

## Bach, Mozart

*Sonates d'église* – Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART

*Fugues et sonates en trio* - Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART (after Johann Sebastian BACH)

*Sinfonias de Cantate* – Johann Sebastian BACH

### **Ensemble Les Surprises**

Marie Rouquié, Gabriel Grosbard, **violins**

Lika Laloum, **viola**

Julien Hainsworth, **cello**

Marie-Amélie Clément, **double bass**

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

Letter from Mozart to his father, October 18, 1777:

*When I told Mr. Stein that I would like to play his organ, because the organ was my passion, he was astonished and said: "How does a man like you, such a great pianist, desire to play an instrument that has no sweetness, no expression, no piano, no forte, but always progresses in the same way?" All this means nothing. In my eyes and ears, the organ is the king of instruments.*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart played the organ from an early age, and his many trips with his father gave him the opportunity to play many of them. Documents attest to concerts he gave at the organ of the Chapelle Royale de Versailles, in Haarlem, Verona, Bologna, Strasbourg, Dresden... In Leipzig, the centre of Bach's art, the kappelmeister of the time, Doles, heard Mozart improvise and « was delighted with the artist's play and believed to have revived the old Sebastian Bach, his master».

Mozart got acquainted with Bach's music by Baron Gottfried van Swieten, who organized morning concerts in his house bringing together experts and amateurs of « early music » ! Mozart was very strongly marked in discovering the works of the Leipzig cantor, marking his own compositions in the 1782's. In this musical circle where Mozart played the piano or the viola, « one played there nothing but Handel and Bach. I now have a collection of the fugues of Bach, Sébastian as well as Emmanuel and Friedemann.» »



Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas studied the organ, the harpsichord, chamber music and conducting at the Paris and Lyon conservatoires (cnsmd). Among his teachers were Louis Robilliard, Jan-Willem Jansen, Michel Bourcier, Nicolas Brochot, François Espinasse, Yves Rechsteiner, Olivier Baumont and Blandine Rannou.

He has won prizes at several international organ competitions, including the Grand prix d'orgue Jean-Louis Florentz of the Académie des Beaux-arts, first prize at the Gottfried Silbermann organ competition in Freiberg (Germany) and, in 2013, first prize at the prestigious Xavier Darasse competition in Toulouse, thus becoming 'echo-organist of the year'.

Louis-Noël has given solo recitals in Europe, in such venues as la Madeleine in Paris, the Auditorium de Radio France, the Toulouse les orgues festival, Berlin cathedral and the Monaco festival, in Alkmaar (Netherlands) and in Switzerland and Italy.

As a soloist, he has recorded *Bach and friends* on organ and harpsichord, followed by *Visages impressionnistes* (choc de *Classica*). His cd *Soleils couchants* was released on the Harmonia mundi label in 2019. His last recording is a double-cd devoted to Mozart released in october 2022.

Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas was in residence at the Royaumont foundation from 2015 to 2018 as organist of the Cavallé-Coll organ.

He directs the ensemble Les Surprises, which is specialisez in the vocal and instrumental repertory of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Louis-Noël performs with the ensemble in numerous venues and festivals throughout Europe and the world.

He has also worked with such conductors as Hervé Niquet, Arie van Beek and Roberto Forés Veses. His research on the composers François Rebel and François Francœur was recognised by the Fondation de France with the award of the Déclics jeunes scholarship.

In 2018 Louis-Noël conducted the modern premiere of the opera *Issé* by André Cardinal Destouches, including performances at the Opéra royal de Versailles and the opéra de Montpellier. He was also invited to conduct orchestral projects at the Conservatoires supérieurs of Paris and Lyon (cnsmdp, cnsmdl).

Following a commission from Radio France, he has produced and performed a solo organ transcription of Henri Dutilleux's symphony no.1.



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

« Les Surprises have ideas, talents, a repertoire to explore. An ensemble that gives, and promises even more. » (*Muse Baroque*).

The ensemble Les Surprises is a baroque and multifaceted ensemble, founded in 2010 on the initiative of Juliette Guignard, violist, and Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas, organist and harpsichordist.

In borrowing its name from the opera ballet *Les Surprises de l'Amour* by Jean-Philippe Rameau, 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 !

By taking the ensemble artistic direction, Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas wishes to participate to the baroque repertoire rediscovery and its improvement with new interpretations but also to explore the sounds richness offered by a baroque instrumentarium.

The work of the ensemble is anchored in a process of musicological and historical research. Indeed Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas endeavour 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. The latest records *Passion* with Véronique Gens and *Rameau chez la Pompadour* are good examples of this will.

In 2014, Les Surprises received the “Révélation musicale” (new discovery) prize awarded by the French critic’s circle for the performing arts (“Syndicat professionnel de la critique de théâtre, musique et danse”).

Les Surprises recorded six discs for the Ambronay Editions label. All have received warm praises from international and national press. The ensemble also begun a partnership with the Alpha Classics label in 2020 (*Purcell-Tyrannic Love*, *Passion* with Véronique Gens, *Rameau chez la Pompadour*, *Nuit à Venise*), the next record *Te Deum*, dedicated to Charpentier and Desmarets, will be released in 2024. All have received warm praises from international and national press.

Since the beginning of its activities, the ensemble performed on multiple stages and festivals all over Europe and worldwide : Opéra royal de Versailles, Opéra de Massy, Auditorium de Radio France, Opéra de Montpellier, festival d’Ambronay, festival Sinfonia en Périgord, festival de Saintes, Rencontres Musicales de Vézelay, festival Sanssouci (Potsdam – Allemagne), saison des Bozar (Bruxelles – Belgique), Saint John’s Smith Square (Londres – UK), Salle Bourgie (Montréal), Beirut Chants Festival (Beirut – Liban), Singapour...

Team : **Juliette GUIGNARD** – general direction  
**Delphine NAISSANT** – administration  
**Eléonore MINOT** – production

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