SEASON 2024 | 2025

INSULA ORCHESTRA

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PERIOD INSTRUMENTS
MUSICAL AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LAURENCE EQUILBEY





CHOPIN / SCHUMANN

EQUILBEY - DEBARGUE

DIFFUSION
SEPTEMBER 22 - OCTOBER 6 2024
OCTOBER 20 - 25 2024

CHOPIN / SCHUMANN

EQUILBEY - DEBARGUE

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)
Piano concerto n°1
Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Symphony n° 4

Lucas Debargue, *piano*
Insula orchestra
Laurence Equilbey, *conductor*

1h40 with intermission

Numbers:
52 musicians, 1 soloist, 1 conductor

Diffusion:
September 22 - October 6 &
October 20 - 25 2024

With this programme, Laurence Equilbey and Insula orchestra offer **a musical evocation of the destinies of two of the most celebrated of the first-generation Romantic composers**: Frédéric Chopin and Robert Schumann. Over and above their friendship and mutual admiration, they shared the privilege of being able to express their sensibility through the preferred medium of piano. Hence t**he obvious choice of a pianist like Lucas Debargue**, already noted for his performance of Beethoven's Concerto no 2 with Insula Orchestra in 2022.



The young Chopin performed his *Concerto no 1* at his farewell concert in Warsaw before leaving his native Poland for Paris, via Vienna. **Virtuosic and tragic**, the work is striking, not only for its freedom of invention and the bravura of its solo section, but also for its delicate and fluid orchestration, which, though often criticized, was enthusiastically defended by Robert Schumann, who wrote: "*Chopin does not march with an orchestral army in the manner of the great geniuses; he has just a small cohort, but they are entirely his own, down to the last champion*."

Schumann himself evokes his Fourth Symphony in very different terms. For military, read ardent amorous passion. In a March 1841 Diary entry, he wrote: "*My next symphony will have to be called Clara and I shall paint her with flutes, oboes and harps*". **The work is indeed an ode to his beloved wife and muse**, whose name, transcribed into music, ties together all the movements. Chronologically, the composition of the Fourth Symphony is the composer's second; with it, Insula orchestra continues its exploration of Schumann's symphonic corpus, begun a year ago with the performance of the First Symphony.

Nathan Magrecki

TO SEE / TO LISTEN

Lucas Debargue - Bach, Beethoven, Medtner / Album Preview

IN THE PRESS

About the Beethoven / Farrenc concerts, with Insula orchestra, Lucas Debargue and Laurence Equilbey at La Seine Musicale, September 2022:

« Lucas Debargue underlined what we already know about him from his recordings - he rethinks everything, bringing illumination at every turn. »
Colin Clarke, Classical Explorer, october 2022

« Laurence Equilbey and Insula orchestra have invited one of the most prominent pianists of the young generation: Lucas Debargue. »
Jean-Michel Dhuez, Radio Classique, september 2022

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



LUCAS DEBARGUE

Today, Lucas is invited to play solo and with leading orchestras in the most prestigious venues of the world including Berlin Philharmonie, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Vienna, Théâtre des Champs Elysées and Philharmonie Paris, London's Wigmore Hall and Royal Festival Hall, Alte Oper Frankfurt, Cologne Philharmonie, Suntory Hall Tokyo, the concert halls of Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Seoul, and of course the legendary Grand Hall of Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow, the Mariinsky Concert Hall in St. Petersburg and Carnegie Hall in New York. He also appeared several times at the summer festivals of La Roque d'Anthéron and Verbier.

Lucas Debargue regularly collaborates with Valery Gergiev, Mikhail Pletnev, Vladimir Jurowski, Andrey Boreyko, Tugan Sokhiev, Vladimir Spivakov and Bertrand de Billy. His chamber music partners include Gidon Kremer, Janine Jansen, and Martin Fröst.

Born in 1990, Lucas forged a highly unconventional path to success. Having discovered classical music at the age of 10, the future musician began to feed his passion and curiosity with diverse artistic and intellectual experiences, which included advanced studies of literature and philosophy. The encounter with the celebrated piano teacher Rena Shereshevskaya proved a turning point: her vision and guidance inspired Lucas to make a life-long professional commitment to music.

Sony Classical has released five of his albums with music of Scarlatti, Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Liszt, Ravel, Medtner and Szymanowski. His monumental four-volume tribute to Scarlatti, which came out at the end of 2019, has been praised by The New York Times and selected by NPR among "the ten classical albums to usher in the next decade". In August 2021, Sony released a new CD entirely dedicated to the Polish composer Miłosz Magin: "Zal" - a true discovery of a fascinating yet unknown composer recorded with Kremerata Baltica and Gidon Kremer.

Lucas's breakthrough at the Tchaikovsky Competition is the subject of the documentary To music. Directed by Martin Mirabel and produced by Bel Air Media, it was shown at the International Film Festival in Biarritz in 2018.



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

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