

Les Siècles

Orchestra

Uniquely in the world, bringing together musicians of a new generation, playing each work in its repertory on appropriate period instruments, Les Siècles puts into perspective, in a pertinent and unexpected way, several centuries of musical creation.

Les Siècles appears regularly on the international stage – Paris (Philharmonie, Opéra-Comique), La Côte Saint-André and Aix-en-Provence Festivals, London (BBC Proms, Royal Festival Hall), Amsterdam (Concertgebouw), Berlin (Konzerthaus), Bremen (Bremen Festival), Bonn (Beethovenfest), Cologne, Brussels (Klara Festival), Luxembourg, Monte Carlo (Printemps des Arts), Granada (Granada Festival), Bucharest (Enescu Festival), Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Tokyo. In 2018, the orchestra undertook a tour to China and Japan including danced performances of Nijinsky ballets. The orchestra is an Associate Artist of the Philharmonie de Paris and the Cité de la Musique in Soissons and has a residency in the département of l'Aisne. In this celebratory year, the orchestra includes a focus on the works of Berlioz alongside programmes featuring Mozart, Beethoven, Lachenmann and Ligeti.

The orchestra's recordings of Stravinsky's three ballets (*The Firebird*, *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring*) received a German Record Critics' Prize and an Edison Klassiek Prize in the Netherlands. Their *France-Espagne* recording, bringing together works by Chabrier, Ravel, Massenet and Debussy, was awarded a "Choc" by *Classica* magazine. Les Siècles first album of a complete cycle of Ravel's orchestral works for Harmonia Mundi, *Daphnis & Chloé* won the Gramophone Awards Orchestral Album of the Year 2018. The second release, including *Ma mère l'Oye*, won a Diapason d'Or. *Mirages*, a vocal recital with Sabine Devieille for Erato, was winner of a Diapason d'Or and *Victoires de la Musique Classique* Recording of the Year, a Gramophone Editor's Choice and Sunday Times Album of the Week. An album commemorating Debussy's centenary year, including *Jeux* and *Nocturnes* was one of the Sunday Times Top 100 recordings of the year and Presto Classical Disc of the Year. Their latest recording, commemorating the 150th anniversary of Berlioz' death, includes *Harold en Italie* (Tabea Zimmermann) and *Les nuits d'été* (Stéphane Degout). It was Sunday Times Album of the Week and acclaimed by Dutch newspaper *Trouw* as "already one of the best CDs of the year".

Keen to pass on their passion for classical music to as many as possible, the musicians of the ensemble regularly offer educational activities in schools, hospitals and prisons. The orchestra is a partner of the L'Aisne Youth Symphony Orchestra, the Hector Berlioz Youth European Orchestra and DEMOS (Musical Education and Orchestral Device for Social Purposes) in Picardy and the Île-de-France. The orchestra is also at the start of a project "Music in the Hospital", led by the paediatric haemato-oncology department at the Trousseau Hospital in Paris and a pedagogical residency at La Petite Bibliothèque Ronde de Clamart. Les Siècles was creator and prime feature of the television series *Presto!*, watched by millions of viewers on France 2 and issued on DVD in association with the Centre national de documentation pédagogique (CNDP).