

Méditations

These « little musical masterpieces » take us to a time where theatricality, smoothness and sacred mix and combine.

Marc-Antoine Charpentier : Méditations pour le Carême

et

Marin Marais : Prélude en ré du I^{er} livre pour viole de gambe et basse continue

Robert de Visée : Tombeau des demoiselles de Visée pour théorbe

Sébastien de Brossard : Motet pour basse *O Plenus Irarum Dies*

Henry Du Mont : Pavane pour clavecin

Sébastien de Brossard : Motet pour deux ténors *Salve Rex Christe*

ensemble Les Surprises

Paco Garcia, haute-contre

Martin Candela, taille

Étienne Bazola, basse-taille

Juliette Guignard, viola da gamba

Etienne Galletier, theorbo

Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas, organ, harpsichord and direction

As in the *Leçons de Ténèbres* that become theatrical in the XVIIIth Century and attract socialite people ; French music reveals a dramaturgy close to the opera. Sometimes, it gets to such a rich harmony and smoothness that the most pious one can be shocked.

This program highlights the pieces written for men voices and continuo at the end of XVIIth Century and the beginning of the XVIIIth. This size of orchestra was appreciated back then for its intimistic dimension : thanks to the possibilities of the spectrum of voices, it can switch from a dark tint to a powerful and luminous one.

This size of orchestra presents a great theatrical dimension because the different voices embody biblical parts (the Soul, Jesus, the Man...) successively.

The *Meditations pour le Carême* by Charpentier have been saved from forgetfulness by Sébastien de Brossard. This great musician and collector had a very important musical library, with bought or copied sheets. He actually copied the Meditations by Charpentier ; that is the only version that survived. His library was filled with French music, but also by German and Italian music, which he particularly liked. His music is a mix of the different European styles, as « melted tastes » (as Francois Couperin would have said).



Ensemble Les Surprises - Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas, artistic direction

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 programmes. In borrowing its name from the opéra-ballet by Jean-Philippe Rameau *Les Surprises de l'Amour*, the group 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, indeed Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas wishes to highlight scores that have never been released since the 18th century, thanks to music libraries such as Bibliothèque Nationale de France (BNF) or Bibliothèque de l'Opéra de Paris.

Les Surprises is an ensemble of varying size, which can metamorphose from a chamber group to one of orchestral dimensions. Its members were all trained at leading 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 recorded five discs in the label *Ambronay Éditions* : they all received warm praise in the national and international press (Diamant d'Opéra-Magazine, 5 de Diapason...). The next release will take place in november 2019 with « Issé », by André-Cardinal Destouches, never recorded until now. The ensemble also works with the label Alpha : in 2018 with « Bach Inspiration » with the flutist Juliette Hurel, and in 2021 with the soprano Véronique Gens, for a project about Lully and his students.

Since its foundation, it has appeared in numerous concert halls and festivals, including Opéra royal de Versailles, Opéra de Massy, Auditorium de Radio France, Opéra de Montpellier, Ambronay festival, Sinfonia en Périgord festival, Saintes festival, Rencontres Musicales de Vézelay, Sanssouci festival, Bozar, Saint John's Smith Square, Bourgie concert hall (Montréal), Beirut Chants Festival, Singapore...

In 2020, Les Surprises will begin a partnership with Sinfonia en Périgord festival, in association with the Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles.

The Caisse des Dépôts is the main sponsor of the ensemble Les Surprises, which is also supported by the Orange Fondation. The ensemble receives help from the Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication – Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles Nouvelle Aquitaine, the City of Bordeaux, the Conseil Régional of Nouvelle Aquitaine, the Conseil Départemental of Gironde, and punctually from the ADAMI, SPEDIDAM, SACEM, Musique Nouvelle en Liberté, the CMBV (Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles) and the Office Artistique of Nouvelle Aquitaine. The ensemble is member of FEVIS and PROFEDIM. The ensemble is associated to the Ambronay Editions Label.

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