Website

Socials

ULYSSE LOUP

COMPOSER | BASS PLAYER | IMPROVISER

Ulysse Loup (1997, Geneva, CH) is a Franco-Swiss bass player and composer based in Geneva.

His work explores the meeting points between improvisation, new music, and contemporary jazz. On the electric bass, he shapes sonic textures, combining preparations and electronics, which unfold over complex rhythms and interwoven harmonies.

Passionate about travel and sailing, he draws inspiration from voyages across the ocean on small sailboats. His debut album, Apilaptok (2023), is a logbook of a sailing expeadition to Greenland. His latest release, 0°W (2025), tells the story of a transatlantic crossing by sailboat.

He collaborates with artists from diverse backgrounds and composes for theatre and dance productions. Born into a family of actors, he is passionate about Francophone literature and often composes with text.

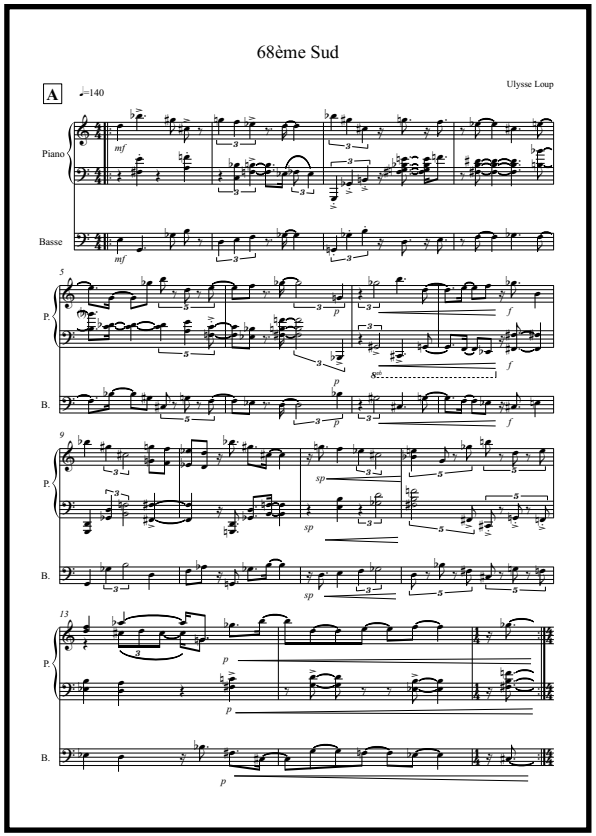
Ulysse composes and/or performs with numerous ensembles, mainly between Switzerland, Scandinavia, and Germany. He has had the privilege of sharing the stage with renowned musicians such as Django Bates, Jim Black, Ralph Alessi, Peter Bruun, Ronny Graupe, Stefan Schultze, among others.

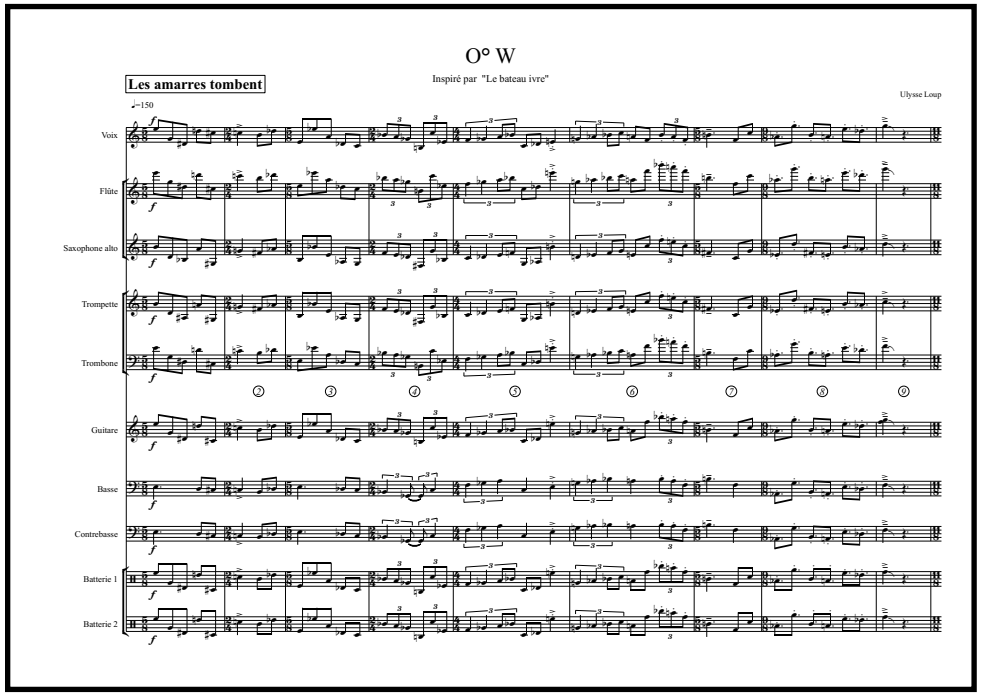
He studied in Geneva, Bern, and Copenhagen, earning master's degrees in composition and in performance.

COMPOSITION

RYTHMES | TEXTES | TEXTURES | ATONAL | TRAVEL

There is a constant in Ulysse Loup's music: his relationship to lived experience. Each composition tells a story, a journey, a meeting, an expedition; it may be a transatlantic sailing crossing (see *0°W*) or the depiction of a moment aboard a sailboat in Greenland (see *68ème Sud*). Movement becomes the primary source material, developed through different tools.





Rhythm is often at the center of his compositional process. Ulysse Loup is fascinated by the interweaving of pulses, beats, and what they evoke within us. For example, in his large ensemble, two percussionists may conceive of the meter in different ways.

The sonic dimension is essential: Ulysse improvises with his prepared instrument and, like a palette of colors, organizes the sonic space and translates it into his compositions. In this way, a long twelve-tone melody may be accompanied by the sound of chains rubbing against a microphone.

Deeply engaged with the relationship between composition and improvisation, he composes with specific musicians in mind, seeking to project his aesthetic onto each artist's musical personality.

ELECTRIC BASS

PREPARATION | ELECTRONICS | MOTORS | EXTENDED TECHNICS

Concert in an old prison, Copenhagen (DK)

Passionate about reappropriating his instrument, Ulysse Loup has developed a wide sonic palette using preparations, objects, and electronic effects. Sometimes imitating natural sounds, such as the cracking of an iceberg, and sometimes reproducing electronic textures, he draws inspiration from the various soundscapes he has collected through lived experience.

This practice exists in dialogue with a more traditional approach to the instrument. Ulysse enjoys blending these two worlds and creating contrast between sounds that bear no apparent relation to the electric bass and others that remain recognizable. He is also drawn to the performative aspect of preparation, allowing the audience to wonder how the sounds are produced.

Bass preparations

In the photo with his duo Loup / Heid, they take over a vast space—an abandoned prison—where they present an immersive concert built on sonic textures. An upright piano lies on its side next to the bass, and all these micro-sounds are amplified to form a dense sonic mass. The audience moves freely through the building's three floors, exploring its unique acoustic properties.

Listen to the concert

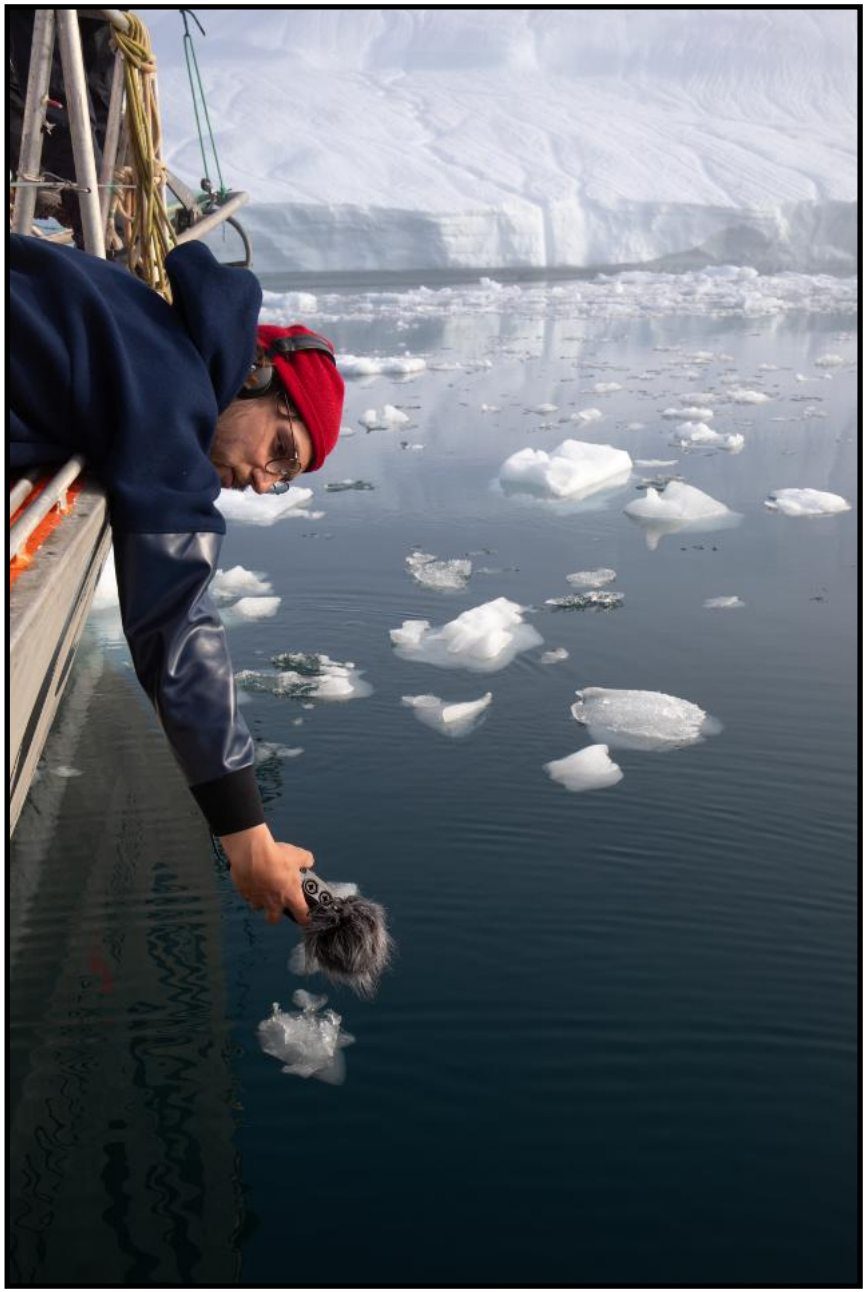
LA MER

GREAT NORTH | DOCUMENTATION | CLIMATE CHANGE

Artistically documenting large transforming spaces is a project that is particularly close to Ulysse Loup's heart.

Having sailed across the Atlantic Ocean with his parents at the age of 10 on a small sailboat, he has maintained a deep connection to the sea ever since. Now holding an offshore sailing license, he has taken part in several artistic residencies in Greenland aboard sailing vessels. He has also crossed the Atlantic three times with the environmental organization Oceaneye, which works to combat plastic pollution, contributing to research on the impact of human activity on the oceans.
Through his compositions, he reflects these lived experiences, his encounters, and his relationship to climate change. His first album *Apilaptok* takes the form of a logbook from an expedition between Iceland and Nuuk, the capital of Greenland. Beyond inspiration, these experiences form the core material of his artistic practice, with each piece rooted in the water.

Single cover created by French artist Alaïs Raslain. They took part in an artistic residency together in Greenland.



Documentation in Greenland

CONCERTS

BASS PLAYER | BAND LEADER | ON TOUR

Ulysse Loup has performed internationally as a bassist and/or project leader. He has played more than 300 concerts in Switzerland, France, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Cape Verde, and the Netherlands. This represents an important part of his work.

A list of his concerts is available on his website:

https://ulysseloup.com/concerts

List of concerts

INTERDISCIPLINARY

THEATRE | DANCE | PROJECTIONS | TEXTS | LANGUAGES

Musikfestival Bern, 2024

Born into a family of actors from Geneva, Ulysse Loup was immersed from an early age in the world of culture and artistic performance.
Curious and eager to question the concert format, he collaborates with artists from diverse backgrounds.

He has composed and performed in theatre, dance, and contemporary performance productions.

Passionate about literature, Ulysse Loup approaches text as he does musical notes. Born in a multilingual country, he enjoys creating bilingual pieces in French and German.

« Je ne puis plus, baigné de vos langueurs, ô lames,
Enlever leur sillage aux porteurs de cotons,
Ni traverser l'orgueil des drapeaux et des flammes,
Ni nager sous les yeux horribles des pontons. »
Excerpt from *The Drunken Boat* by Arthur Rimbaud

In the photo, this is a collaboration between multimedia artist Ludmilla Mercier, scientist Janosch Beer, and Ulysse Loup. The performance explores glacier melting from both an artistic and scientific perspective. Music intertwines with theatrical performance and the glaciologist's presentation. Art, science, and perhaps a touch of activism.

0°W - ULYSSE LOUP LARGE ENSEMBLE

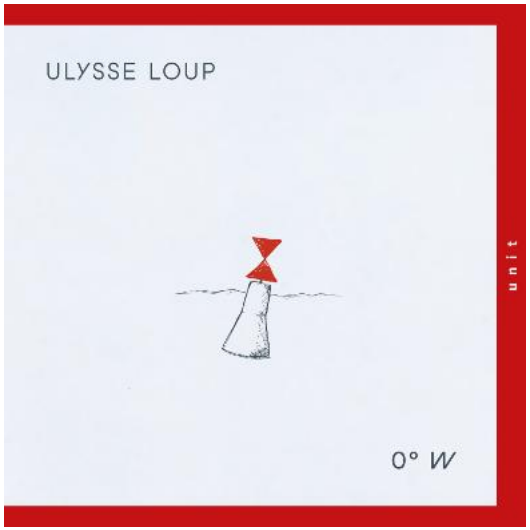
LARGE ENSEMBLE | POETRY | TRANSATLANTIC

Stormy and serene, organic and mechanical, bassist-composer Ulysse Loup presents his new album: *0°W.*
The ten-piece large ensemble sets Arthur Rimbaud's poem The Drunken Boat (Le Bateau ivre) to music. The album charts the course of a dreamlike transatlantic sailing voyage, where surrealist poetry meets contemporary jazz. Interwoven rhythms and sea-inspired sonic textures transport the listener through sea spray and dreams of Elsewhere.
Having crossed the Atlantic under sail three times, the composer weaves salt-scented memories into the poem. Two drum kits mark an unsteady pulse; the bass creaks like a ship's deck, accompanied by guitar. Flute, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone act as foghorns, while a voice narrates the odyssey. On the cover, a West cardinal buoy attempts to show the way, to ward off the longed-for shipwreck.
Les amarres tombent (The Moorings Fall Away) opens the extended piece, followed by the excitement of departure in Hystérique (Hysterical), the arrival in the open sea with Pleine Mer (Open Sea), and the end of the journey in Un noyé descend (A Drowned Man Sinks). The album closes with the desperate cry of the water-drunken boat: Oh que j'aille à la mer ("Oh, let me go to the sea").

Ulysse Loup: Electric bass & composition
Damaris Brendle: Voice
Ludmilla Mercier: Flute & spoken words
Mireia Pelissa Martín: Saxophones
Paul Butscher: Trumpet
Pere Molines Tur: Trombone
Anna Kalk: Guitar
Benjamin Jaton: Double Bass
Flo Hufschmid: Drums
Damien Kuntz: Drums

ALBUMS SELECTION

COMPOSITIONS | IMPROVISATIONS | TRIOS | TENTET | TRAVEL

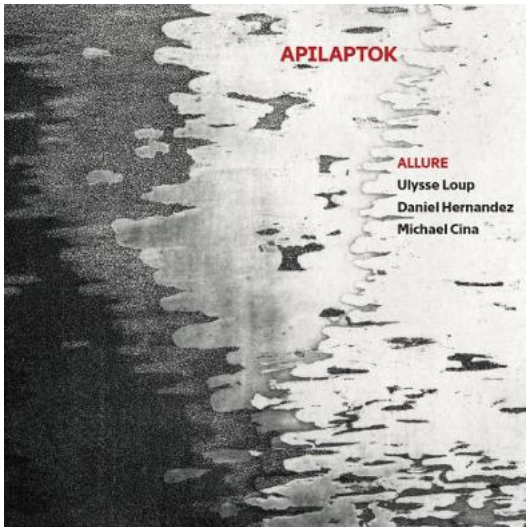


0°W - Ulysse Loup Large Ensemble

Listen to the album

Dualité Cohérente - Noblique

Listen to the album



Apilaptok - Allure

Listen to the album