INSULA ORCHESTRA

SEASON 2023 | 2024

INSULA ORCHESTRA
PERIOD INSTRUMENTS
MUSICAL AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LAURENCE EQUILBEY

BEETHOVEN EROICA

EQUILBEY - CONUNOVA

DIFFUSION

SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 8 2023

BEETHOVEN EROICA

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Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Violin Concerto
Symphony n°3, Eroica

Alexandra Conunova, *violon*
Insula orchestra
Laurence Equilbey, *conductor*

1h40 with intermission

Numbers: 70 musicians, 1 soloist, 1 conductor

Diffusion:

September 21 - October 8 2023

September 27, 28 2023 concerts at La Seine Musicale

During the 23-24 season, Laurence Equilbey and her ensemble on period instruments Insula orchestra collaborate once again with the violinist Alexandra Conunova.

After their successful collaboration on the recording for Warner of Beethoven's Triple Concerto (with Natalie Clein and David Kadouch), Insula orchestra and Alexandra Conunova **are following up with another Beethoven work: the violin concerto.**

In May 1806, Ludwig van Beethoven and Thérese Brunsvik **became secretly engaged**. Is this why the composition of his violin concerto, **written at the time of this felicitous event has often been said to "breathe happiness"?** Some see the concerto as nothing short of a "love poem", and there is no denying that the relation between soloist and orchestra contributes to this impression: **rather than facing off against each other, they dovetail to perfection**.

Also considered as a major chapter in the advent of musical Romanticism, the *Third Symphony*, commonly referred to as the *Heroic*, **is one of Beethoven's most popular works**. Dedicated to the memory of a great man (originally, Napoleon Bonaparte), **it depicts a broad range of emotions and was revolutionary** in its time for its sheer length, no previous symphony having exceeded 30 minutes.

Insula orchestra and Laurence Equilbey yet again take on one of the German composer's major symphonies and continue **to pursue their exploration of the great orchestral repertory.**

TO SEE / TO LISTEN

Alexandra Conunova, Insula orchestra, Laurence Equilbey, 2019.
Ludwig van Beethoven - Triple Concerto

IN THE PRESS

About the Warner recording of Beethoven's Concertos Nos. 4 and 5 with Nicholas Angelich:

« Its refined timbres, crystalline and without harshness, match those of Insula orchestra, opening the way to a homogeneous and original interpretation. No romantic epic or metaphysical lesson here, but a reading full of tenderness, light and elusive like a pleasant dream. The delicacy of the colors does not prevent the vigor of the accentuations nor the play of the contrasts, a little like in a watercolor whose lines would have been heightened with black ink.
***Jérôme Bastianelli, Diapason,* november 2018**

« As the orchestra and its conductor show, the search for historical truth is not incompatible with that of a rich expressive palette (...). Such is the intensity forged by Laurence Equilbey. »
***Melissa Khong, Classica,* november 2018**

« Thanks in part to Laurence Equilbey's light and flexible touch, piano and orchestra sometimes seem like a single entity; the heaven-versus-hell Andante is gracefully restrained, and the Concerto as a whole exudes charm. »
***Michael Church, BBC Music Magazine*, january 2019**

« Equilbey keeps things lean and flowing, underpinned by characterful timpani. Equilbey coaxes plenty of energy from the orchestra, achieving a real one-in-a-bar feel. »
***Harriet Smith, Graophone,* december 2018**

« Aux premiers accords du Concerto n° 5 et dans l'exposition qui suit, nous sommes stupéfiés par la puissance des instruments d'époque. Telle est l'intensité forgée par Laurence Equilbey. Son approche romantique apporte une luminosité chaleureuse qui convient aux timbres ronds de Nicholas Angelich, jouant un Pleyel de 1892. »
***Pianiste*, november - december 2018**

ALEXANDRA CONUNOVA

First Prize at the Joseph Joachim Violin Competition in Hanover in 2012, and prizewinner at the XV International Tchaikovsky Competition and at the Singapore International Violin Competition, Alexandra Conunova has been hailed by her virtuosity, warm tone, impressive range of color, and flawless technique.

In 2016 she also received the prestigious Fellowship by the Borletti-Buittoni Trust in London.

Recent highlights include engagements with the Mariinsky Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, NFOR, Mahler Chamber Orchestra, NDR Sinfonieorchester, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Luzern Sinfonieorchester, Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Paris Chamber Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Marseille, Orchestra Teatro Regio Torino, Orchestra I Pomeriggi Musicali, among others. She frequently performs under the batons of maestros Valery Gergiev, Theodor Curentzis, Vladimir Spivakov, Mikhail Pletnev, Gabor Takacs-Nagy, Lawrence Foster and Gianandrea Noseda, among others.

Future appearances include the return to the Gstaad Festival performing Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Mariinsky Orchestra under Valery Gergiev, the opening of the Transiberian Festival performing Turnage's Concerto for Two Violins with Vadim Repin under Andris Poga, her debut with the Budapest Festival Orchestra, performing Mozart Violin Concerto No.1 under Gabor Takacs-Nagy, recitals in Berlin, Milano, Torino, Ferrara, Notre-Dame-de-Vie, and a tour in Spain.

Alexandra's first recording of Prokofiev Violin Sonatas with Michail Liftis, on Aparté, was received with great acclaim: "This recording reveals Conunova as a major artist – in terms of both technical assurance and interpretative daring... I can't recommend their freshly considered, vividly recorded interpretations highly enough" (Gramophone); "...this is already a candidate for one of the best discs of the year" (The Strad).

Conunova is regularly invited to the most prestigious festivals, such as Verbier, Gstaad, Montreux, Septembre Musical, Aix-en-Provence, Folle Journée, Besançon, Martha Argerich Festival, Ferrara Musica, Accademia Santa Cecilia...and collaborates as chamber music partner with Martha Argerich, Renaud Capuçon, Gauthier Capuçon, Denis Kozhukhin, Michail Lifits, Andreas Ottensamer, Gérard Caussé, Boris Brovtsyn and Jean Rondeau, among others.

Nominated "Maître ès Arts" by the Moldavian President, she founded a charity Foundation "ArtaVie" in her home town Chisinau to support talented kids and social programs.
For the last 3 years Alexandra has had the pleasure to work under the guidance and mentoring of one of the world's leading professors, Edouard Wulfson, in Geneva.

LAURENCE EQUILBEY

CONDUCTOR

Conductor, musical director and founder of Insula Orchestra and accentus, Laurence Equilbey embodies the alliance of artistic excellence and innovative, inclusive projects.

Her carrier in the symphonic repertoire has led her to conduct orchestras such as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Hessischer Rundfunk, the orchestras of Lyon, Liège or Leipzig, the Brussels Philharmonic, Copenhagen, Gulbenkian, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Concerto Köln, Camerata Salzburg, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia in London, Barcelona, Bilbao, H&H Boston, etc.

With support from the Hauts-de-Seine department, she founded Insula Orchestra in 2012. The period instrument orchestra inaugurated an artistic residency at the Seine Musicale, on the Seguin Island, in April 2017. It is also in charge of part of the Auditorium's season.

On the lyric scene, Laurence Equilbey conducted Gounod's Nonne Sanglante (Paris' Opéra Comique), Weber's Der Freischütz staged by the new magic company 14:20 (Théâtre de Caen, Grand Théâtre de Provence, Bozar in Brussels, Theater an der Wien, Barbican centre, Ludwigsburg Festival, Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées).

Every season at the Seine Musicale, Laurence Equilbey creates staged performances with artists from diverse backgrounds. For example, Haydn's Die Schöpfung (performed in Aix-en-Provence, Hamburg, Vienna and New York) or Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony were created alongside with the theatre company La Fura dels Baus, Mozart's Requiem with Yoann Bourgeois, the ballet Le Jeune homme et la Mort (the Young man and Death) with choreographer Marie-Agnès Gillot, Mozart's Mass in C minor with Pascal Ferran, or the last ballads of Robert Schumann with Antonin Baudry. In 2021/2022, Laurence Equilbey joins forces with David Bobée again to perform Beethoven's opera Fidelio. She will then undertake an ambitious project around Mozart's last day of work with David Lescot.
Laurence Equilbey is associated artist at the Grand Théâtre d'Aix-en-Provence and enjoys a privileged relationship with the Paris Philharmonie.

With accentus, she continually explores the great repertoire of vocal music. Recently, she conducted the ensemble in Salzburg, in a program featuring Dusapin and Goubaïdoulina. Truly invested in education and the transmission of knowledge, she is artistic and teaching director of the Senior department for young singers / CRR de Paris.

After two recordings of Beethoven's work and Weber's Freischütz, all critically-acclaimed, two additional records with Insula Orchestra will be released this season under the label Warner Classics – Erato: Louise Farrenc's 1st and 3rd Symphonies (July 2021) and Mozart's Lucio Silla (march 2022).

INSULA ORCHESTRA : INSTRUMENTS OF THEN, SPIRIT OF NOW

Insula orchestra's purpose is very clear: to serve music from the baroque, classical and pre-romantic eras at the best of its abilities – that is, in a historically informed way. Side-by-side with masterpieces of the repertoire, the orchestra also features rarer pieces, such as the work of Louise Farrenc or Clara Schumann. The ensemble performs on period instruments to match as closely as possible the original sound, text and writing design.

With support of the Hauts-de-Seine department, Insula orchestra was founded in 2012 by its artistic director and conductor Laurence Equilbey. In 2017, it inaugurated the Seine Musicale venue as its resident orchestra. The orchestra is in charge of part of the Auditorium's season, for which it invites numerous ensembles and artists. Insula orchestra also regularly performs in France and internationally in leading venues and festivals: Philharmonie de Paris, Grand Théâtre de Provence, Theater an der Wien, Stadtcasino in Basel, Elbphilharmonie of Hamburg, Barbican Centre in London, Louvre Abu Dhabi for its official inauguration...

The orchestra reinvents the formats and rules of classical music to reach out to all audiences. It regularly produces staged concerts to shine a new light on music, working with artists such as Yoann Bourgeois, Antonin Baudry, Pascale Ferran, David Bobée... It is particularly active on the field of digital technologies, and delved in 360° experiences and virtual reality. A diversified and innovative education program, striving towards sharing and inclusion, was developed throughout the Hauts-de-Seine department. In 2022, a new resource centre will be created to widely share its musical and scientific research, as well as the developed educational and digital resources: Insula Documenta.

DISCOGRAPHY

BEETHOVEN
TRIPLE CONCERTO

Bertrand Chamayou / Alexandra Conunova / Natalie Clein / David Kadouch / accentus / Insula orchestra / Laurence Equilbey

Warner Classics – Erato

april 2019

BEETHOVEN
PIANO CONCERTOS 4 & 5

Nicholas Angelich / Insula orchestra / Laurence Equilbey

Warner Classics – Erato
september 2018

SUPPORTERS

hauts-de-seine LE DÉPARTEMENT

LA SEINE MUSICALE

CHARGEURS

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CHAUMET

acc-io

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