

Stéphane Galland – drums

Belgian drums phenomenon Stéphane Galland was born into a musical family and received his first drum set at the age of three.

When he reached the age of nine, he decided to take lessons in classical percussion at the conservatory at Huy, Belgium and started playing jazz with his fellow pianist Éric Legnini two years later. At the age of 13, having had the opportunity to play with the best jazz musicians in Belgium, he developed a growing interest in this musical field, and studied its entire tradition, back from the original New Orleans masters all the way to the most daring avant-garde pioneers.

At the age of 16, Stéphane and Éric Legnini joined veteran bassist Jean-Louis Baudoin to form Jeanfrançois Prins' first quartet as a leader.

Always in search of new musical experiences, Stéphane met Pierre Vandormael, Fabrizio Cassol and Michel Hatzigeorgiou, and later with the last two, formed the band called AKA MOON. The band, which recorded over 20 CDs and performed worldwide (Europe, Africa, Asia, the United States, Canada, South America, the Caribbean Islands, India...), has been a unique and invaluable field of development and experimentation with different musical traditions. This led Stéphane Galland to record and perform with the Malian star Oumou Sangare, Senegalese master Doudou N'diaye Rose (Miles Davis, Rolling Stones, Peter Gabriel...), the South Indian master of Mridangam Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman, the Turkish master of percussion Misirli Ahmet, and many different artists from Africa, India, Asia, Europe and America.

Besides this huge body of work, Stéphane Galland has been performing and recording with numerous famous artists from different horizons including Joe Zawinul, Joe Lovano, Toots Thielemans, Philip Catherine, Mark Turner, Robin Eubanks and vocalists Ozark Henry, David Linx, Axelle Red, Zap Mama, Novastar as well as many different groups using new developments in rhythm and harmony such as Dhafer Youssef, Nguyễn Lê, Nelson Veras, Thôt, Kartet.

Stéphane was the drummer for many special projects including African Voices (with Oumou Sangare, Me'shell Ndegeocello, Baba Sissoko), Aka Moon & 600 children (with a unique gathering of a 600 Children choir), Homage to Jaco Pastorius (with Toots Thielemans, Othello Molineaux, Felix and Julius Pastorius, etc...), to Jeff Buckley (with Marie Daulne (Zap Mama), Kris Dane & David Linx), Homage to Friedrich Gulda with Martha Argerich, Alexander Rabinovitch and Gautier Capuçon, Philippe Boesmans' opera "Wintermärchen" (on Deutsche Grammophon), Anne-Teresa de Keersmaeker Rosas Dance Company "In Real Time" and more than 260 shows with Alain Platel's widely acclaimed "VSPRS" and "Pitié!".

In the summer of 2011, he founded his own project called "LOBI", exploring multiple ancient musical traditions in a modern, futuristic and alchemistical approach. Stéphane Galland's "LOBI" is a meeting of some of the most sought-after musicians today, coming from different traditions: Magic Malik on Flute and Vocal (Guadeloupe/Ivory Coast), Malcolm Braff on piano (Brazil, Senegal, Switzerland), Petar Ralchev (Bulgaria), Misirli Ahmet on percussion (Turkey) and Carles Benavent

on bass (Spain). He released his first album as a leader, "Lobi" in 2012, featuring pianist Tigran Hamasyan.

Starting in January 2014, Stéphane Galland has joined Ibrahim Maalouf for his worldwide tour "Illusions", his unique project around "Alice in Wonderland" together with French rapper Oxmo Puccino, and the project "Red & Black Light".

In 2018, the international jazz project called SHIJIN (with Stéphane Galland, Jacques Schwarz-Bart, Malcolm Braff, and Laurent David) released their eponymous record "SHIJIN" on French independent record label alter-nativ.

In late 2018, Galland released his new personal endeavor: Stéphane Galland & (the mystery of) Kem, a highly sophisticated concept album in which he "visits the rhythmical roots where all the musical traditions that he has rubbed together and integrated into his own language converge and explores a specific space that allows the integration of all these concepts". For this album, he surrounded himself with talented young musicians Sylvain Debaisieux, Bram De Looze, and Federico Stocchi, plus guests South Indian Carnatic Flute player Ravichandra Kulurand Ibrahim Maalouf.

Stéphane Galland has been teaching drums, rhythm, and ensembles in different schools and conservatories in Belgium (presently teacher at the KCB, Royal Music Conservatory of Brussels) and France, and gives seminars, clinics and master-classes worldwide.