

# INSTANTS CHAVIRÉS SUSPENDED

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## NO RETURN TO WORK FOR THE INSTANTS CHAVIRÉS

On Thursday July 2nd 2009 we were informed, by email and without prior consultation, that the balance of the operational subsidy allocated to our Association by the General Council of the Seine-Saint-Denis Department had been slashed by 25,000€. Add to this reduction a drop of 7000€ in municipal subsidy, and the Board of Directors of the Muzziques Association, with the agreement of the Instants Chavirés staff, decided to suspend the Autumn programme in its entirety, judging that the financial conditions necessary to continue had not been met. All concerts and exhibitions planned for the period between September and December were accordingly cancelled.

On July 22nd, we requested a meeting with the principal political figures involved, Claude Bartolone (Président of the General Council of the Seine-Saint-Denis Department) and Dominique Voynet (Mayor of Montreuil). On August 3rd, an assistant in charge of Cultural Affairs in Montreuil informed us of their intention to bring together all the financial backers of the Instants Chavirés with a view to "stabilising the future" of our organisation. On August 20th we met a member of the Mayor's cabinet who assured us of the local authority's willingness to organise a "round table" in an atmosphere favourable for dialogue.

Today we are still waiting for a date to be fixed for this meeting, and live in hope of a response from the General Council, who have remained totally silent to date – an attitude which, in addition to the lack of explanation behind their decision to axe our budget, can only be interpreted as irresponsible, arbitrary and unfair.

Though the difficulties we are faced with primarily concern regional autonomous bodies, the fact remains that the State has to assume its responsibilities, too; our Ministry of Culture, increasingly inadequate when it comes to supporting live events, is handing over the management of whole areas of the performing arts to the regional authorities, who, themselves caught up in the difficulties of decentralisation, are struggling to find their footing. In such a climate we see how difficult it is to make our voice heard.

But we shall not abandon our mission, nor turn our backs on our vocation: to affirm the necessary presence of a venue for contemporary creation in Seine-Saint-Denis, a venue whose extraordinary artistic fertility needs neither introduction nor justification. We demand an end to the politics of asphyxiation through repeated budgetary readjustments, this after nearly twenty years' requesting a regular and dependable financial framework that would allow us to guarantee and develop our activity.

Let us take advantage of this editorial then, this programme without a programme, to remind readers of the originality of the Instant Chavirés project and the place it occupies in the cultural landscape.

It was back in February 1991 that the Instants Chavirés in Montreuil began its 18-year-long journey, one that has seen a small performing space in the suburbs of Paris become rapidly and lastingly one of the essential venues for musical creation in France.

Despite limited resources, the Instants Chavirés developed an original concept and acquired, over the years, an international reputation for refusing to compartmentalize genres, welcoming numerous musical practices belonging to many diverse fields of experimentation and sound creation.

Tirelessly continuing to explore the concept of arts laboratory, the Instants Chavirés has, since 2004, embraced audiovisual art – through video projections and collective exhibitions in the former Bouchoule brewery – as another tool for exploring contemporary creation.

## What is the Instants Chavirés?

An intermediary space born from an association which

- explores fields of artistic creation ignored by existing cultural policy and the entertainment industry;
- makes up for the deficiencies of and corrects the false assumptions of the above cultural policy;
- guarantees the emergence of artistic diversity and hence its revitalization;
- is an essential part of regional development which, in a correctly functioning economy, contributes to the richness of the artistic offer made to the public.

And above all, the Instants Chavirés is a human adventure, a space to work, experiment and create in, operating in close and friendly proximity to both the public and the artists themselves, as confirmed by the 4600 signatories (up to and including the 20th of September) to our petition. Go to: <http://instants.mollo.fr>

We offer our wholehearted thanks to those who have already signed the petition and demonstrated their support by writing to elected officials.

To find out more about the Instants Chavirés, you can download all relevant information regarding our History, Annual Reports and Budgetary Information for 2008 from our site: [www.instantschavires.com](http://www.instantschavires.com)