons' trade growth, the development of an almighty and unbridled individualism...

The ultimate goal of this music is to represent and denounce examples of social dysfunction and decadence, connected with some of the principals explained by the above-mentioned authors. The mathematical and rhythmic rigor of the compositions, influenced by Indian Carnatic music, wants to symbolize that kind of "Matrix" highly organized society which oppresses and controls his subjects through Social Media and Corporations. That is contrasted by moments of radical free improvisation, metaphor of individuals rising up against pre-established social schemes, and by moments predominated by a marked individualism of one or more members of the band (solo sections), who might eventually find a shared way of communication through collective improvisation. So, at the end, what this music tries to transmit is a positive message of solidarity and hope in the human kind, where music turns out to be a way for people to stick together and to feel a sense of belonging to the same community (Archipélagos), even maintaining their own individuality. That's actually the meaning of the band's name: Archipélagos, which is the Spanish translation of "groups of islands", symbolizes people's attempt to gather together through music, and find alternative ways of supporting each other, while denouncing society's crimes.

Compositional solutions and refined sounds inspired by modern jazz, by contemporary classical music, by progressive-rock music, by Indian Carnatic music, by electronic music and free jazz characterize the unique aesthetic of this ground-breaking musical proposition, melting pot of different cultures and musical heritages.

# TRACKS DESCRIPTION

The single ***Il Labirinto Dei Topi*** ("The Rat's Labyrinth"), recalls a cognitive scientist Edward C. Tolman's sociological experiment made on rats: a bunch of rats is forced into a labyrinth provided with some food at the exit of it. Humans observe the rats' behavior while the animals seek the maze's exit and the food, quickly learning their way through the labyrinth. The observers do not care about the sense of hunger and struggle felt by the rats during their path into the maze; they're just interested in the scientific outcomes of the experiment. I think that's a strong metaphor of humans' life and existence: we try hard to succeed in what we do and to make a difference in the world, but then we just might be trapped in some kind of fated scheme in which individuals are just numbers whose existences are driven by some unknown superior social plans. In this apocalyptic scenario, music and art can be the tool which saves some fundamental values of sharing, of mutual support and community, and bring awareness about humans' social condition.

TEASER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AihSiMRnJRK>

The track ***Gomorra*** takes inspiration from the eponymous book written by the Italian author Roberto Saviano, where he describes the particulars of the business of the Camorra, a powerful Neapolitan mafia-like organization whose main activities focus on money laundering, racketeering, drug dealing and counterfeiting. This composition sharply portrays a cross section of the Italian degraded economical and social reality, brought to his knees by this parasitic gang.

The piece ***Scherzo*** is also connected to ideas of social dysfunction and standardization: it describes the kind of "Matrix" highly organized society which oppresses and controls individuals through globalization and consumerism. In fact, mass-media and corporations create and impose stereotypes which people try to imitate, causing loss of individuality and critical thinking. This song is meant to denounce the lack of human diversity due to the unstoppable globalization process, and to highlight the feeling of uncertainty and distrust towards the ruling oligarchy.

Another track called ***Intermezzo*** is inspired by Griséy and Murail's Spectral music, by Contemporary Classical music, and deals with quarter tones and sound spectra. ***The Shooting*** is a piece which was composed to honor the victims of Las Vegas Strip shooting (October 2017), and which more broadly denounces crimes committed because of legal (and illegal) weapons trade. ***To Vijay*** and ***Tiger Study*** are instead two pieces composed in homage to two great pianists who deeply influenced my writing: Vijay Yier and Tigran Hamasyan. The last track entitled ***Be Bear Aware*** is a composition that was written during an artistic residency at the BANFF Center for the Arts and Creativity, located in the Banff National Park (Canada), and famous for his richness and variety of fauna, which includes elks, deers, wolves and... bears!