



DOSSIER DE PRESSE

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For 10 years now music also carries passengers “Short story of the Metro’s Musicians”

With its 380 stations and its million passengers, the metro represents a real city under the city. Most passengers are usually in a hurry. However sometimes at the bend of a passageway or a connection, they stop enthralled ...

A musical tone, a tap dancing beat, a voice that echoes, a ventriloquist speaking to its monkey toy...From Saint Lazare to Montparnasse by way of the Champs Elysées, who are these entertainers that give a public performance everyday on the metro and that share their talent with the public?

The RATP forges a particular link with these performers. For several years now, it offers them a privileged place to express their artistic ability, authorising many entertainers to practice their talent on the metro and RER’s corridors, in the most favourable conditions for them and for passengers.

And if every trip was an invitation to a public performance...

To the 4.8 million passengers who travel each day on the metro, the RATP provides the opportunity to live their trip differently (poetry, artistic exhibitions). It initiates musical instants to their customers, to reintroduce in everyday life emotional feelings that sometimes bring about a metamorphosis on passengers.

To generate these musical instants and develop the conviviality of transport locations, the RATP has established a structure that is devoted to musicians: “l’Espace Métro Accords” (EMA).

“L’Espace Métro Accords”

Since its origin the Paris metro is frequented by musicians in search of an artistic recognition as well as a place to perform.

In 1977, the RATP initiated a policy of animation of its networks and notably by means of music, with the first one: Metro Molto Allegro. Then in 1989, the RATP in cooperation with an association of street and metro musicians authorized each year a hundred musicians to give a public performance in the metro.

Faced to the surge of musicians, the RATP introduced in 1997 a more consequent structure, “l’Espace Metro Accords (EMA) **in order to respond to two objectives: offer to the passengers occasional cultural activities on its network while carrying out a social action in favour of musicians that are in search of professional opportunities and a place to perform.**

The innovation of EMA lies in the organisation of castings prior to the accreditation of the musicians. EMA selects semi-professional musicians for the most and even professionals, who seek above all a place to perform to test their repertoire.

Its operation...

Since September 1997, the EMA selects the artists and musicians authorized to practice their art in the corridors of the metro. Twice a year (in spring and autumn) about 1000 artists audition in front of a jury made up of RATP personnel. The selection takes place on the criteria of musical quality, presentation and the artist’s motivation. **The hearing committee grants about 350 accreditations a year** ensuring diversity and talent of the applicants. This selection is the insurance that the passengers will profit from a musical recreation that is of quality.

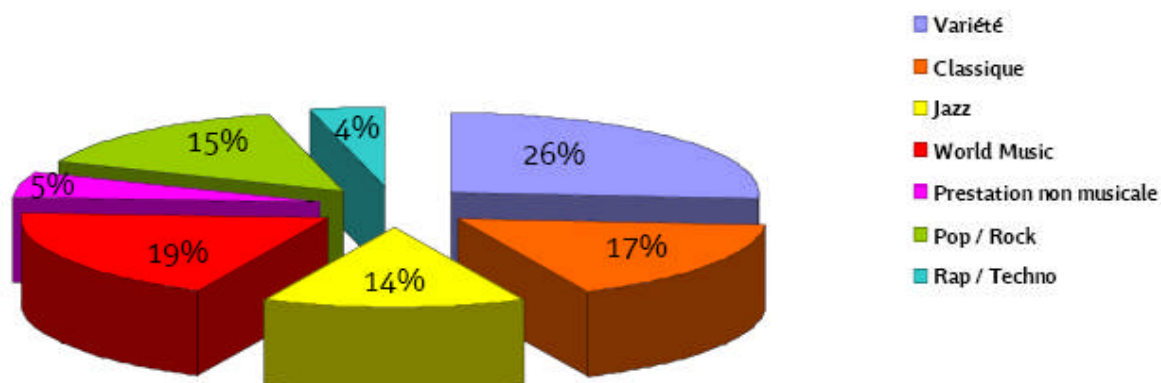
In the event the artist is selected, he receives a badge and an authorisation to perform in the metro and RER networks (except on platform, inside trains, and in the RER station Châtelet-les-Halles).

In addition, the many request coming from variety show organisers led EMA to widen its activity to that of “impresario”. It brings together musicians and show business professionals, and institutions that requests it.

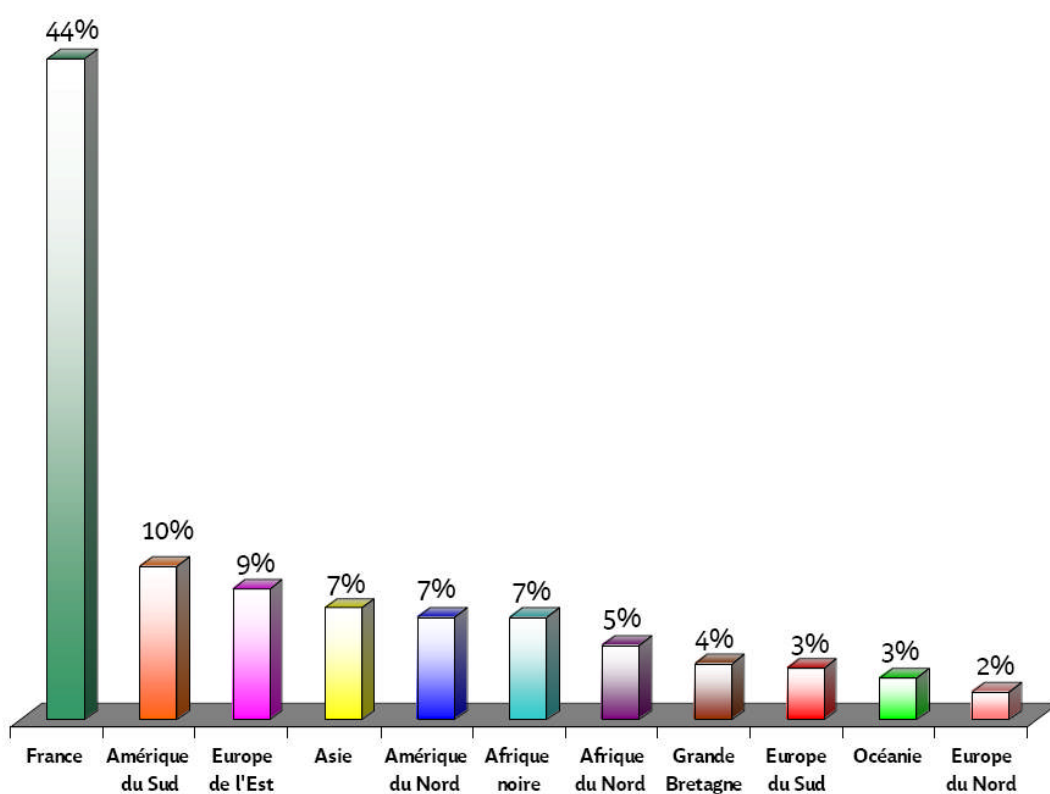
But who pushes the metro to sing...

If musicians are men and women (47% women and 53% men), they favour the individual musicians since they are nearly 65% soloists against 22% of groups, or 13% of duos and trios.

Musical diversity has great worth, all types of music have the right to exist in the metro, and even other types of entertainment since EMA also grants authorisation to puppeteers, dancers, clowns, magicians ...



With the musical diversity there is an important cultural diversity, even if the French musicians are the majority in numbers, it is sometimes from far abroad that musicians come to play in the metro! Musicians from all over the world come to perform.



An album...

An album release is the best way to make known and praise those who practice their artistic ability with creativity at the heart of the city.

Among these artists performing on the metro there are some incredible musicians. The idea to bring them together in an album seemed the most appropriate way to praise their talent.

Connections, the first album of the musicians performing in the metro that reflects its ambience was released in 2003. In order to make a success of this compilation, the RATP concluded a partnership with Médiabonus production and the distributor Mélodie. It should be noted that the benefits were transferred to two charity associations.

Discovering talents...

And if it were in the metro that it all started

The metro has become one of the biggest concert halls. The metro has launched the career of a great number of well known artists. It enabled them to test their repertoire and capture and win over a public. Many musicians began their career in the metro and met with fame like Alain Souchon, Laâm, Khezia Jones, Manu Di Bango, Jacques Higelin, Touré Kounda, Dany Brillant, Ben Harper, Shola Hama...