

EUROPEAN LAB

# Nuits sonores<sup>®</sup> Lab

13–17 MAY 2026 LYON, FRANCE

## 5 days to connect and strengthen our interdependencies

**Nuits Sonores Lab, the festival's discourse programme, curated by European Lab, presented its 2026 edition under the theme In(ter)dependencies from 13 to 17 May. More than 80 French, European and international speakers came together to discuss the need to strengthen the independence of culture, media and technology, to better understand and counter systems of predation, and to reinforce our social ties and collective resilience. The programme unfolded across all festival venues: Hôtel71, HEAT, Les Grandes Locos and La Sucrière, and featured, for the first time, a dedicated radio stage integrated into the Nights programme.**

### **Collaborating within the independent cultural and media sectors.**

To counter a threat, it must first be named. This was the objective of the European network led by Arty Farty, **Reset!**, through its recent work mapping concentration within the European music sector. To address these issues, Nuits Sonores Lab welcomed **Emma Rafowicz**, Member of the European Parliament; **Patrick Kearney**, Director of the Canadian independent festival network Le REFRAIN; **Stéphane Krasniewski**, President of the union, the Syndicat des Musiques Actuelles (SMA); and **Erica Romero Pender** from network Live DMA, all actively engaged in supporting independent contemporary music. The discussion highlighted the strength of cooperation among diverse players



committed to sustaining and developing the independent music ecosystem.

The cultural battle is also being fought on the field of information. Investigative media outlet *StreetPress* invited **Lumi** from *Blast* and **Reha Simon**, co-founder of the decolonial media platform *Histoires*

*Crêpues*, to explore strategies that can help independent media thrive in today's information landscape, amid ideological disinformation and the growing influence of opinion-driven media.



**Meredith Whittaker**, President of the secure messaging app **Signal**, also delivered a clear-eyed and timely address on the challenges of digital independence and the need to resist monopolistic dynamics within the technology sector.



Strengthening independence also requires access to the right tools and knowledge. Workshop participants explored how to challenge Western biases within the cultural sector alongside artist **Kikelomo** from *Oroko Radio*. Similarly, **Paye ta vie d'artiste !** and *Manifesto XXI* highlighted the importance of understanding labour rights and trade unionism for cultural workers.

In terms of cooperation, renewed partnerships with **Adami** and **Sacem** helped connect emerging artists from the region. Meanwhile, the inaugural **Lab**

**Connect** programme brought together European professionals attending the festival through a series of dedicated networking sessions.

### Strengthening our social resilience

In partnership with Observatoire des multinationales, Nuits Sonores Lab welcomed **Laurent Mauduit**, co-founder of Mediapart, for a talk examining the links between business circles and the far right. Drawing on the lessons of the last century, he explored why these alliances pose a threat to democracy, notably through the work of historian Johann Chapoutot and his book *Les Irresponsables*. Building on her expertise in lobbying and influence networks, journalist **Aurore Gorius** then expanded on these relationships and the mechanisms that sustain them.

**Amandine Gay** presented her latest book, *Vivre, libre*, which examines the recognition of white supremacy as a political system of racial oppression. Drawing on experiences from her own life, she shed light on the dynamics of systemic racism and how they hinder the strengthening of interpersonal and social bonds. These discussions resonated with contributions from activist **Julie Pasquet** (*Le Bruit qui Court*), biologist **Olivier Hamant**, and activists **Aissetou Diawara** and **Manel Bentefrit** (*Banlieues Climat*), who explored how culture and living systems can inspire and strengthen collective action.



## Independent Stages: Amplifying Artists' Voices

Throughout the week, Nuits Sonores Lab carried the voices of artists and their independent scenes. **Radio Lab**, the festival's radio platform, featuring notably *Radio Flouka*, *Seoul Community Radio*, *Stegi* and *Refuge Worldwide*, was broadcast across both the Days and Nights, showcasing a wide range of artists and scenes through conversations and DJ sets.



Each day, to open the Days programme, an Artist Talk took place on the Darse stage. Festival audiences were introduced to the diversity of Latin and Caribbean electronic music through the programme, **Tracks (ARTE)**, as well as to the difficult realities facing Iranian music scenes through a conversation with **Nesa Azadikhah**.



Finally, Nuits Sonores Lab integrated this year, **Ciné Lab**, a programme developed in partnership with the independent cinema **Le Comœdia**, aimed at extending these dialogues beyond the music sector. The documentary series by **TIMES (The**

**Independent Movement for Electronic Scenes)**, which documents the European artistic residencies of the project, was screened. The following day, the film *Sirāt*, followed by a masterclass with artist **Kangding Ray**, who composed the film's soundtrack, was presented to a full house.



Faced with political and economic pressures targeting the associative sector, as well as ongoing consolidation within the cultural and information industries, Nuits Sonores Lab positioned itself as a space for mutual support, solidarity, and alliance-building, aimed at strengthening our interdependencies.

## Contact

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