



INSULA
ORCHESTRA

2020 | 2021 SEASON



MAGIC MOZART

A DELIGHTED CABARET !

(CONCERT VERSION)

DIFFUSION

1ST - 22 JULY 2020

insulaorchestra.fr

MAGIC MOZART

A DELIGHTED CABARET ! (CONCERT VERSION)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Excerpts from chosen works* :

The Magic Flute

The Marriage of Figaro

Don Giovanni

Der Stein der Weisen

La Finta semplice

Bastien und Bastienne

...

* possibility to add to the program
the symphony n°40 in G minor

Olga Pudova, *soprano*

Léa Desandre, *mezzo-soprano*

Alasdair Kent, *tenor*

Armando Noguera, *baryton*

Insula orchestra

Laurence Equilbey, *conductor*

Duration : 1h15 without interval

Numbers :

4 soloists, 41 musicians

Diffusion :

1st-22 July 2020

This programme will be recorded for a Warner Classics-Erato disc (april 2020).

ARTISTIC PROJECT

Mozart's music is magic. Insula orchestra takes the statement literally, offering a selection of works and musical extracts in which the wonderment of magical experience is a central theme. Known by the music lovers as well as by the general public, these poetic or comical melodies, duos and ensembles are performed in a succession of short, diverting and enchanting acts.

The Magic Flute, Mozart's last opera, composed in 1791, is of course the cornerstone, with its magic bells, bewitched animals and Queen of the Night. But we will also find there some characters from the *Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *La Finta semplice*, *Bastien und Bastienne*, or from the more unusual *Der Stein der Weisen* (*The Philosopher's Stone*).

Three dominant colours are at work in these Magic Mozart sketches: the benevolence and transparency of white magic; the tumultuous emotions of love, expressing red magic in arias like "Voi che sapete" and "Porgi amor"; and black magic, driven by vengeance and symbolized by the Queen of the Night's aria, "Der Hölle Rache".

Laurence Equilbey and Insula orchestra will take this Magic Mozart programme on tour (in concert version) after having performed it at La Seine Musicale with a stage design by the New Magic company 14:20 in June 2020. Still, some magic surprises will occur in the concert version as well... for a performance that enchants as much as it is enchanted.

BIOGRAPHIES

LAURENCE EQUILBEY

CONDUCTOR

Conductor and musical director of Insula orchestra and accentus, Laurence Equilbey is acknowledged for her demanding, yet open-minded approach to her art. Her exploration of the symphonic repertoire has seen her conducting the orchestras of BBC of Wales, Hessischer Rundfunk, Lyon, Bucarest, Liège, Leipzig, Brussels Philharmonic, Café Zimmermann, Akademie für alte Musik Berlin, Concerto Köln, Camerata Salzburg, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg... In 2012, with support from the Département des Hauts-de-Seine, she founded Insula orchestra, an ensemble devoted to the classical and pre-Romantic repertoire, using period instruments. With accentus, Laurence Equilbey continues to interpret the great vocal music repertoire. Laurence Equilbey supports contemporary creation and she's also Artistic Director and Director of Education at the Department for Young Singers at the Paris Conservatory.



The extensive recorded work of accentus has received wide critical acclaim. In 2014, she recorded with Insula orchestra Mozart's *Requiem* on the naïve label; then Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Franco Fagioli, released in September 2015 on the Deutsche Grammophon label (Archiv Produktion). With Warner Classics –Erato, Laurence Equilbey has released Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Schubert's orchestrated lieder (2017).

Laurence Equilbey has studied music in Paris, Vienna and London, and conducting, notably with Eric Ericson, Denise Ham, Colin Metters and Jorma Panula.

INSULA ORCHESTRA

Insula orchestra's artistic project is built around a repertoire ranging mainly from the Classical to the Romantic eras. Mozart, Schubert or Weber form naturally the core of this repertoire with symphonic programmes as well as programmes with choir and soloists. The orchestra performs on period instruments.

Founded in 2012 by Laurence Equilbey with local government support from the Département des Hauts-de-Seine, Insula orchestra is in residence in a new artistic venue, La Seine Musicale, designed by architects Shigeru Ban and Jean de Gastines on Ile Seguin, an island in the River Seine just a few miles downstream from Paris. The orchestra is in charge of selecting part of the programme for the 1,100-seater auditorium. It also performs at other major French and international venues and leading festivals. Since its foundation, the orchestra has been invited to play at Philharmonie de Paris, Vienna's Theater an der Wien, Salzburg Mozart Week, Basel Stadtcasino, Elbphilharmonie, Ludwigsburg Festival and London Barbican Centre.

Insula orchestra has also developed a comprehensive, innovative programme of cultural and educational initiatives across its home base in the Hauts-de-Seine department, notably to foster awareness among potential audiences who have never had the opportunity to approach classical music, as well as participatory classes for young people and schools.



IN THE PRESS

« Insula orchestra, there are strings to infallible attacks, with agile and precise dexterity... »

Patrick de Maria, *La Marseillaise*, 2 December 2017

«Laurence Equilbey, an intellectually powerful conductor with probing insight into the psychological nature of music, clearly knows how to rehearse and mold a performance. (...) This is what historically informed performance practice is really about : learning where the expression, and contrasts, lives in the music. (...) Equilbey's Insula orchestra plays beautifully, with a rich sound, and lacking the mannerism and stiffness that can sometimes weigh down period instrument ensembles»

Brian Taylor, *ZealNyc*, 23 July 2018

About Mozart's *Lucio Silla* by Insula orchestra (spring 2016)

"Not for nothing Laurence Equilbey refers to her proximity to Nikolaus Harnoncourt ("he was an alchemist"). She managed to unfold a wide array of colours from the historic instruments of the excellent Insula orchestra and she demonstrates a true passion for music. The evening ends in a thunder of applause. This *Lucio Silla* could flourish in Vienna."

Ernst Strobl, *Salzburger Nachrichten*

"Insula orchestra played Mozart's intricate score with élan and sensitivity. The many sforzando and fortepiano markings were meticulously observed and there was admirable attention to orchestral detail. Period brass were excitingly raspy and the strings had a bright sonority."

Jonathan Sutherland, *Bachtrack*



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AUDIO / VIDEO RECORDS

[Création de la cie 14:20 sur une cavatine de Mozart.](#)

[Extrait de *Lucio Silla* de Mozart, avec Insula orchestra sous la direction de Laurence Equilbey.](#)

DISCOGRAPHY

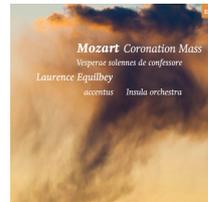


MOZART REQUIEM

Sandrine Piau,
Sara Mingardo,
Werner Güra,
Christopher Purves
Laurence Equilbey,
accentus,
Insula orchestra

naïve
September 2014

« *And for all Equilbey's avoidance of theatricality it's the sense of detail, care and attention she imparts as well as fluency that makes her interpretation memorable* ».
BBC Music Magazine



MOZART VESPERAE SOLEMNES DE CONFESSORE CORONATION MASS

Sandrine Piau,
Renata Pokupić,
Benjamun Bruns,
Andreas Wolf,
Laurence Equilbey,
accentus,
Insula orchestra

Warner Classics – Erato
April 2017

“*Laurence Equilbey signs an interpretation of the Coronation Mass where animation tends towards euphoria without risking any disequilibrium.*”
Le Monde

SUPPORTERS



acc—io

france·tv

LE FIGARO



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