

TE DEUM

Charpentier - Desmarests

Te Deum – Marc Antoine CHARPENTIER

Usquequo Domine « de Lyon », Henry DESMARETS *unpublished work*

Break

Te Deum « de Lyon », Henry DESMARETS *unpublished work*

Eugénie Lefebvre, Jehanne Amzal, Amandine Trenc, Julia Beaumier, Jeanne Lefort **sopranos**

Clément Debieuvre, Martin Candela, François-Olivier Jean, **hautes-contre**

Camillo Angarita, Stephen Collardelle, Branislav Rakic, **tailles**

Etienne Bazola, Jean-Christophe Lanièce, François Joron, Thierry Cartier, **basses-tailles**

Orchestra and choir of the ensemble Les Surprises

Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas, **conductor**

**Coproduction Centre de musique baroque de Versailles - Festival Sinfonia en Périgord -
Ensemble Les Surprises**

Two Te Deum clash ! The very famous one by Marc-Antoine Charpentier and the completely new one by Henry Desmarests.

Charpentier and Desmarests, both remarkable composers of sacred music and opera, share their taste for Italian music and travel, but also the disfavor to stand in the « shadow » of Jean-Baptiste Lully !

Henry Desmarests was trained at the Royal Chapel of Versailles by Pierre Robert and Henry Dumont, then by Jean-Baptiste Lully (he then became one of his favorite students). He stood out at a very young age for his compositional gifts but didn't get the recognition he deserved, and lived quite a chaotic life.

He lived a first unfortunate episode when he was considered too young to become « sous-maître » of the royal chapel of Versailles. He then starts to write in secret for Goupillet (who succeeded to become « sous-maître » but can't quite deal with this charge). Desmarests works a lot for Goupillet but Goupillet often forgets to pay him. When this secret came out, Goupillet is sent away and Desmarests falls in disgrace.

The second unfortunate episode is one about love. Henry Desmarests marries Marie-Marguerite de Saint-Gobert but her father refuses this wedding. Desmarests is then sued for kidnapping and seduction ! The couple has to run away from France (Desmarests is sentenced to death by hanging if he comes back to the country). He gets a job in Spain then becomes « surintendant » of music at the court of Lorraine. He eventually gets the authorization to come back to France in 1720, at the king's death, and to marry officially, at the age of sixty.

During his time at the court of Lorraine, Desmarests composes two Te Deum, including the Te Deum « of Lyon », unreleased to this day.

Written for the same formation as the famous Te Deum by Charpentier, he uses trumpets and timbals for the great sections. This piece is quite a jewelry piece because of the instrumentation and the great diversity of the vocal pieces. According to Catherine Cessac, it is possible that this Te Deum has been performed for the arrival in Verdun of Marie Meszczynska for her wedding with Louis XV.

The motet *Usquequo Domine* « of Lyon », also unreleased, is built with the same structure than a previous motet by Desmarests, but with some changes on airs and vocal parts.

These two pieces come from scores kept at the « Académie of Concert of Lyon », the great musical institution of the XVIIIth century, where was regularly performed sacred and non sacred music. It's an important evidence of the musical life that happened back then, outside of Paris and Versailles.

This concert gives the occasion to celebrate two great composers and to put some light on the work of Desmarests, which is now forgotten.



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

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

www.facebook.com/lessurprises/

www.instagram.com/ensemblelessurprises/