ZebRock : Le corps dans tous ses « états »

# ZebRock and their conference :

ZebRock is part of “Mélomanes”, a musical cultural project which aims to invite students of île-de-France high schools to discover new songs in their historical, social and cultural dimension. This project also aims to introduce students a professional sector

where they can learn how to listen and express their sensibilities in order to develop their critical mind and their creativity. This year Mélomanes proposed“Le corps dans tous ses états” (the body in all its states) that has something to do with the seniority of music.

Thousands of years ago, humanity sang, played instruments to express their emotions, to tell stories, to pace work, for weddings or even burial. Music was (and still is !) also a way to free the body and mind without carrying of what the society thinks about you.

# Amy Winehouse :

“I don't think I will become famous. I don't think I could bear it. I would probably go crazy. You understand ? I would go crazy.”

Declared Amy Whinehouse on the release of her first album, in 2003.

Born in 1983, Amy Winehouse is a soul and rock star, known for her strong voice. The londonner is initiated to jazz by her grand-mother who used to be a cabaret singer. In 2003, only 20 years old, Amy Whinehouse released her first album called “Frank”, a surprising mix between soul and rap with the hiphop producer Salaam Remi. The album

was well acclaimed and had a really positive review in the United Kingdom.

Three years later; in 2006, she worked on her second album with the American producer Mark Ronson. “Back to Black” became a hit, a best-seller worldwide in the first quarter of 2008 that allowed her to win 4 Grammy Awards.

But the explosive nature of the diva, her punk look with multiples tattoos and her outrageous make-up made her a perfect target for the English tabloids who bluntly evoked her addictions. Her tumultuous love life plunged her into crises, bulimia, alcoholism and substance addiction that would weaken her health.

Amy Winehouse is now at the top of her glory. The young lady multiplies concerts all around the world and starts a new european tour in june 2011 even if she doesn’t have the strength to sing. The talented woman will finally die from an overdose on the 23th of July 2011.

# Nina Simone :

A true icon of black American music, Nina Simone, whose real name was Eunice Waymon, was born in 1933 in North Carolina. Coming from a descendant family of slaves, the one who would become one of the greatest voices in jazz dreamed of becoming the first black classical pianist in history. His dream was shattered by racism and segregation at work in the United States. Because of her black skin, she was denied access to the Curtis Institute in

Philadelphia, a prestigious music conservatory. The piano, she would now play in bars and clubs where she tried, successfully, singing. She never stopped singing to denounce violence and racism and became involved in the fight for civil rights in 1963. She died in 2003, in France.

**3.Interviewing the artists…Singe and Mystic Gordon**

Why did you choose these nicknames ?

I feel like I haven’t chose the name, it chose me. It’s not merely a stagename, it’s actually become my name, that’s how people call me. It’s my identity. I guess it came at a time in my life when I was lost, and it’s all about a spiritual quest of finding and embracing my true self.

-How was your band created ?

The Zebrock association has this yearly project of half-lecture, half-show tour of Île-de-France high schools. They work on the structure of the project, choose the songs, and then get musicians together. Mystic has been part of the project for a while, and it’s my first year. I guess we make a pretty nice pair !

-During your presentation you covered many songs from differents artists, do you also make your own songs ?

Yeah, we both do, separately. Mystic produces records for others and has his own project (Super Chaton). As far as I’m concerned, writing songs and playing them on stage is my main occupation : spreading the Monkey Word !

# 4- Our assessment:

First of, we think that the Mélomanes project is a really good initiative that will help students and young people to discover new perspectives of music and the world. This project will help young generations to express themselves better and to enlarge their culture.

Zoé C, Léna, Dylan and Nahel (106)