

THE PARROT'S TONGUE

a ready-made of speech



creation 2027 les harmoniques du néon



les harmoniques du néon

"We seek to encounter places, spaces, and their uses. We love to listen, to capture sounds, voices, and situations, considering speech as a site of interaction between the intimate and the social, and language as a sound and musical event"

Anne-Laure Pigache & Anne-Julie Rollet

Les Harmoniques du Néon is a company based in Grenoble, active since 2012 and co-directed since 2018 by Anne-Laure Pigache (vocalist, performer) and Anne-Julie Rollet (electroacoustic musician). Together, they create polymorphous artistic forms (installations, concerts, shows, performances, radio pieces...) that question listening, the musicality of language, and social situations.

Their work lies at the intersection of sound poetry and electroacoustic music. Their preferred "instruments" are the voice, the REVOX (tape recorder), and the radio, which they use, among other things, as loudspeakers in acousmonium-type setups.

The activity of Les Harmoniques du Néon is prolific and revolves around stage creations, commissions, training/workshops, research laboratories, and artistic practice workshops conducted with various groups of people encountered in institutional settings (schools, nursing homes, psychiatric facilities, specialized care centers, etc.). Different artistic teams are assembled depending on the nature of the creations. They perform in all types of locations: indoor, outdoor, everyday, institutional, alternative, dedicated or non-dedicated, ordinary, museum, school, medico-social, or even on radio waves.

Les Harmoniques du Néon works through a network of diverse partners, ranging from organizations dedicated to contemporary music to multidisciplinary creation venues or festivals.

The company is in residence at Malraux, National Stage of Chambéry and Savoie, until 2027. It is subsidized by DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and the City of Grenoble (2025-2027). In 2026, it receives project support from the Department of Isère, the House of Contemporary Music, La Coopérative – Network for Musical Creation DRAC PACA, and ADAMI. It is a member of Futurs Composés, the French national network for musical creation.

the project

The Parrot's Tongue is a sound piece written and produced by Anne-Laure Pigache and Anne-Julie Rollet. It stems from their shared appetite for conversation, the subversion of language, choirs of spoken voices, radio, and a wealth of trials and experiences accumulated during previous sharing sessions and workshops with amateurs or professional ensembles. It proposes a shift in speech and conversation, addressing unique relationships to listening, to the places we cross, and to the stories they carry, as well as the multiple and intimate ways of inhabiting stories that surpass us.

The Parrot's Tongue is a mixed participatory piece performed on stage by Anne-Laure Pigache, Anne-Julie Rollet, and a group of about ten people, composed either of musicians or amateurs (musicians or not) recruited for the occasion, varying with each performance. The principle of the participatory setup relies on the "parrot game" an experience we have all had when younger, repeating exactly the sounds and words, intonations and pitches of a third person—until exhaustion! Here, everything is orchestrated: at each performance venue, a choir of voices is formed. Each participant is asked to «repeat» exactly everything they hear through an individual headset—until music emerges.

It is both a fixed media work and an *in situ* piece: from performance to performance, a common sound section coexists with another section written specifically for the venue and/or with the performers. Thus, each new presentation of *The Parrot's Tongue* is different, as it is interpreted by a new group of people and partially recomposed for the context in which it is played.

the rules of the game

Les Harmoniques du Néon uses a radio control system that allows sound to be sent simultaneously to one or several headsets quite simply. The rule of the game is simple: the person wearing the headset is invited to repeat exactly the sounds or words they hear in the headset (details of the sound writing follow below).

Les Harmoniques du Néon has commissioned Anne-Julie Rollet and Anne-Laure Pigache to create a piece based on this specific setup.

musical composition

TWO FORMS OF COMPOSITION - The composition of *The Parrot's Tongue* takes place in several stages:

- First, there is an electroacoustic composition that will be broadcast through several loudspeakers during the performance. This electroacoustic piece consists of field recordings captured and then recomposed during the various residencies for this project. It is fixed and will be used for every new edition of *The Parrot's Tongue*.
- Second, there is a mixed electroacoustic composition, updated for each performance context of *The Parrot's Tongue*. This part is broadcast into the performers' headsets. It is composed mainly of words recorded during the various residencies, but also of field recordings and electronic sounds. This part is reproduced by the performers who imitate, with their voices, this sound tape. This choir of spoken-sung voices is directed live by Anne-Julie Rollet and Anne-Laure Pigache, who use two modes of direction, detailed below.

A DUAL DIRECTION - The direction of this choir is ensured on one hand by Anne-Julie Rollet, via the headset system explained above. This system literally allows sculpting the choir of speech: Who speaks? When and how many people speak/vocalize/sound at the same time? Which solo follows which tutti? The performers serve the choir. They are not always aware of what is being produced—they trust the situation and experience being "the voice of another."

Another direction is provided by Anne-Laure Pigache, whose improvised voice is broadcast live into the performers' headsets. She plays a lead role that the choir imitates. Depending on the instructions given to the performers, they either imitate this "extended voice" proposal or make a "translation" of it with their bodies or even with an instrument.

A working session with the group interpreting the piece is therefore set up for each performance: the interpretive play is adapted and adjusted to the specifics of each group and the context in which the score must be played.

what is it about ?

To speak is to take up space, to expose oneself. *The Parrot's Tongue* calls upon sensitive speech, the kind that speaks from oneself, from one's perceptions, from what concerns us here and now in the contexts we inhabit. It is about narrating our daily expertise, about engaging in what is said. The writing is designed to integrate, into each session of participative re-creation, a conversation situated in the context where the piece is performed:

- With Lucilin Ensemble, a group of virtuoso musician-performers, the question was: "What is it to be afraid on stage?"
- With the residents of Sault, the question is: "How do we listen to our living spaces?"
- With the participants in Chambéry, the question is: "Where does the grand story reside in your own story?"

The challenge, of course, is to identify where these intimate words concern us all. Through the very principle of the setup, an intimate speech can be shared and carried by another voice: perhaps to feel more deeply what we have in common?

creation process

GENERAL CONTEXT - Anne-Laure Pigache and Anne-Julie Rollet particularly enjoy blending and playing with the voice of the other in their practice, to listen to its musicality, its singularity, to lose oneself in another's voice, to speak without worrying about meaning because the words take care of it, and sometimes to embody one or several other people simultaneously. This is work they have championed in various creations since the company's birth in 2012, up to their latest show, *Ce qui nous reste* (*What remains to us*), created on February 5, 2026, in Dijon (Biennale Souffle - ici l'onde - CNCM Dijon and Théâtre Dijon Bourgogne, in France).

UNITED ENSEMBLE OF LUCILIN - In September 2025, the Lucilin Ensemble (Luxembourg) invited Les Harmoniques du Néon to join their season-opening concert. On this occasion, Anne-Laure Pigache and Anne-Julie Rollet devised an improvisation setup that constituted a first attempt at *The Parrot's Tongue*. The experiment was successful; the musicians embraced it with appetite and curiosity, inspiring the musicians to push the reflection further.

RED NOTE ENSEMBLE - Building on this experience and following an invitation to the SoundFestival in Aberdeen, Scotland (UK), scheduled for October 2026, Anne-Laure Pigache and Anne-Julie Rollet have proposed to the Red Note Ensemble to reprise the setup imagined for Lucilin.

LE MILIEU / LE PHARE A LUCIOLES - Simultaneously, Le Milieu / Phare à Lucioles in Sault (84) invited Les Harmoniques du Néon to imagine an *in situ* creation, linked to the dynamic of this venue which works around sound sharing in the heart of the city. Anne-Laure Pigache and Anne-Julie Rollet then had the idea to propose a creation based on exchanges and conversations about listening, recorded within the city. Gradually, the desire to deploy *The Parrot's Tongue* took shape, as a new stage in the deployment of the setup into a form that is close, almost definitive, to what could then be duplicated in different contexts. Presented on December 15, 2026, it will associate a choir of about ten amateur participants with a sound creation made in Sault (France).

MALRAUX, NATIONAL STAGE OF CHAMBERY AND SAVOIE - To finalize the composition of this piece, Les Harmoniques du Néon approached Malraux, National Stage of Chambéry and Savoie, with whom they have been associated since 2024. In addition to the musical creation, this will also be an opportunity to deepen the relationship with a group of performers and define the protocol that will allow the piece to be transposed elsewhere with other performers.

mentions

Production Les Harmoniques du Néon

Co-productions & Residency Hosts Malraux, National Stage of Chambéry and Savoie; Le Phare à Lucioles, Sault, with the support of La Coopérative – Network for Musical Creation DRAC PACA

Supports DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes ; Department of Isère ; Ville de Grenoble ; Maison de la Musique Contemporaine

Les Harmoniques du Néon is accredited by the DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and the City of Grenoble (2025–2027). It is a member of Futurs Composés, the French national network for musical creation.

Remerciements United Instruments of Lucilin (LUX) ; Red Note Orchestra (UK)

contacts

Les Harmoniques du Néon (France)

Les Cies Réunies / Théâtre des Peupliers
2 rue des Trembles, F-38100 Grenoble
lesharmoniquesduneon@gmail.com

Artistic Direction

Anne-Laure Pigache: +33 (0)6 63 24 66 70
Anne-Julie Rollet: +33 (0)6 20 72 47 61

Administration | Production

Martin Planque +33 (0)6 72 34 13 76 | coordination@lesharmoniquesduneon.com

Diffusion | Communication

Capucine Jaussaud +33 (0)6 84 28 88 34 | bonjour@lesharmoniquesduneon.com

