



# SKOKIAAN

## BRASS BAND

### CONTAGIOUS ENERGY AND A UNIQUE ARTISTIC APPROACH

Drawing inspiration from the energy of New Orleans brass bands, the Skokiaan Brass Band enriches its music with funk, soul, jazz, Afro-Caribbean, and African influences. Since its creation in 2013, this collective of eleven musicians, based in the Lyon region (France), has been offering vibrant and warm music that appeals to all generations.

### HISTORY AND ORIGINS

Founded by François Rigaldiès, saxophonist, composer, and arranger, the Skokiaan Brass Band was strongly influenced by a formative trip to New Orleans in 2015. This trip allowed the group to work with iconic figures such as Kirk Joseph, Kevin Louis, Roger Lewis, and Walter Harris. These musicians revealed to the Skokiaan Brass Band the essence of traditional jazz and brass band music, a transmission that took place in the intimate and inspiring setting of Chickie Wah Wah, a famous club in New Orleans. Transformed by these exchanges, the musicians returned with a repertoire inspired by second line, jazz, and funk, which continues to evolve through encounters and influences.

### DISCOGRAPHY AND COLLABORATIONS

In 2018, the group released their first EP, **WE NEED MUSIC!** (Blow Your Horns/Inouïe Distribution), a vibrant tribute to New Orleans. Then, in 2020, they released **THE FRENCH TOUCH** (Obstinato/Inouïe Distribution), an album produced by **KIRK JOSEPH**, founding member of the legendary Dirty Dozen Brass Band, which combines French standards and original compositions. It features guest artists such as Kevin Louis, Lisa Caldognetto, and Cindy Pooch.

In 2024, the group unveiled their second album, **SKOKI MAMA**, produced by three-time Grammy winner **SCOTT BILLINGTON**, a legendary American producer (Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Irma Thomas, Solomon Burke, The Soul Rebels). About this album, Scott Billington says: «This is a very exciting album with influences from New Orleans and several African nations, all with a French attitude and a very high level of musicianship. It's an undeniable and powerful statement that is always danceable and immensely enjoyable. Skoki Mama shows many new possibilities for the brass band format. It is a fresh sound, and I am proud to be a part of what the band has accomplished.» Recorded in France, the United States, Benin, and Ghana, this album reflects ten years of travel and collaboration. Prestigious guests such as John Boutté, Cynthia Abraham, Lisa Caldognetto, Kevin Louis, and the Harmony's Brass Band bring their unique touch to this opus.



OBSTINATO

## TRAVEL AND INSPIRATION

In 2022, the group was invited to the Togoville Jazz Festival (Togo) to give concerts and lead workshops. This trip marked a new turning point, enriching their music with African sounds such as highlife and Afrobeat. Two audiovisual creations emerged from this trip: the documentary **LOMÉ EN FANFARE**, which captures the emotion of human and artistic encounters, and the music video **TOGO TOUR 2022**, a musical and visual synthesis of this unique experience.

## A MISSION TO PASS ON KNOWLEDGE

The Skokiaan Brass Band places knowledge transfer at the heart of its approach. Since 2016, the group has been developing educational projects to share the culture of brass bands. These initiatives take the form of workshops, masterclasses, and collaborations with music schools, amateur orchestras, a prison, and the Jazz Academy in Vienne. The aim is to pass on the values of creativity, sharing, and freedom.

The group also offers a lecture-concert entitled «History, Music, and Resistance in New Orleans» for schools, retirement homes, people with disabilities, media libraries and more.

## PERFORMANCES AND RECOGNITION

With more than 200 concerts to its credit, the Skokiaan Brass Band has conquered prestigious stages in France and abroad: Jazz à Vienne, Jazz sous les Pommiers, New Morning, Crescent Jazz Festival, Togoville Jazz Festival, Verbier Festival... and many others. Each performance offers a vibrant and festive moment, carried by a contagious energy that captivates the audience.

## SKOKI MAMA TOUR 2025/2026

In 2025 and 2026, the Skokiaan Brass Band will embark on the **SKOKI MAMA TOUR** with a thunderous show directed and choreographed by stage coach Clément Vincent and choreographer Marie "Funky Boo" Houdin. This tour promises to transform each concert into an unforgettable celebration, combining flamboyant brass instruments, danceable rhythms, and universal emotions.

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



Contact band : François Rigaldiès – [contact@skokiaanbrassband.com](mailto:contact@skokiaanbrassband.com) / +33 6 62 43 02 95  
Technic : Jérôme Taton - [jerometaton.son@gmail.com](mailto:jerometaton.son@gmail.com) / +33 6 87 44 11 79

ADME-Obstinato (production and label) :

Administration : [obstinato.diffusion@gmail.com](mailto:obstinato.diffusion@gmail.com)

Communication : [obstinato.communication@gmail.com](mailto:obstinato.communication@gmail.com)