



Hamsi Boubeker



le chant des profondeurs



PRESS KIT

HAMSI Boubeker - World music



HAMSI Boubeker

2 albums available on all platforms

*- HAMSI BOUBEKER, chante les berbères de Kabylie
- Le chant des profondeurs*

CONTACT

**info@hamsi.be
=32 473 28 46 64**

PRESS RELEASE

SPECIAL – INFORMATION

*Following the failure of the New York-based company Frederiksberg Records LLC (Vingaard) to comply with its contractual obligations, and upon the recommendation of HAMSİ Boubeker’s legal counsel, the artist has requested that platforms suspend the download and exploitation of the album *Le Chant des profondeurs*.*

This precautionary measure aims to safeguard the artist’s full rights, pending the album’s re-release under his own control.

As of now, two albums are once again available on all platforms.

*The artist has personally overseen the re-release of *Le Chant des profondeurs* and has taken this opportunity to also make available the album *HAMSİ Boubeker chante les Berbères de Kabylie*.*

Two Iconic Albums – Available on All Platforms

- *HAMSİ Boubeker chante les Berbères de Kabylie* – 1982
- *Le Chant des profondeurs* – 1988

Recorded in Brussels, these two World Music albums mark the early musical explorations of HAMSİ Boubeker. They offer a unique dialogue between Kabyle Berber tradition and influences from world music — Irish, Breton, and jazz — revealing a musical language that is both deeply rooted and distinctly open.

HAMSİ Boubeker – An Oeuvre Between Music, Memory and Commitment

A key figure in the Brussels artistic scene, of Kabyle origin (Algeria), HAMSİ Boubeker has, for over four decades, developed a singular and profoundly humanist body of work at the crossroads of cultures and disciplines.

Inherently multidisciplinary, his artistic journey is shaped by a constant dialogue between memory, creation, and transmission, where each form of expression enriches and extends the others.

A Musical Work with International Reach

According to data from SABAM, in 2022, HAMSİ Boubeker’s musical works crossed borders extensively, being broadcast in numerous countries worldwide, including the Netherlands, Algeria, Hungary, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Norway, Finland, Portugal, Cyprus, Vietnam, Romania, the Czech Republic, Austria, as well as the United States.

On digital platforms, in 2025, his song “*Pot Pourri*” confirms this growing enthusiasm, with over 1.4 million views on TikTok, reflecting increasing international interest in his musical universe.

Foundational Musical Roots

Before establishing himself in the field of visual arts, music was the artist’s primary mode of expression.

Trained at the conservatory of Béjaïa and later in Algiers, HAMSİ Boubeker developed an early vocal style that is both sensitive and deeply expressive.

Between 1979 and 1988, he recorded several major works, including *Le Chant des profondeurs* (1988), a landmark piece proposing an original dialogue between Kabyle Berber tradition and world music influences.

As early as 1976, he performed with his choir in France (Choralies of Vaison-la-Romaine), and later in England at the Leicester Festival (Europa Cantat).

Having settled in Belgium in 1978, he performed in numerous concerts in Brussels (Botanique, Ancienne Belgique, Forest National), throughout Wallonia, and in festivals in Ghent, Bruges, and Ostend.

In 1982, out of solidarity, he gave numerous concerts as part of anti-nuclear, anti-racist, and peace movements.

Between 1983 and 1984, he formed a new group with musicians of diverse origins, renewing his musical approach while preserving its Kabyle authenticity. He performed in Belgium, France, Germany (Moussem Festival in Düsseldorf), the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

In 1989, he composed the music for the documentary *KATEB Yacine, L’Amour et la révolution*, produced by the C.B.A.

A Committed Music

For HAMSİ, artistic creation is inseparable from humanist commitment.

Throughout his career, he has participated in numerous cultural and solidarity initiatives, expressing a universalist vision summarized in his own words:

“My songs are weapons that bring life.”

From Music to Painting – A Plural Imprint

A multidisciplinary Brussels-based artist of Kabyle origin, HAMSİ Boubeker has, since the late 1980s, developed a distinctive pictorial body of work.

His paintings—luminous, vibrant, and warm—draw their inspiration from the living memory of Kabylie. They depict scenes rich in emotion and authenticity, celebrating transmission, tradition, and the dignity of popular cultures.

Institutional Recognition

Based in Brussels since 1980, HAMSİ Boubeker actively contributes to the promotion of Kabyle and Mediterranean cultures.

In 1999, he was commissioned to design the decoration of the Lemonnier premetro station.

This station underwent a major renovation in 2009 in the presence of several ministers.

That same year, he was awarded the rank of Officer of the Order of the Crown by the Kingdom of Belgium, in recognition of his entire artistic work and humanitarian commitment.

Les Mains de l’Espoir – A Universal Artistic Project

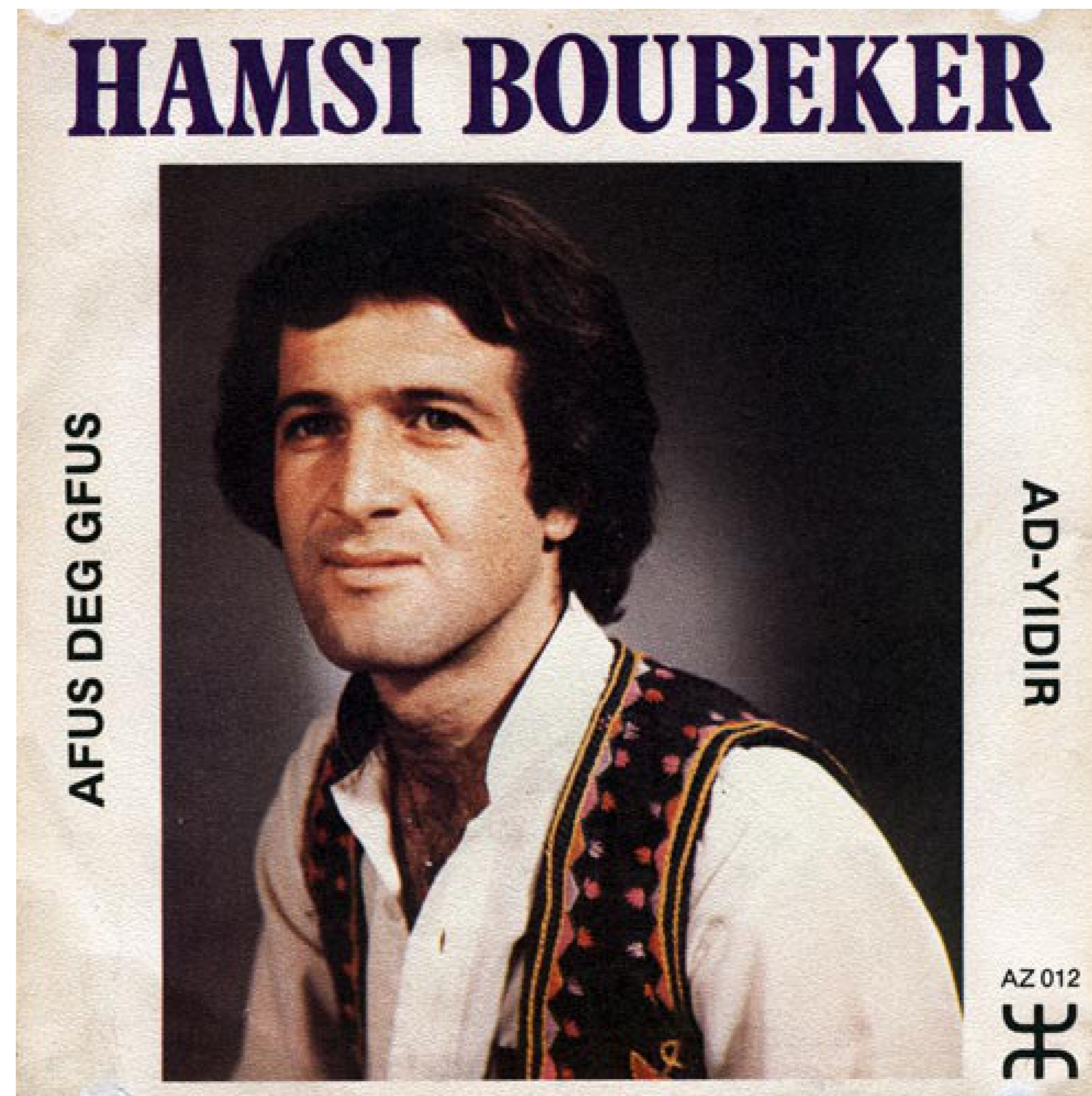
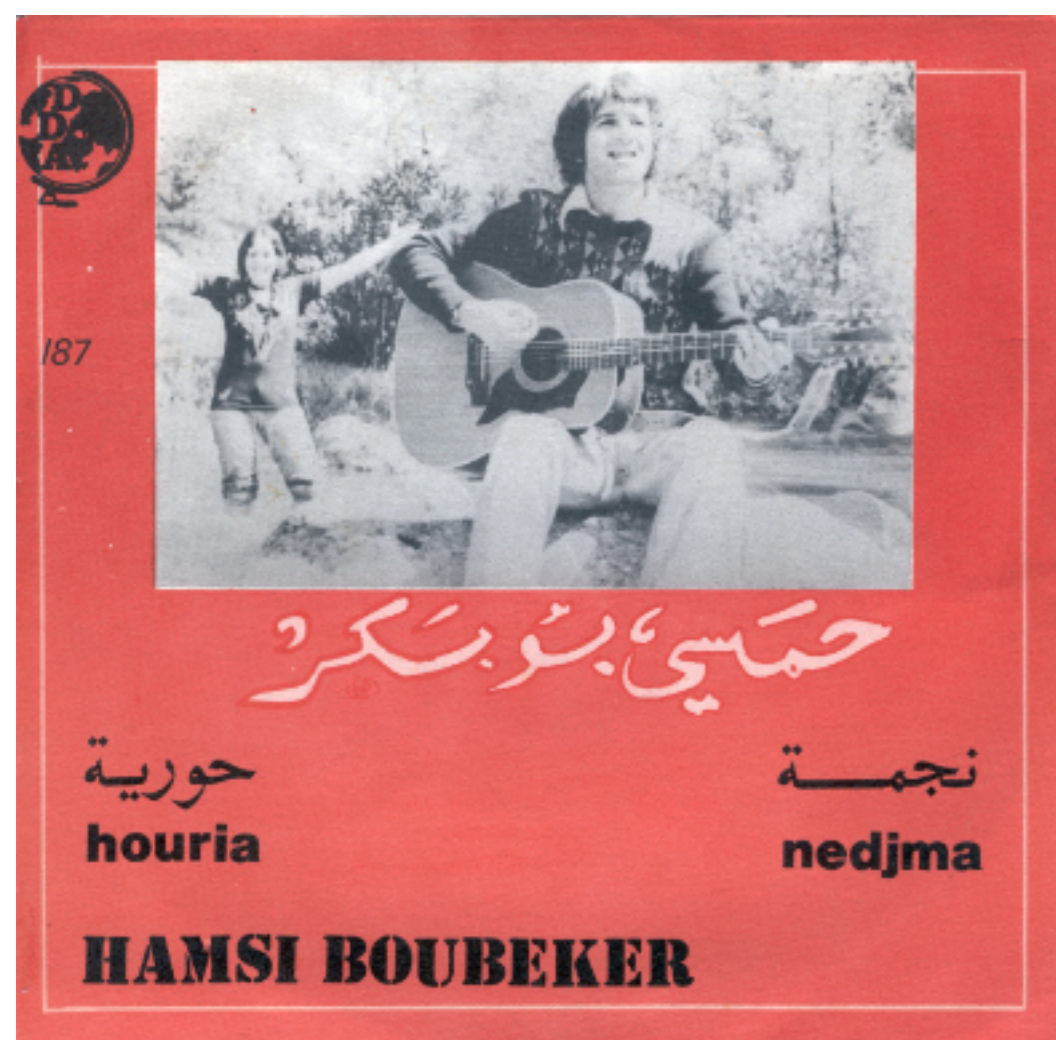
At the heart of his work, the project *Les Mains de l’Espoir* embodies a participatory and international artistic vision.



May 1982 – Concert held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Discography

- Si tu veux la paix prépare l'enfance, booklet / 7-inch vinyl – in support of UNICEF, 1988, Belgium
- AFUS DEG FUS, cassette – Azwaw, 1978, France
- Ad-Yidir, 7-inch vinyl – Azwaw, 1978, France
- CCNAN-UZEMUR, 7-inch vinyl – Azwaw, 1978, France
- HAMSİ Boubeker chante les Berbères de Kabylie, LP (12-inch vinyl) – Self-produced, Belgium
- Contes berbères de Kabylie – MEDIA ANIMATION, 1992, Belgium
- Le Chant des profondeurs, LP (12-inch vinyl) – Self-produced, 1995, Belgium
- Houria, 7-inch vinyl – Algeria
- Tameyra dit gurarin, cassette – Éditions berbères, France
- M'rahba, compilation – Dutch Radio, Netherlands
- Contes kabyles de mon enfance, CD (French version) – Cordon Musical ASBL, 2014, Belgium
- Le Chant des profondeurs – international distribution by Frederiksberg Records LLC, 2022





TAMEYRA DI TGURARIN 1' 50"
Ahmed Oumaziz/ Hamsi Boubeker

AXANAB 4' 01"
Ahmed Oumaziz/ Hamsi Boubeker

L'HENNI 3'47"
Traditionnel/ Ahmed Oumaziz/ Adaptation : Hamsi Boubeker

NNUBA B-WEM YAR 2' 15 "
Ahmed Oumaziz/ Hamsi Boubeker

EKERTE AN - NEDDU 3' 08"
Taourirt Hamid, Abdelli/ Hamsi Boubeker

SALAMO 2' 36"
(Tiré du répertoire de l'Ahellil - Timimoun)
Adaptation : Hamsi Boubeker

POT POURRI 2' 40"
Adaptation/Hamsi Boubeker

ABRIDIW 3' 39"
Adaptation/Hamsi Boubeker

Hamsi Boubeker : Rythmique, Bendir, darbouka, guitare, Chant
R.G : Basse rythmique
J.P.A : Percussions, cangas - tambour
Afikir Mimoun : Bendir, percussions
Jeannot Gilles : Violons
J.P Coullon : Flûtes

Prise de son : Daniel Léoni, Studio :CARMELLE
Mixage : Hamsi Boubeker/Daniel Léon
Maquette : Alain Chang / Kris Hermann
Illustration : Alain Chang

HAMSİ BOUBEKER
chante les Berbères de Kabylie

Hamsi boubeker



le chant des profondeurs

M'RAHBA 6' 19"
Ahmed Oumaziz/ Hamsi Boubeker

LIBERTE 5' 06"
Meziane Rachid, Martin Nizet, Christian Noeds
Adaptation bernard Lescolier
Musique Hamsi Boubeker

LISTAAMAR 3'18"
Traditionnel/ Adaptation : Hamsi Boubeker

ITTEBALEM 4' 13 "
Hamsi Boubeker/Hamsi Boubeker

TANESLITHE 4' 36 "
Ahmed Oumaziz/ Hamsi Boubeker

SINE LETYUR 4' 30"
Taourirt Hamid, Abdelli/ Hamsi Boubeker

TAFETE 4' 15"
Ahmed Oumaziz/ Hamsi Boubeker

Hamsi boubeker : Chant, guitare, percussions, synthétiseur, voix
Deblèvre Ariane : Flûtes (traversière, indienne, irlandaise), ghaïta, voix
Geoff Leigh : Saxophone ténor, baryton
Deblèsme Pierrot : Guitare électrique, acoustique, mandole, voix
Ongena Alain : Basse électrique
Narcisse Pierre : Batterie, congas, darbouka
El Afia Jalil : Bendir, darbouka, qaraqabou, hajouj, tablas, voix

Prise de son : Francis Delwell, Studio : D.E.S. Musicland – Bruxelles
Mixage : Hamsi Boubeker/ Mr. Sound Studio
Direction artistique, arrangements : Hamsi Boubeker
Illustration pochette : Hamsi Boubeker, Michèle Craps
Photo : Christian Collignon

Chants kabyles - Algérie
Bruxelles mai 1988

Le chant des profondeurs



HAMSI Boubeker

A Kabyle voice at the heart of world music

The two albums by HAMSI Boubeker each bring together eight tracks deeply rooted in the Kabyle musical tradition, while fully embracing the spirit of world music, reflecting its openness and universality.

Produced in Brussels in 1982 and 1988, these albums respond to a clear artistic necessity: to carry a music imbued with memory, identity, and intercultural dialogue beyond borders. At the crossroads of influences, HAMSI Boubeker offers a body of work in which the richness of Kabyle soundscapes meets a universal sensibility, reminding us that it is through harmony that differences are cultivated.

HAMSI Boubeker chante les Berbères de Kabylie and Le Chant des profondeurs thus stand as true odes to freedom, peace, and fraternity. This committed dimension was notably acknowledged by Kateb Yacine, who wrote:

“Here is another freedom fighter of song, HAMSI Boubeker. He carries weapons that do not kill, but weapons that give life.”

The lyrics explore universal and deeply human themes: freedom (Thillelli), hope (Tafete), celebration (Ittebalen), hospitality and the richness of diversity (M’rahba), freedom of expression (Adrar), as well as a profound attachment to Kabylia. The track Adrar highlights the issue of prisoners of conscience, a reality that persists across many contemporary contexts.

Through these works, HAMSI Boubeker positions himself within an artistic approach in which music becomes a universal language, capable of connecting people beyond borders. This perspective, intrinsic to world music, gives his compositions a distinctive resonance on the international stage.

These albums enabled him to perform on numerous stages in Belgium and abroad, as well as to take part in major festivals, contributing to the international recognition of Kabyle culture through a global artistic dialogue.

Alongside his musical career, the artist has also been actively involved on a voluntary basis with organizations such as Oxfam, Ligue des Droits de l’Homme, and UNICEF. Through his performances, he has supported numerous causes, including the fight against racism, nuclear disarmament, the defense of migrants’ rights, and the denunciation of injustice.

His work has also received broad media recognition, with numerous features and coverage across both audiovisual and print media.





"FETE DE LA CITE" – Mouscron – October 1980 – Recorded broadcast on RTBF



1982 - Radio qui Chiffe

THE PRESS

Several press articles and television programmes have given favourable reviews, both in Belgium (RTBF, BRT, TELE BRUXELLES, TV BRUSSEL, etc.) and abroad (Algeria, the Netherlands, Canada, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, etc.).

You can watch numerous videos featuring the artist on his YouTube channel. TV programmes, music videos, reports...



During filming for the RTBF news programme, alongside the renowned journalist Jacques Bredal

A la fête du 1er mai du Parti Ouvrier Socialiste

Hamsi Boubeker : un berbère de chez nous

Il y aura de la musique, à l'Ancienne Belgique le 30 avril. Hamsi Boubeker viendra, avec ses musiciens, nous dire dans une langue que nous ne parlons pas, des choses que nous comprenons fort bien...

Première question, peu originale : qui es-tu, d'où viens-tu ?

Je suis un Berbère. Je suis né en Kabylie, une région d'Algérie, à Bejaïa (Bougie). C'est une ville qui a d'ailleurs une vieille tradition culturelle et musicale. Je suis né en avril '52, en pleine guerre d'indépendance. Nous étions douze enfants, et mon père travaillait dans les mines ou au port. Avoir des pommes de terre à table, c'était une fête. En plus de la misère, il y avait la guerre, la mort quotidienne. Nous autres, enfants, nous ne comprenions pas pourquoi on se tuait, mais nous savions ce qu'était la mort : elle frappait dans notre famille.

J'ai été influencé par trois cultures. Bien sûr, la culture arabo-musulmane, mais aussi la culture française : à l'école, j'apprenais l'histoire ou les chansons de France. Et à la maison, dans les jupes de ma mère, je l'entendais exprimer ses joies et ses chagrins dans la langue berbère. La langue et les chants, car elle chantait beaucoup.

A l'indépendance, j'ai enfin pu me balader sans danger dans ma ville... et y découvrir un conservatoire traditionnel. Je l'ai fréquenté pendant six ans. Mais c'est à Alger, pendant mes études, que j'ai découvert le chant choral, les partitions, le solfège, la coopération entre musiciens, le respect mutuel que cela implique. (Note : c'est une atmosphère que Boubeker apprécie vraiment, puisqu'aujourd'hui devenu bruxellois, il participe assidûment aux activités d'une chorale de Saint-Josse !).

Quand as-tu commencé à écrire tes propres chansons ?

J'avais un peu plus de vingt ans. Je les ai chantées en France, en Angleterre. Les gens m'y disaient « Tiens, cela ne ressemble pas à de la musique arabe », parce que souvent, tout ce qu'ils connaissent, c'était la grande chanteuse égyptienne Oum Kalsoum. Mais rien qu'en Algérie, il y a tout un trésor musical, très divers : les musiques de Kabylie, des Aurès, du Sud... Même là-bas, les gens ne connaissent pas cette richesse. La musique kabyle, on m'en dit parfois : « Cela fait penser à la musique grecque, ou à la musique bretonne ! ».

Je suis « monté » en France, j'ai voyagé en Belgique, je n'ai pas pu rentrer en France à cause des lois



Le 21 mars à la Maison Internationale de Gembloux ; le 24 à la Maison Jeunes de Forest ; le 31 à Liège au gala Ecolo ; le 4 avril à Liège, Emulation ; le 7 à Bruxelles au Botanique ; le 21/4 à la fête tunisienne Maison Haute à Bruxelles. Et bien sûr, le 30 avril à l'Ancienne Belgique. Hamsi Boubeker a produit un disque que vous pouvez trouver dans les magasins Oxfam ou chez Media-Animation, 32 rue de la Caserne, Bru-

Stoléru... alors je me suis installé en Belgique et j'ai commencé à donner des concerts. C'était en 1960.

Où jouais-tu ?

J'ai joué dans énormément de fêtes de solidarité, anti-racistes, anti-fascistes... Souvent, on me disait : « Hamsi, on n'a pas un sou, mais c'est pour la cause », alors je jouais gratuitement, ou pour un cachet dérisoire. Cela m'a joué des tours, car en tant qu'indépendant, j'ai des sommes à payer, que j'aie joué gratuit ou pas. Aujourd'hui encore, je n'ai pas de chez moi, j'ai un toit grâce à la solidarité d'amis.

Dans ces fêtes, je touchais un public beaucoup plus belge que maghrébin, parce que les immigrés viennent peu nombreux à ces fêtes, la plupart du temps. Ils restent dans leur propre univers culturel. Mais quand on leur propose quelque chose qui leur est destiné, là ils viennent. Par exemple, lors d'un festival des cultures minoritaires qui s'est déroulé récemment à l'Ancienne Belgique, à Bruxelles. Là, ils ont l'impression de redécouvrir quelque chose qui leur appartient.

Et puis j'ai subi un grand choc, très

THE BELGIAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL - Avril 1987

Le poids des notes

Hamsi Boubeker est arrivé par hasard en Belgique. Depuis 1978, il y joue sa musique, ou plutôt celle de son pays. Avec succès.

Hamsi Boubeker est né en 1952 à Bejaïa. Dans la vie quotidienne de sa famille, au sens africain du terme, les femmes sont omniprésentes. Les hommes sont à la ville pour le travail et l'indispensable argent ! Au milieu de cette assemblée féminine, Hamsi vit entouré de chants, de danses, d'histoires racontées par les grand-mères qui les ont elles-mêmes apprises des aïeux. La guerre d'indépendance limite l'horizon de l'enfant à ce cercle plus ou moins restreint. Quelle richesse pourtant dans cette culture !

En 1962, l'Algérie naît. Le choc ! A dix ans, Hamsi découvre, sinon son pays, tout au moins la ville et ses environs. Bejaïa abrite un conservatoire de musique traditionnelle. Pour le jeune garçon, c'est la rencontre, avec de grands maîtres, de la richesse musicale : « Nous allions deux heures par jour au conservatoire. Cent-vingt minutes seulement pour tout ce qu'il y avait à découvrir ! Il y apprend le chant kabyle, andalou, populaire. On lui enseigne la maîtrise de la voix.

En 1968, la quête du baccalauréat l'amène à Alger. Son lycée possède heureusement une chorale dont, bien sûr, il fait tout de suite partie. Pour la première fois, c'est le contact avec la scène, avec le public : « J'ai découvert alors le chant polyphonique inconnu dans la musique traditionnelle ainsi que la lecture d'une partition ».

Hamsi Boubeker se lance à corps perdu dans l'aventure de la Chorale Polyphonique d'Alger : « Cet ensemble était composé d'étudiants algériens et de coopérants français. Notre but était de créer un véritable répertoire algérien de chants polyphoniques ».

En 1974, la chorale représente l'Algérie aux célèbres Chorales de Vézou-la-Romaine en



H. Boubeker

France : « Nous avons déjà souvent chanté en public mais ce fut une double révélation. Pour nous tout d'abord avec l'émotion intense que procure une prestation devant 6.000 personnes. Pour le public ensuite qui approchait pour la première fois la chanson algérienne ». Hamsi chante également en solo à cette occasion. De plus en plus, la musique est sa vie. Il compose régulièrement, dirige sa propre chorale et se produit encore en Europe avec la Chorale Polyphonique.

En 1976, appel sous les drapeaux pour un service de 24 mois : « J'ai été affecté dans une caserne du Sud du pays. Avec d'autres fous de musique, nous avons créé un groupe vocal et instrumental qui a fait la tournée des casernes algériennes ».

Après quelques mois, son service devient civil : il est muté au Centre de Recherche d'ethnomusicologie dirigé par un grand écrivain algérien, Bouloud Mameri : « Les archives du centre sont d'une richesse fabuleuse. J'y ai puisé une multitude de bandes sonores qui m'ont permis un grand voyage musical. En plus, j'ai effectué de nombreuses mis-

sions dans le Sud pour enregistrer les chants spontanés lors des fêtes. C'est alors que la diversité de nos musiques m'est apparue clairement ».

Deux ans plus tard, il part en France pour enregistrer une cassette. Par accident il vient en Belgique. Neuf années plus tard, il y vit toujours ! « Votre pays a été une véritable révélation. A Bruxelles par exemple, on voit le ciel et il n'y a pas trop de monde. Dans la capitale belge, Hamsi ne connaît personne : « J'ai été accueilli par une dame extraordinaire, M^{me} Jacqmain, qui m'a intégré à sa famille ».

Au début, il joue ci-et-là, tout seul avec sa guitare. Au fil des représentations, il attire l'attention. La radio passe sa musique, les journaux lui consacrent des articles. En 1981, il sort, à compte d'auteur, son premier album exclusivement produit en Belgique. Il forme un groupe avec des musiciens professionnels belges : « Tout en gardant ses racines kabyle, ma musique a ainsi acquis une plus grande internationalité ».

En 1985, il réalise un album de contes pour enfants et de musiques folkloriques : « Un succès, surtout auprès des enseignants belges qui, pour la première fois, possédaient du matériel sonore pour initier leurs élèves à la culture arabe ».

Depuis lors, Hamsi Boubeker travaille beaucoup. Entre la composition de chansons, l'écriture d'un livre de poèmes illustré par lui-même, les premières démarches vers la France et les Pays-Bas, il a encore trouvé le temps de réaliser, en collaboration avec des artistes belges, un 45 tours de chansons d'enfants au profit de l'Unicef. Conclusion : « Je reste en Belgique, c'est le cœur de mon pays, c'est un tremplin exceptionnel ».

DISQUE

"Le chant

des profondeurs"

C'est au plus profond de sa mémoire que Hamsi Boubeker est allé chercher son inspiration. Toute son enfance a été bercée par le chant des femmes. Kabyle originaire de Bejaïa en Algérie, il a 13 ans lorsqu'il entre au Conservatoire. Son intérêt pour les chants du monde entier, il le découvre en faisant partie de la chorale "A cœur joie". Pendant son service civil qu'il fait dans le sud algérien, il se consacre à la recherche de la musique ethnique. Il en étudie les rythmes et il compose en s'inspirant du folklore. En 1979, Hamsi se rend en France où il enregistre une cassette. Le délai de son visa ayant expiré, il passe en Belgique : il y est toujours.

Son premier concert belge, il le donne à Wavre. Le public est étonné mais pas indifférent. D'autres concerts suivront, des concerts de solidarité pour la plupart. Enfin, en 1980 sort son premier album consacré à la Kabylie et au sud algérien. Après un recueil de poésies et de dessins, sortira un disque de contes bientôt suivi d'un 45 tours au profit de l'UNICEF. Avec son groupe composé de trois Belges, d'un Marocain et d'un Anglais, il tourne à l'étranger.

Mais le troubadour se double aussi d'un peintre naïf. Pour lui, la musique, la peinture et l'écriture, c'est avant tout des couleurs.

Avec ce dernier album, Hamsi offre plus de compositions tout



en gardant les rythmes propres à son pays natal. Ainsi le morceau intitulé "M'Rahba", qui signifie "bienvenue", commence comme un chant traditionnel et se termine en jazz.

Avec "Ittebalen", il rend hommage aux troubadours qui animent les fêtes. Formés de trois tambours et d'un joueur de raïta (clarinette), ils accompagnent par exemple la mariée chez son époux. Et c'est un chant nostalgique car les Ittebalen disparaissent, eux aussi. "Le chant des profondeurs" par Hamsi Boubeker avec l'aide du Ministère de la Communauté Française.

Libelle :
Decembre 1988

HAMSI BOUBEKER

Le Chant Des Profondeurs CDM 03

Hamsi Boubeker is a Kabyle musician from Algeria now resident in Belgium after a period in Paris. His album, made with the help of one Moroccan, one English and several Belgian musicians, suffers severely in the wake of Carte De Séjour's. Once again, it mixes traditional Arabic instruments with Western, but the whole thing conveys an air of blandness and, particularly where percussionists are involved, a limpness comparable with much second-string European 'folk rock'. The letter accompanying the album states that he sings about important themes, but unfortunately there is little information on the fairly cheap, hand-written

cover. For modern Kabyle music, look to Globestyle's excellent Ahcene Adjroud release which we reviewed recently.

Folk Roots u.k.
1988
An gleterre.

Hamsi Boubeker danst op zijn berbers

NU het danslustige volkje alsmaar vaker wordt meegesleurd door de opzwepende tonen van "raï" en andere Noordafrikaanse geluiden zou de muziek van Hamsi Boubeker, een Algerijn die al tien jaar in Brussel woont, wel eens voor de eerstvolgende verrassing kunnen zorgen. Zijn recente eipee "Le chant des profondeurs", bevat meerstemmige berberliederen uit de landstreek Kabylie, maar dan in versies die enigszins aan de moderne tijdsgeschiedenis zijn aangepast. Boubeker heeft, naast een Marokkaan, ook nog 3 Belgen in zijn groep, zingt over vrijheid en (culturele) onderdrukking en schrikt er niet voor terug om een paar snuifjes jazz en funk doorheen de ritmische Maghrebsaus te mengen. Volksmuziek in een elektrisch jasje dus: vanavond om 20.00 u mee te maken in Zaal Vooruit te Gent.(da)

Randy Newman uitverkocht

HET concert van Randy Newman in De Warande is uitverkocht. Het is dus onnodig zonder ticket naar Turnhout af te zakken. Waar wel nog plaats is, is op Brugges Festival, alwaar Manos Hadjidakis concertteert, met in zijn voorprogramma het Nicuwzeelandse trio Marion Arts Mahinaarangi Tocker en Robbic Laven. Onverwacht bezoek in Brugge is dus wel mogelijk.

De Rougen
4/02/89



RIVOLI Theatre – Utrecht – Netherlands



Floreffe Festival – July 1979



Gant festival



Ypres Festival – Belgium

HAMSI Boubeker, a multi-talented artist

Born in Béjaïa, Algeria, in 1952, HAMSI Boubeker was nurtured by the enchanting stories of his native region, which infused his soul with immeasurable cultural richness. Despite the turmoil of the Algerian War, his passion for art always shone like a guiding light, shaping his destiny.

In 1979, he settled in Belgium, where his artistic genius flourished through an eclectic blend of music, singing, storytelling, and painting. A fearless autodidact, HAMSI Boubeker has forged his talent with unwavering determination, captivating minds and hearts with his boundless creativity.

From the very beginning, his artistic aura ignited international stages, his canvases resonating with the rhythms of his Kabyle heritage and his vision of universal peace. His exhibitions, like sensory journeys, have crossed continents—from Brussels to London, from Paris to Assen, from Geneva to Algiers—captivating ever-growing audiences with his radiant message of fraternity.

Yet HAMSI Boubeker does not merely paint; he builds bridges between cultures, bringing together hands from across the globe to contribute to a more harmonious world. His initiative Les Mains de l'Espoir has resonated across 82 countries, earning recognition from UNESCO and touching the hearts of future generations.

Among his many achievements, his historic meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican in 2023 remains a powerful symbol of his unwavering commitment to peace and fraternity.

Through his vibrant works, HAMSI Boubeker celebrates life in all its splendor, capturing the very essence of humanity with infinite tenderness. His art transcends borders, uniting people in a symphony of colors and smiles, upholding timeless values of sharing, harmony, and resilience.

A passionate witness to his time, HAMSI Boubeker immortalizes each moment and emotion, offering the world a mirror reflecting the beauty and diversity of our planet. His legacy is that of a man who, through his brushes and words, shapes a world where culture, peace, and love shine brightly.

Career Path

HAMSI Boubeker, born on April 22, 1952, in Béjaïa (Kabylia, Algeria), spent his childhood during the Algerian War. He comes from a family of eleven children. In 1979, he moved to Belgium, where he has lived ever since, obtaining Belgian citizenship in 1990.

A versatile and self-taught artist, HAMSI Boubeker expresses his creativity across multiple disciplines, including music, singing, storytelling, and painting. His reputation as an accomplished artist is firmly established both in Belgium

and internationally, with numerous features dedicated to him in newspapers, radio, and television in Belgium and abroad. He is the author of several musical albums and literary works, including children's tales, art books, poetry collections, and various catalogues.

He has also co-authored an illustrated cookbook featuring his own artworks and designs unique calendars that reflect the richness of his artistic universe.

From the outset of his painting career in 1988, HAMSI Boubeker exhibited his work internationally. His first exhibition took place at the Musée Charlier in Brussels in 1989.

In 1991, he participated in the international exhibition PRISMA 90 in Belgium, where he received a diploma of honor. He also took part in group exhibitions, notably at Galerie PRO ARTE KASPER in Switzerland, where he was awarded a participation diploma. In 1988, as part of the International Year of Peace, he produced a booklet and 7-inch vinyl entitled "Si tu veux la paix, prépare l'enfance" in support of UNICEF.

In 1992, he exhibited at the Musée Naïf in Lasne, where he won first prize at the International Competition. In 1993, he exhibited at the Africa Center Gallery in London. As a global citizen, he launched in 1994 the international initiative Les Mains de l'Espoir, which brought together participants from eighty-two countries and was awarded by UNESCO in 2000. To support this initiative, he founded the association Afous pour la paix in 1995.

Over the years, HAMSI Boubeker has continued to exhibit his work in numerous prestigious venues, including the European Parliament in Strasbourg in 1996, the Emmen Art Center in the Netherlands in 1997, and the Drents Museum in Assen in 1999.

He also presented his Les Mains de l'Espoir works in Geneva, Switzerland, and organized the creation of a 10 x 10 meter mural for peace at the International Conference Centre during the 3rd Francophonie Youth Gathering, involving 144 young participants from 49 countries, in the presence of Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In 2003, he participated in the illustrators' exhibition at the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris, and in 2004, he exhibited at the Contemporary Art Center in Seville, Spain.

Between 2005 and 2006, HAMSI Boubeker created a new collection entitled Paroles Tissées, inspired by Kabyle Berber motifs. This series, composed of 58 banners measuring 53 x 212 cm, was exhibited in Belgium and Algeria in 2012.



August 1979 – Vaison-la-Romaine amphitheatre – 8th Choralles

In 2009, his works were used to illustrate the Lemonnier station of the Brussels metro, and an art film entitled *Empreinte de la vie* was dedicated to him by Yves Gervais and Stéphanie Meyer. That same year, he was awarded the high distinction of Officer of the Order of the Crown by Fadila Laanan, in recognition of his entire artistic and humanitarian career.

He subsequently exhibited at the Schungfabrik Cultural Centre in Kayl, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, in 2011, and at the Baya Gallery in the Palace of Culture in Algiers, Algeria, in 2012.

In 2012, he was honoured as an Honorary Citizen of the city of Béjaïa by the Regional Theatre of Béjaïa. On that occasion, several renowned artists, including Djamel Allam, took part in the event.

In 2013, he was decorated for the second time as Knight of the Order of the Belgian Cross, a distinction awarded by the Royal Philanthropic Society of the Decorated and Medalled of Belgium. That same year, he exhibited in his hometown of Béjaïa at the Regional Theatre, in the presence of Fadila Laanan.

In 2014, he exhibited at the Hôtel de Ville de Paris during the 20th Maghreb des Livres, as well as at the Art Company Gallery in Brussels.

In 2015, he returned to exhibit at the Schungfabrik in Kayl, Luxembourg. In 2016, the Musée Charlier devoted a major retrospective to him entitled *La Terre est mon village*, presenting more than 70 works. On this occasion, he was named Honorary Citizen of the municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode. That same year, he presented the same collection at the Orangerie of the Château de Sucy-en-Brie in France.

In 2017, he exhibited his collection *Motifs Tissés* at the Algerian Cultural Centre in Paris (April), followed by *La Terre est mon village* at Galerie-Fedactio in Brussels (May). In April and May 2018, he presented *Paroles tissées*, a series of works inspired by Kabyle motifs, at The Black Wall in Brussels. In July and August of the same year, he exhibited again at the Palace of Culture in Algiers, at the Baya Gallery.

In 2019, he exhibited at the Intercommunal Media Library of Longwy in France. That same year, he was appointed as a member of the International Jury for the competition “PAIX, Youth in the Service of Peace”, organised by France Télévisions and UNESCO. Between October and December 2019, he also exhibited at the Flemish Cultural Centre of Forest in Brussels.

In May 2022, HAMSİ Boubeker exhibited several works at Espace Art Gallery in Brussels and signed a contract with the New York-based company Frederiksberg Records LLC for the official reissue and distribution of his LP *Le Chant des profondeurs*.

In April and May 2023, he exhibited his collection *Kabylie de mon enfance* at the Algerian Cultural Centre in Paris, as well as another collection entitled *Le Hammam* at EXPO ATELIER 64 in Brussels.

On Wednesday, May 31, 2023, HAMSİ Boubeker had the honour of meeting Pope Francis at the Vatican, where he personally presented his artwork *Paix fraternelle* (acrylic and ink on paper, 30 × 40 cm), created from the tracing of

his hand and accompanied by a message of peace. This work is part of the international initiative *Les Mains de l’Espoir*, launched by the artist in collaboration with children from more than 82 countries.

He was also appointed by the Brussels-Capital Region Public Transport Infrastructure Directorate to design and supervise the reintegration and expansion of the existing artwork *Les Mains de l’Espoir* in the future Lemonnier tram station in Brussels. This station will become a unique space dedicated to peace, featuring new colourful works created from handprints of Nobel Peace Prize laureates, as well as figures from the artistic, humanitarian, sporting, spiritual worlds, and anonymous individuals committed to human rights.

On May 25, 2024, he received the International “États d’Âmes” Prize, with the distinction “Lauriers d’Or”, for his exhibition *La Terre est mon village (2022)* at Espace Art Gallery in Brussels.

As part of the creation of a space dedicated to the history of Béjaïa, located in the port terminal reserved for travellers, his artwork *La Cruche* (acrylic on canvas) was reproduced and installed at the entrance, alongside that of the renowned artist Baya. HAMSİ Boubeker was the only artist from Béjaïa selected for this honour.

From September to October 2024, he exhibited his collection *Motifs tissés* at Espace Delahaut in Evere. That same year, he created a new collection of around thirty portraits entitled *Femmes kabyles : Héritage et identité*, which he exhibited in December 2024 at EXPO ATELIER 64 in Brussels, and later at CRIC Charleroi in January 2025. At the same time, he devoted himself to co-writing and illustrating new tales as part of the collection *Contes kabyles de mon enfance*.

In May 2025, he exhibited his illustrations *Contes de mon enfance* at Bib Josse, the municipal library of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, with the participation of Chafiaa KHEMSI, co-author and translator of the work.

At the end of May, together with Chafiaa KHEMSI, he co-founded the cultural and humanitarian association RÉMINISCENCE, of which he serves as president.

From June 21 to September 13, 2025, the Province of Liège devoted a major retrospective to the artist at the prestigious B3 – Passage des Arts. The exhibition, entitled *La Terre est mon village – Une exposition qui nous ressemble, qui nous rassemble*, unfolded across seven thematic spaces, each presenting a diversity of works representative of his universe. Alongside the exhibition, workshops—including plate painting, *Les Mains de l’Espoir*, and storytelling inspired by his creations—brought together children and adults in warm and creative moments.

On January 17–18, 2026, as part of Yennayer’Art, he exhibited during the celebration of the Amazigh New Year (2976) at the Grande Mosquée de Paris. From February 5 to 27, 2026, an exhibition of illustrations *Contes de mon enfance* by HAMSİ Boubeker and Chafiaa KHEMSI was held at the Town Hall of Etterbeek.

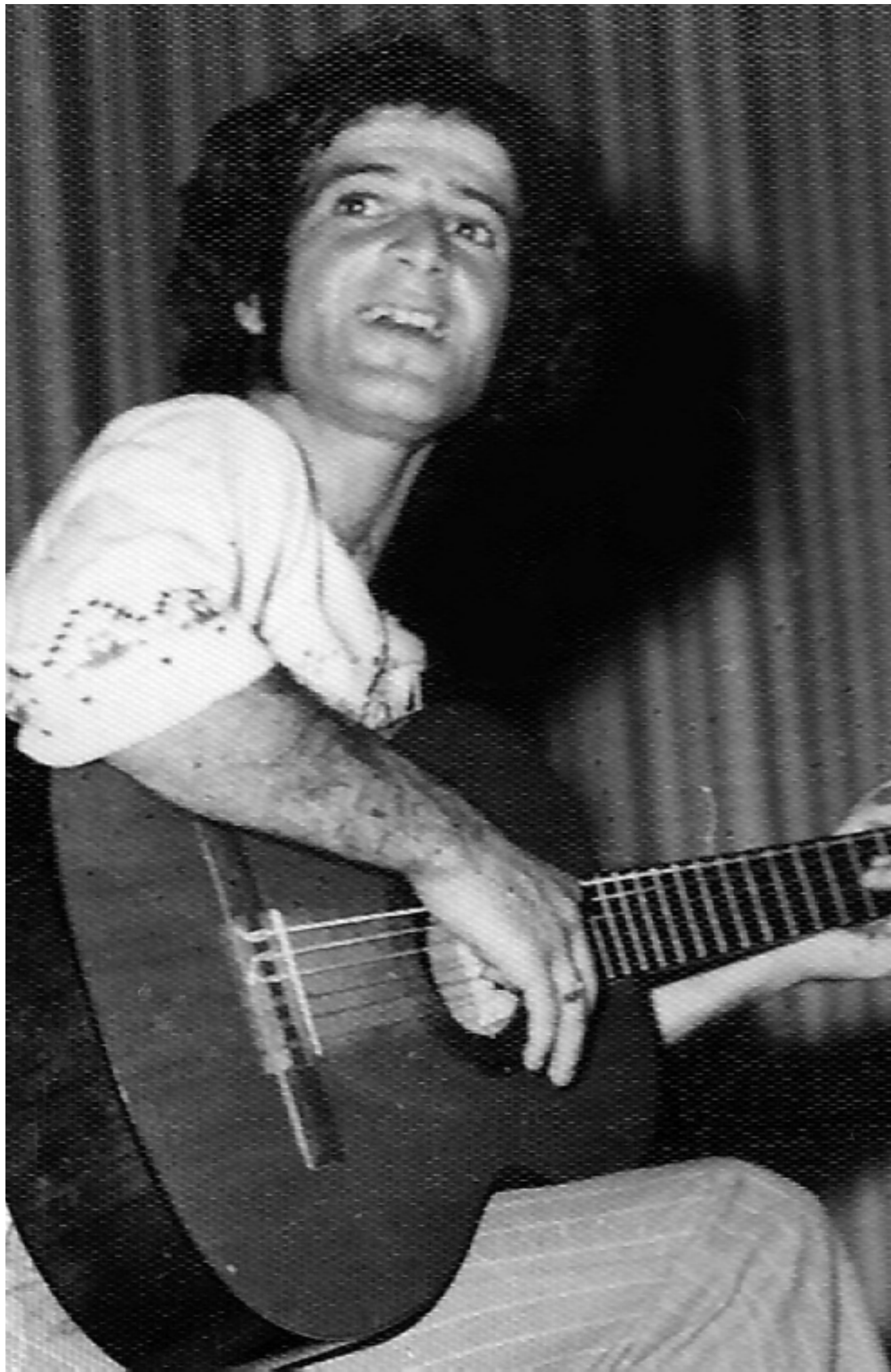
With his radiant and multicoloured painting, HAMSİ Boubeker casts upon the world a childlike gaze, presenting it as he wishes it to be—bathed in sunlight, filled with laughter, scattered with joyful colours, vibrant with life, and grounded in peace, harmony, and sharing. He positions himself as a messenger of Kabyle culture—an oral tradition deeply dear to him—whose immense richness might have faded into oblivion without his work of preservation and transmission.

Deeply in love with life and profoundly attentive to the people he encounters, HAMSİ Boubeker leaves a trace of every experience, every meeting, and every memory within his work, as if to bear witness to his unwavering belief in the beauty of the world and of humanity.

HAMSİ Boubeker has also composed the music for the documentary *Love and Revolution*, a film about the life of Kateb Yacine, produced by the C.B.A.

He also composed the soundtrack for the film *Une empreinte de la vie*, produced by the CVB, as well as for the documentary *Le terroir de la mémoire*, produced by the Ministry of the French Community of Belgium. In addition, he has created numerous musical compositions for children’s storytelling projects.

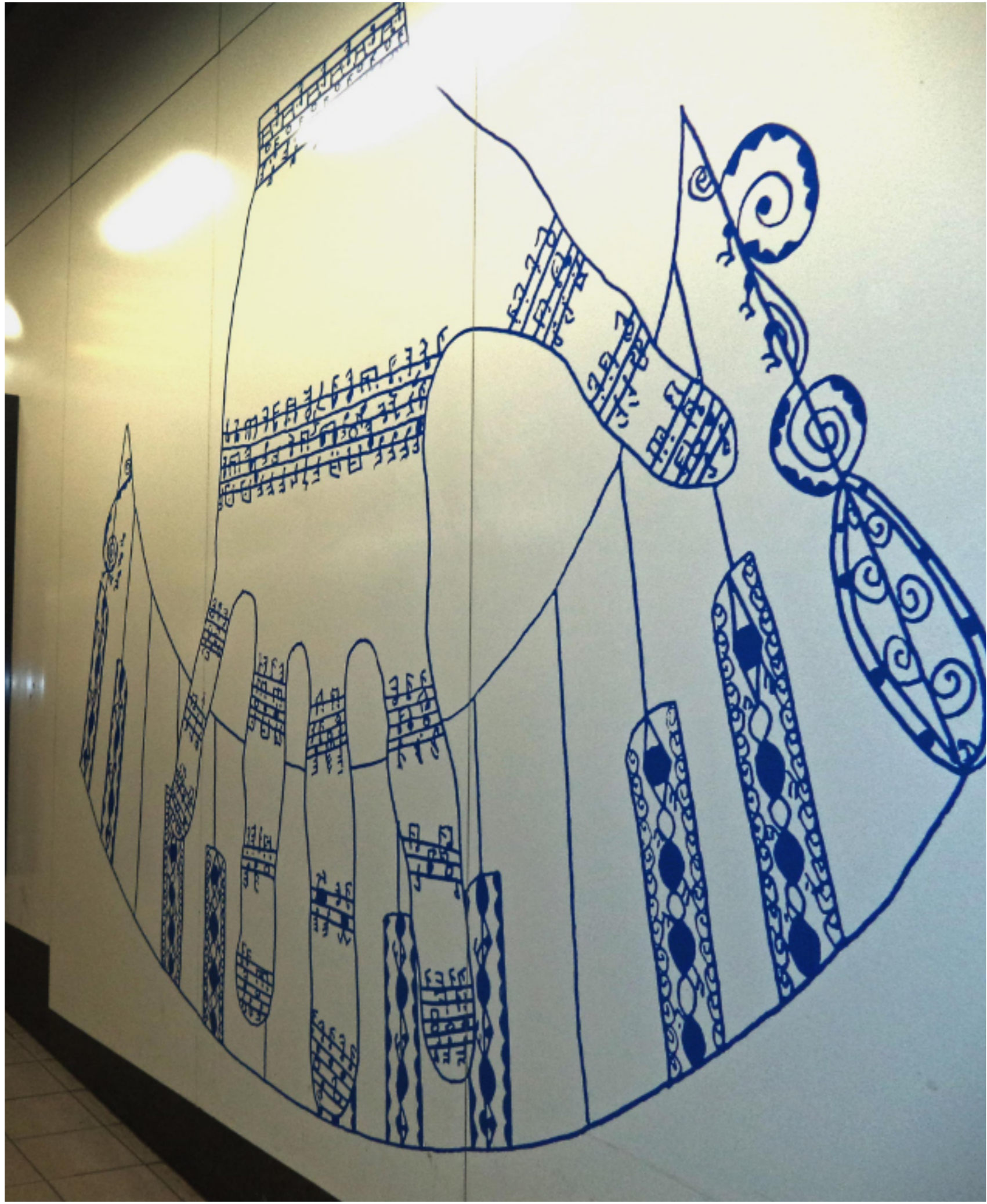




August 1972 – Nyons – France



July 1976 – Europa Canta International – Leicestershire – United Kingdom



2009 – Works by HANSI Boubeker – Lemonnier Tram Station – Brussels

PRESS KIT



*- HAMSI BOUBEKER, chante les Berbères de Kabylie
- Le chant des profondeurs*

HAMSI Boubeker
Songs of Kabylie - Algérie



Design and illustration: HAMSI Boubeker for ASBL REMINISCENCE

CONTACT : +32 473 28 46 64 - Info@hamsi.be