

## Nuit à Venise

### San Marco's choirmasters

#### Pieces of Monteverdi, Legrenzi, Grandi, Cavalli, Lotti, ...

Venise was certainly one of the highest art and music place in the XVIth and XVIIth centuries. And one of the most coveted position is choirmaster of the Saint-Marc basilica.

Some lucky persons succeeded each other in order to perpetrate the basilica prosperous musicals, and all of them were great musicians and composers who placed themselves in the continuity of the great Claudio Monteverdi.

In order to celebrate their 10th anniversary, the ensemble Les Surprises was willing to sail through the venitians waters and mix with these geniuses.

This program explores music from intimates choirs to duets or trios, with a special interest to the connections between sacred and secular, church and opera like the Contrafacta.

Jehanne Amzal, Eugénie Lefebvre, **sopranos**  
Paulin Büngden, **alto** et Julia Beaumier, **mezzo**  
Clément Debieuvre, Sébastien Obrecht, **ténors**  
François Joron, Guillaume Olry, **basses**

Gabriel Grosbard, Anaëlle Blanc, **violins**  
Sarah Dubus, **cornet à bouquin et flutes**  
Lucile Tessier, **dulciane et flutes**  
Juliette Guignard, **viola da gamba**  
Gabriel Rignol, **theorbo and guitar**  
Matthieu Boutineau, **harpsichord**  
Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas, **organ, harpsichord and direction**

Created with the support of the Music National Center.



## 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 Desmarests, 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

The ensemble Les Surprises is supported by Fondation Société Générale C'est vous l'avenir. The ensemble benefits from the support of the Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication – Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles de Nouvelle Aquitaine, the Conseil Régional de Nouvelle Aquitaine, the cities of Bordeaux and Poitiers and the Conseil Départemental de la Gironde. It occasionally receive the support of the Centre National de la Musique, ADAMI, SPEDIDAM, Institut Français, Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles and Office Artistique de la région Nouvelle Aquitaine.

The ensemble is a member of the FEVIS (Fédération des Ensembles Vocaux et Instrumentaux Spécialisés) and PROFEDIM.

[www.les-surprises.fr](http://www.les-surprises.fr)

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