

# AJOYO



**Brooklyn based collective AJOYO performs a spellbinding brew of Jazz , Soul and African traditions promoting justice and challenging xenophobia.**

*"one of the most interesting new bands in the New York Afro-rooted world music scene" (...)* **WORLD MUSIC CENTRAL (US)**

*"the music exudes sophistication, yet responds to a primordial pulse" (...)* **ALL ABOUT JAZZ (US)**

*"Ajoyo's uncontainable energy and extremely detailed musicianship elicit a level of beauty, grace, and fun that few artists can attain" (...)* **THE DAILY VAULT (US)**

# ABOUT AJOYO

Hailed for the vibrant eclecticism and socially conscious engagement of its eponymous 2015 debut, the spellbinding jazz-world ensemble AJOYO returns in an unstintingly rhythmic and inspired melodic mode on its sophomore release ***War Chant***. Alongside saxophonist/bandleader **Yacine Boularès**, the album features a deeply attuned working lineup with vocalist **Sarah Elizabeth Charles**, keyboardist/producer **Jesse Fischer**, bassist **Kyle Miles**, guitarist **Michael Valeanu** and drummer **Philippe Lemm**.

The explosive rising-star vibraphonist and Blue Note recording artist **Joel Ross** makes a cutting appearance on “**Syzygy**,” while trumpeter **Takuya Kuroda** lends his brassy assurance on “**Assyko**,” Lake Street Dive vocalist/keyboardist **Akie Bermis** lays down stone soul on “Jojo’s Groove” and South Africa’s **Vuyo Sotashe** sings movingly alongside Charles on the poignant “**Better Love**.”

The band’s deep and unrelenting groove, virtuosic improvising and effortless command of sonic and compositional detail makes ***War Chant*** a thrill from start to finish.

Boularès and Charles began working together in 2009 soon after Boularès arrived in New York, though the founding of AJOYO came later. “We happen to have very similar immigration stories,” says the saxophonist. “Sarah is American and Haitian, and it’s through music that she has maintained a relationship with Haiti. I’m French Tunisian, and although I grew up between Tunis and Paris, it’s through music that I’ve put back together the pieces of my fragmented identity. I also have strong ties with the Haitian community as the saxophonist in Tabou Combo for the past six years. That’s had a huge influence, traveling with them to Mozambique, Cape Verde, all over the Caribbean. They were pioneers, exploring uncharted territory. The grooves and structures are very complex and sophisticated, and that really influenced my compositional process — keeping track of many different parts, thinking about the arc of the song, the dramaturgy.”

In addition to his work with AJOYO, Boularès has founded the first contemporary Arabic culture festival at Joe’s Pub in New York, coming in October 2020. He is a Fulbright Laureate, a grantee of the Brooklyn Arts Council and the Arab Fund for Culture and the Arts, and a recipient of the 2015 French American Jazz Exchange (for his album *Abu Sadiya* with Vincent Segal and Nasheet Waits). In November 2019 toured the American South — the type of engagement that has fostered intra-band dialogue on how to make a stand and call out injustice without alienating an audience. “It’s become a necessity for me to fight back through art and culture, with the underlying idea that ignorance leads to hatred,” Boularès says. “Exposing people to our worlds and our stories develops empathy, regardless of their political views.”

# MEDIA

## VIDEO

**"Same" live at Jazzahead Festival  
Bremen, Germany 04/26/2019**

**"Invitation" live at Joe's Pub NYC  
11/18/2019**

**"Benskin" live at Jazzahead Festival  
Bremen, Germany 04/26/2019**

**"War Chant" Lyrics video  
album version**

**PRESS: AJOYO live at  
Hammamet Festival 2017 & interview  
Radio Misk**



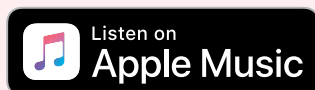
# PHOTOS





## AUDIO

click icon for audio tracks



## SOCIAL MEDIA



[www.ajoyomusic.com](http://www.ajoyomusic.com)

## CONTACT

### Booking world

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## PERSONNEL

Sarah Elizabeth Charles vocals  
Yacine Boularès saxophones  
Michael Valeanu guitar  
Jesse Fischer keys & piano  
Kyle Miles bass  
Philippe Lemm drums



# TECH RIDER

## **REQUIRED INSTRUMENTS**

### ***DRUMS***

20 bass drum, 10 or 12 tom and 14 floor tom  
14 snare drum , 3 cymbal stands, drum throne (pref round)  
Monitor on left side next to hi-hat stand

### ***PIANO-KEYBOARDS***

Acoustic grand piano (Yamaha or Steinway preferred)  
Nord Electro 5D 61 Keys  
Moog Little Phatty  
(2) X-style single-tier keyboard stands  
(2) DI boxes (Radial Pro-series preferred)  
(1) piano style sustain pedal (Yamaha FC4 preferred)  
(2) expression pedals (Yamaha FC7 preferred)  
(1) drum throne with round seat  
Keyboards stacked at 90 degrees to piano, to the right side. Two wedges required — one to the left of the piano and one to the right of the keyboards. Same monitor mix.

### ***GUITAR***

VOX AC 30 or Fender twin reverb  
Guitar stand  
Quad box

### ***BASS***

Aguilar or Ampeg amplifier  
Guitar stand

### ***VOICE***

Boom mic stand  
Two XLR cables (one line coming from board)  
Power access at feet  
(Using a TC Helicon VoiceLive Touch 2 Pedal)

## ***7 STAGE MONITORS***

### ***INPUT LIST***

CHANNEL 1: lead vocals: 1 vocal mic + DI BSS audio AR133 for multi effect pedal  
CHANNEL 2: saxophones: 1 DI + 1 mic type Sennheiser MD421-II  
CHANNEL 3: DI keyboard  
CHANNEL 4: Percussions  
CHANNEL 5: Percussions  
CHANNEL 6: Electric bass DI +miced bass amp  
CHANNEL 7: Drums overhead  
CHANNEL 8: Drums overhead  
CHANNEL 9: Bass drums type beta 98  
CHANNEL 10: Snare top type SM57  
CHANNEL 11: Snare bottom type SM57  
CHANNEL 12: Hi-hat  
CHANNEL 13: Guitar DI + miced amp  
CHANNEL 14: Vocal Mic: talk + background vox (sax)  
CHANNEL 15: Vocal mic background (guitar)  
CHANNEL 16: Vocal mic background (bass)