**Wonderfool, open-hearted music**

***An album, clips and concerts in preparation, but not only ... Wonderfool wants to explore a new approach to music by putting it at the service of transmission. The ingredients are simple: dancing and energized pop-electro, based on humanistic texts by the founder of NonViolent Communication. The Wonderfool adventure is moving forward ...***

In the heart of the Cévennes, John Lennon met the Daft Punk. And together they played music! No trace of this episode is found among historians and music chroniclers, but the scene did well and truly happen in the bubbling mind of Stephan Crestani. Fine connoisseurs of pop music remember the album *Le long des lignes (Along the lines)*, released by the group *Blanc* on Major EMI / Capitol. It was him – yet in a former life. Since then, Stephan has allowed a few turns, pushed the reflection and learning, until becoming a coach in NonViolent Communication (NVC). *"To dare non-violence in the world today requires courage and inspiration. Fortunately, some have paved the way, such as Ghandi, Luther King, Mandela and many others ... I have been particularly transformed by the work of Marshall Rosenberg, the founder of NonViolent Communication. NVC is an approach that promotes relationships that are both true and caring and it has already helped resolve conflicts in couples, companies and even communities that have been at war for years all over the world. "*

While delving into the thought and texts by the American founder of the movement, Stephan came up with the idea to orchestrate this fusion. Arrived at the crossroads of his life, he was somehow in touch with the obvious: *"I realized that the two big pieces of the puzzle of my life were intertwined, with music and transmission. On the other hand, it is not at all the same posture, because the purpose of this new musical experience is much wider ".*

Now open to the values ​​and methods of the NVC, Stephan privileges the relationship and relies on the texts of Rosenberg to convey the keys that have transformed his life: *"Everything started with a small loop of music, which I played with participants during a coaching session where I was a participant. We sang and had a very good communion time. From then on, the flow of inspiration has kept open and I turned to music a dozen texts ".* The conceptual setting thus planted, everything remains to be built and imagined. To expand the project, our man does not lack ideas that stick to the original desire to bring people together – organizing workshops in schools, giving concerts-exchanges in prisons, dancing in public places, or other inspiring happenings, always in order to create a bond. And as fantasy is as summoned as ambition, Stephan even dares to amalgamate the birth name bestowed to the adventure – it will be Wonderfool!

Giving birth to this beautiful idea reconciled with his passion, the musician wants to be surrounded to make it a collective project. He travels the roads of France and Europe to audition female singers. The evidence was yet within earshot, within the eco-village that Stephan co-founded with friends in the town of Arrigas – since you are told that indeed everything can happen in the Cevennes! In this small community of fifty people, the talent and sensitivity of Ninka Nassif do not go unnoticed. So Stephan offers her to play the game, just for a go, unaware that an emotional shock could occur. *"It touched my heart,"* Ninka recalls at the mention of this first audition when her cheeks were beaded with tears of joy. On the electro-pop sounds she experiences, she does not evolve in her usual voice register. Ninka has been an accomplished artist, a dancer since her early childhood and she integrated a band at age thirteen. Converted to music after back problems, she blossomed with ILHAAM PROJECT, a duo that toured concert halls and festivals throughout France, Hungary, Venezuela and Israel.

**Nans Thomassey: "I consider that singing is like a can opener to open people’s hearts"**

The first two links of the Wonderfool chain are assembled, Stephan and Ninka rapidly agree on the desire to expand the group. *"On this project, I do not carry out my lyrics or my music,"* Ninka explains*. "This is essentially Stephan's job, so I encouraged him to move back to the centre of the project. With the idea that I and others will form around him a rainbow of personalities and voices".* The process is bearing fruit and through the encounters, Stephan invites into the band a couple of new female singers, Chloé Monin and Charlotte Natsumi Crouzet, as well as the multi-instrumentalist Akemi Fujimori: "*Wonderfool is a collective with variable geometry, according to the type of places and interventions where we are asked to go. We can operate with a team from two or three people, but as soon as context and availability allow it, the coaching session may grow and even welcome new guests. For example, for the concert-workshop that we are going to give on the 3rd of August as part of the international peace festival in Besançon, the whole team will be gathered ".*

A whole team – this means including Nans Thomassey, who joined Wonderfool after being subdued with the concepts of sharing and encountering as defended by Stephan, in total agreement with the values ​​he carries. The director of the documentary series *Nus et culottés (The Nude and the Cheeky)*, rather an amateur guitarist and singer himself, even sees a close nearness between his films and the project Wonderfool: *"I immediately saw that we were talking about the same thing, the relationship to the other, with different media. And I consider that singing is like a can opener to open people’s hearts. I always have a guitar with me and I am aware that music has the power to create encounters. What can be done around a table or around a fire with a guitar, can be done on a much larger scale with this project ".*

*It's a wonderful world*, Louis Armstrong sang – and he also expressed an optimistic vision of humans gathered and listening. As with a wink, Wonderfool extends this purpose and adds its stanzas, in a form of challenge to modernity.

**Louis Doucet**