

Issé (The musketter's opera !)

André-Cardinal Destouches
Re-creation 2018

André-Cardinal Destouches had an amazing life. After a diplomatic trip to Siam, he becomes one of the king's muskettiers, and distinguishes himself, especially during the siege of Namur, with Louis XIV. That is when he discovers his passion for music. Back to Paris, he works with Campra, whom he writes themes for, that can be found in *L'Europe Galante*.

In 1697, at 25, he writes his first opera, that becomes a huge success and that will be played a lot during the XVIII century.

Issé, performed for Louis XIV at the Versailles Trianon, was a masterpiece and granted Destouches a prominent place (according to Titon du Tillet "the King assured that, since Lully, no music has given him so much pleasure"). It's been 10 years since Lully died and he still remained the unquestioned reference for music in Versailles and Paris.

After the work presented by the ensemble Les Surprises about the opera *Les Eléments*, of Destouches and Delalande, the recreation of *Issé*, first opera of a great but still too much unknown composer, appeared like an evidence. 320 years later, this piece still remains as one of the pillars for the after Lully and before Rameau period of time. Destouches, following the legacy of Lully, opens a way to the Rameau period with this heroic pastoral. Mixing tragic and comic episodes, he announces the "pastoral spirit" trend.

This re-creation will be based on the late version of this piece, performed in 1724 at the Royal Music Academy of Paris. After an important research work on the different sources of the piece, a new edition will be released by the Versailles Center for Baroque Music (CMBV). The musical work will take place in 2018, with a first concerts series during Summer and Fall, and it will pursue in 2019.

Co-producer, Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles (CMBV), Festival baroque de Pontoise

ensemble Les Surprises / www.les-surprises.fr - www.facebook.com/lessurprises

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Casting

Judith Van Wanroij, Chantal Santon, Eugénie Lefebvre, sopranos
Mathias Vidal, Stephen Collardelle, haute-contres
Thomas Dolié, Mathieu Lécroat, Etienne Bazola, barytons

Orchestra and Choir of the ensemble Les Surprises
Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas, harpsichord and conductor

Ensemble Les Surprises – artistic director, Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas

Founded in 2010 by Juliette Guignard and Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas, the ensemble Les Surprises seeks to convey its passion for the music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries through varied and original programs. Borrowing its name from the opéra-ballet by Jean-Philippe Rameau *Les Surprises de l'Amour*, the ensemble has placed its destiny under the lucky star of this composer, with the aim of exploring operatic music in all its shapes and forms ! The work of the ensemble is anchored in a process of musicological and historical research ; Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas wishes to highlight scores that have never been released since the 18th century, thanks to music libraries such as the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) or the Bibliothèque de l'Opéra de Paris.

Les Surprises is an ensemble of variable size, which can transform from a chamber group to orchestral dimensions. Its members were all trained in top European conservatories.

In 2014, Les Surprises received the « Révélation musicale » (new discovery) prize awarded by the French critics' circle for the performing arts (« Syndicat professionnel de la critique de théâtre, musique et danse »)

The ensemble Les Surprises have released three records under the label *Ambronay Éditions*, in 2013 *Rebel de père en fils*, in 2016 *Les Éléments*, and in 2017 *L'Héritage de Rameau*. All of them were warmly praised in the national and international press (Diamant d'Opéra-Magazine, 5 de Diapason...)

Les Surprises has also begun a partnership in 2017 with the label *Ambronay Éditions*, to release one record a year within 2019.

Since its foundation, the ensemble has played in different concert halls and festivals through Europe, including the Versailles Chapelle Royale, the Opéra de Massy, Radio France and Ambronay festivals, Sanssouci Festival (Potsdam, Germany), the Bozar season (Brussels), Monteverdi Festival (Cremona, Italy), Pavia (Italy), Monaco, and the Sacred Music Festival of Palestine in Ramallah and Jerusalem.

Since 2016, Les Surprises has been « ensemble en résidence » in the Festival Baroque de Pontoise. It will pursue to 2018.

The Caisse des Dépôts is the main sponsor of the ensemble Les Surprises, which is also supported by the Orange Fondation. It is also supported by the Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication – Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles de Nouvelle Aquitaine, the City

of Bordeaux, the Conseil Régional de Nouvelle Aquitaine, the Conseil départemental de la Gironde and ponctually by the ADAMI, SPEDIDAM, the Institut Français and the CMBV (Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles). The ensemble is a member of the FEVIS and PROFEDIM.

Les Surprises is associated to the Label Ambronay Editions.