



LES TALENS
LYRIQUES CHRISTOPHE ROUSSET

The Ensemble takes its name from the subtitle of Jean-Philippe Rameau's opera *Les Fêtes d'Hébé* (1739) and was formed in 1991 by the harpsichordist and conductor **Christophe Rousset**.

Championing a broad vocal and instrumental repertoire, ranging from early Baroque to the beginnings of Romanticism, the musicians of Les Talens Lyriques aim to throw light on the great masterpieces of musical history, while providing perspective by presenting rarer or little known works that are important as missing links in the European musical heritage. This musicological and editorial work, which contributes to its renown, is a priority for the ensemble.

Les Talens Lyriques perform to date works by **Monteverdi** (*L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, *L'Orfeo*), **Cavalli** (*La Didone*, *La Calisto*), **Landi** (*La Morte d'Orfeo*), **Handel** (*Scipione*, *Riccardo Primo*, *Rinaldo*, *Admeto*, *Giulio Cesare*, *Serse*, *Arianna in Creta*, *Tamerlano*, *Ariodante*, *Semele*, *Alcina*), **Lully** (*Persée*, *Roland*, *Bellérophon*, *Phaéton*, *Amadis*, *Armide*, *Alceste*), **Desmarest** (*Vénus et Adonis*), **Mondonville** (*Les Fêtes de Paphos*), **Cimarosa** (*Il Mercato di Malmantile*, *Il Matrimonio segreto*), *Traetta* (*Antigona*, *Ippolito ed Aricia*), **Jommelli** (*Armida abbandonata*), **Martin y Soler** (*La Capricciosa corretta*, *Il Tutore burlato*), **Mozart** (*Mitridate*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Così fan tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte*), **Salieri** (*La Grotta di Trofonio*, *Les Danaïdes*, *Les Horaces*, *Tarare*), **Rameau** (*Zoroastre*, *Castor et Pollux*, *Les Indes galantes*, *Platée*, *Pygmalion*), **Gluck** (*Bauci e Filemone*, *Alceste*), **Beethoven**, **Cherubini** (*Médée*), **García** (*Il Califfo di Bagdad*), **Berlioz**, **Massenet**, **Gounod** (*Faust*) and **Saint-Saëns**.

The re-creation of these works goes hand in hand with close collaboration with stage directors and choreographers such as **Pierre Audi**, **Jean-Marie Villégier**, **David McVicar**, **Eric Vigner**, **Ludovic Lagarde**, **Mariame Clément**, **Jean-Pierre Vincent**, **Macha Makeïeff**, **Laura Scozzi**, **Natalie van Parys**, **Marcial di Fonzo Bo**, **Claus Guth**, **Robert Carsen**, **David Hermann**, **Christof Loy**, **Jetske Mijnsen**, **Alban Richard** and **David Lescot**.

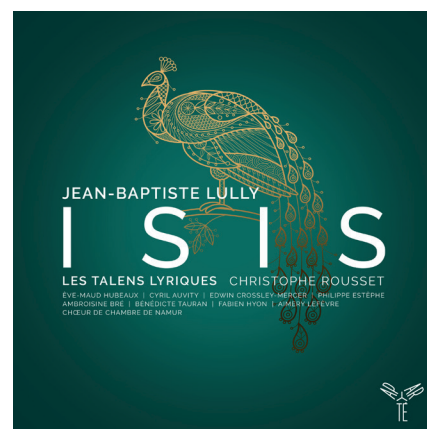
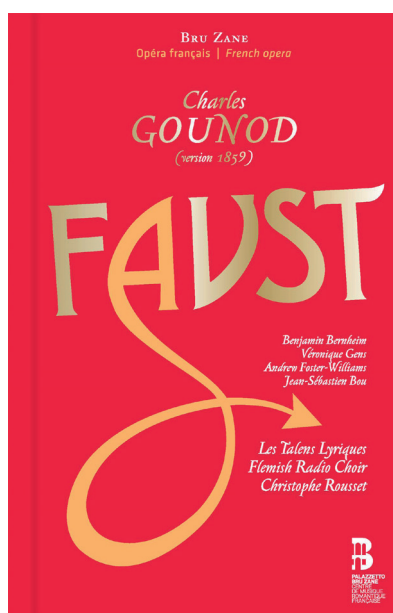
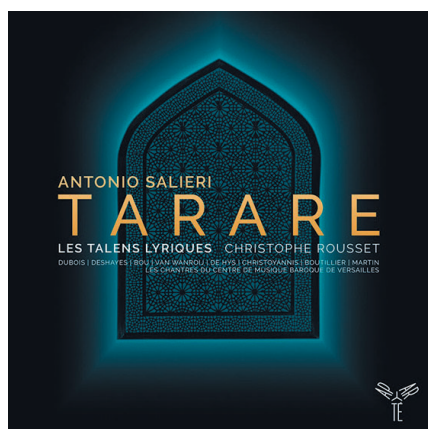
As well as opera, Les Talens Lyriques explore other musical genres: madrigal, cantata, air de cour, symphonies, and the vast corpus of sacred music (masses, motets, oratorios, *Leçons de Ténèbres*, and so on). In formations varying from a handful of musicians to more than sixty, representing every generation, they give performances all over the world.

The 2019-2020 season goes under the title of “Nations”, for Europe and its nations are particularly prominent in the programmes and travels of Les Talens Lyriques. French music is represented by **Jean-Baptiste Lully** (*Isis*) and **François Couperin** (*Les Nations*), Italy by **Monteverdi** (*L’Incoronazione di Poppea*) and a programme entitled “Les Larmes de la Vierge”, consisting of beautiful but little known works. **Johann Sebastian Bach** and his son **Carl Philipp Emanuel** represent Germany with their *Magnificat* settings and other pieces, while that universal figure and great traveller, **George Frideric Handel**, represents several nations with his music; his operas *Agrippina*, *Giulio Cesare* and *Ariodante* and his oratorio *Saul* will be performed this season. The different aesthetics of these composers clearly illustrate the move towards humanism and the Age of Enlightenment, with which Christophe Rousset feels such an affinity.



The idea of “Nations” is also reflected in the diversity of the ensemble’s venues this season: in France, the **Théâtre des Champs-Élysées** and **Théâtre du Châtelet** in Paris, the **Royal Opera at Versailles**, and the **Beaune Festival**; in Austria, the **Wiener Staatsoper** and the **Theater an der Wien**; in Germany, the **Leipzig Bach Festival**; and for the first time Les Talens Lyriques will be travelling to Romania to take part in the **Enescu Festival** in Bucharest, and will be performing in Colombia’s capital, **Bogota**.

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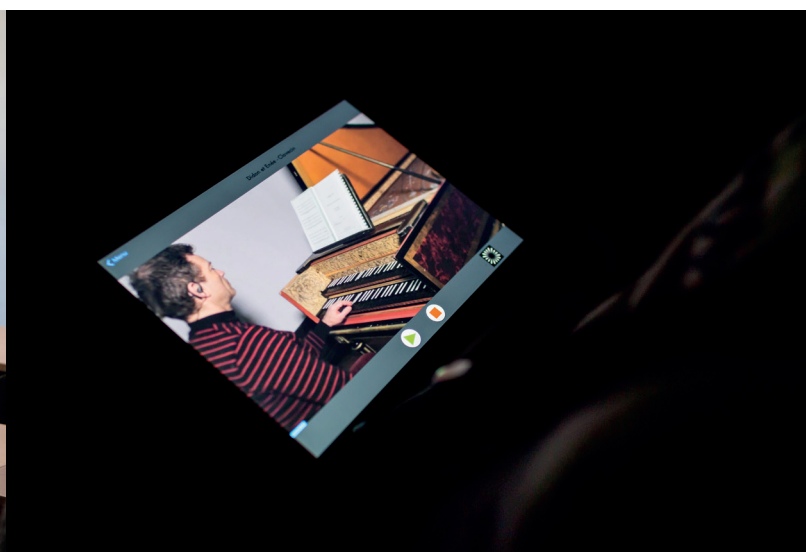


The Ensemble’s rich discography comprises some sixty references on various labels (Erato, Fnac Music, Auvidis, Decca, Naïve, Ambroisie, Virgin Classics, Ediciones Singulares (Palazzetto Bru Zane), Outhere and Aparté). Les Talens Lyriques recorded the famous soundtrack for Gérard Corbiau’s film *Farinelli* (1994), which sold over a million copies.

In 2019-2020, the Ensemble will be pleased to release recordings of masterpieces such as **Gounod’s** *Faust* (PBZ), **Lully’s** *Isis* (Aparté), **Mozart’s** *Betulia liberata* (Aparté) and **Pergolesi’s** *Stabat Mater* (Outhere).



Since 2007, the musicians of the Ensemble have been working to introduce schoolchildren to music, via a programme of ambitious artistic actions and innovative educational initiatives. They are in residence in schools in Paris and Île-de-France, where they have created a student orchestra with young secondary school pupils and a small choir ("Le petit chœur des Talens"). The three **t@lenschool** educational applications, downloadable free of charge, have met with much enthusiasm and have received several national and international awards.



Les Talens Lyriques receives subsidies from the French Ministry of Culture-Drac Ile-de-France and the City of Paris, and generous support from its Circle of Patrons. The ensemble wishes to thank its principal Patrons, the Annenberg Foundation / GRoW – Gregory and Regina Annenberg Weingarten, Madame Aline Foriel-Destezet and Mécénat Musical Société Générale.



Since 2011 Les Talens Lyriques have been associate artists, in residence at the Singer-Polignac Foundation in Paris. Les Talens Lyriques are founding members of FEVIS (Federation of Specialised Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles) and of PROFEDIM (Professional Union of Music Producers, Festivals, Ensembles, and Independent Distributors).