

IBERIA

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SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE POLYPHONIES

After the success of their program Méditerranée Sacrée, which has since been recorded on CD, for radio (France Musique) and for TV (Mezzo), has been presented in 50 or more concerts in France, the USA, Canada, Tunisia, and Lebanon, the chamber choir Les éléments now presents a new program where old masterpieces stand alongside contemporary creations. A musical journey through time in the Iberian Peninsula, from medieval Spain to the monastery of the Huelgas, to the Renaissance of Guerrero and Victoria, the monastery in Catalogne at Galicia, passing by the Castille and the Andalousie, the program brings us to the Portugal of Lobo and Cardoso, masters of the golden age of Portuguese polyphony in Lisbon. Alongside the older masterpieces, two global creations commissioned specifically for this program by Les éléments from the Portuguese composer António Chagas Rosa and from the Spanish composer Iván Solano.

PROGRAM

Codex Las huelgas (ca 1300)

Ex illustri
Fa fa mi fa / Ut re mi ut
for women's choir a cappella

Alfonso X El Sabio (1221-1284)

Cantigas de Santa Maria :
Sancta Maria, Strela do dia
(in Galician)

Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

Alma Redemptoris mater
Super Flumina Babilonis

Iván Solano (1973)

Cielo Arterial (2015)
for 18 solo voices a cappella
Text by Catherine Peillon
This work was commissioned by
the Chamber Choir Les éléments

INTERMISSION

Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

O Magnum Mysterium

Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)

Canciones y villanescas espirituales
Juycios sobre una estrella
O Grandes Pazés
(in Spanish)

Duarte Lôbo (1565-1646)

Audivi Vocem De Caelo

Manuel Cardoso (1566-1650)

Lamentatio (Lamentation et repons
pour la seconde leçon des matines
du jeudi saint)

António Chagas Rosa (1960)

Lumine Claescet (2015)
for 18 solo voices a cappella
Selected text from The Prophecies
of the Cumaean Sibyl
This work was commissioned
by the Chamber Choir
Les éléments

« The pure beauty of 13th-century polyphony and plainsong, stylishly performed by Les éléments, moves gently into two of Victoria's masterpieces, before the first of two vibrant, new choral works commissioned specially for this program. A sumptuous, adventurous album. »

Apple Music US - Juin 2019



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Chamber Choir les éléments, 18 singers
- Direction: Joël Suhubiette
- In-church concert only
- Rate for this concert: please contact us / Special rates available on tour

This program is co-produced by les éléments and Odyssud-Blagnac And supported by Musique Nouvelle en Liberté, La Spedidam, L'Adami and La Sacem.

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CHAMBER CHOIR LES ÉLÉMENTS

DIRECTION: JOËL SUHUBIETTE

A QUALITY INSTRUMENT IN THE SERVICE OF VOCAL MUSIC

Created in 1997 in Toulouse, the chamber choir Les éléments, directed by its founder Joël Suhubiette has established itself, in just a few years, as one of the leading ensemble in the French choral environment. In 2005, the choir won the Liliane Bettencourt Price for choral singing awarded by the Fine Arts Academy of the French Institute, and it was awarded best Ensemble of the Year in 2006 at the Victoires de la Musique Classique (awards ceremony that recognizes outstanding performances in the classical music field). They perform in Toulouse, its region Midi-Pyrénées, in the most prestigious venues in France and also abroad. For instance, they were invited to Canada, the USA, Lebanon, Spain, Germany, Italy, Greece, Switzerland, Egypt, Great Britain, Netherlands, and Tunisia etc...

Les éléments aims to embody a high level instrument serving contemporary creation and defending the a cappella repertoire. Thus, they create great works by Zad Moultaqa, Alexandros Markéas, Pierre Jodlowski, Patrick Burgan, Ivan Fedele, Philippe Hersant, Vincent Paulet, Pierre-Adrien Charpy, Ton That Tiêt... They perform pieces by Mantovani, Harvey, Berio, Messiaen, Dallapiccola, Stravinsky, Poulenc, Britten, Martin, Hindemith... as well as oratorios and the great choral repertoire from the past centuries.

Joël Suhubiette is also interested in reinstating the antique music repertoire. The chamber choir performs Bach (Mass in B, Christmas Oratorio, Cantatas, Motets), Monteverdi (Vespers of the Blessed Virgin), Schütz and Purcell, many works by Mozart, Haydn and other French baroque composers. The ensemble also sings diverse pieces of the French and German romantic repertoire. They are occasionally joined by the Ensemble Jacques Moderne from Tours for the double choir baroque repertoire.

The chamber choir Les éléments is frequently invited by orchestras and performs under the direction of Jérémie Rhorer, Emmanuel Krivine, Christophe Rousset, Philippe Herreweghe, Josep Pons, Jean-Christophe Spinosi, Michel Plasson, Philippe Nahon... and also regularly, for its season in Toulouse, with the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, the Orchestre de chambre de Toulouse Orchestra and les Passions - the Orchestre baroque de Montauban. Since 2008, the choir is often invited to perform in various well-known Parisian theaters like the Opéra Comique, the Théâtre des Champs Elysées.

Directed by Joël Suhubiette, Les éléments records with several labels like L'Empreinte Digitale, Hortus, Virgin Classics and Naïve and features on records of the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, les Passions - the Orchestre baroque de Montauban, the Chambre Philharmonique and the Ensemble Matheus.

The chamber choir les éléments is recognized by the Ministry of Culture and Communication - DRAC (Regional Direction of Cultural Affairs) of Languedoc-Roussillon-Midi-Pyrénées, by the Occitanie Regional Council and the Mayor of Toulouse.
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JOËL SUHUBIETTE, DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER OF THE CHAMBER CHOIR LES ÉLÉMENTS

AN INSPIRING CAREER WITHIN THE VOCAL REPERTOIRE

For many years, Joël Suhubiette has been an active performer in vocal music ranging from, oratorios, a cappella repertoire, operas, and renaissance, to contemporary music. With his two professional vocal ensembles - The chamber choir Les Eléments in Toulouse and the Ensemble Jacques Moderne in Tour - he has worked in close collaboration with musicologists on ancient music and has premiered many works by contemporary composers.

After studying music at the University of Toulouse and the Conservatoire de Toulouse, Suhubiette started his career by singing with Les Arts Florissants and William Christie, then with Philippe Herreweghe's two choirs: La Chapelle Royale in Paris, and Collegium Vocale Gent in Belgium. This was to be a decisive meeting for in 1990 Herreweghe gave him the role of assistant and over the following eight years, Suhubiette worked on a large repertoire representing four centuries of vocal music.

At the same time, in 1993, he succeeded Jean-Pierre Ouvrard as the conductor of the vocal and instrumental Ensemble Jacques Moderne in Tours, performing early European music spanning over two centuries, from Renaissance polyphony to Baroque vocal music.

In 1997, in Toulouse, he founded the Chamber choir Les Eléments, consisting of 16 to 40 singers, to perform contemporary creations, the 19th and 20th century a cappella repertoire, and masterpieces of baroque and classical oratorios.

In 2006, Les Eléments was awarded Ensemble of the Year at the Victoire de la Musique Classique awards ceremony and today is recognised as one of France's greatest choirs.

With his two ensembles, Joël Suhubiette has frequently appeared in the principal French regional venues and festivals, and in Paris (Cité de la Musique, Théâtre du Chatelet, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées...). He has toured throughout Europe (Spain, Portugal, Germany, UK, Switzerland, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Latvia, Czech Republic...), Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Japan, and the Americas (USA, Canada, Colombia).

He has recorded more than 25 albums with many labels such as Virgin Classics, Hortus, Caliope, Ligia, Naïve, l'Empreinte Digitale and more recently, Mirare.

In addition to his vocal work, he has also conducted several major French orchestras and instrumental ensembles (Café Zimmermann, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Orchestre de Chambre de Toulouse, Les Passions, Les Folies Françaises, Gli Incogniti, Concerto Soave, Les Percussions de Strasbourg, Ensemble Ars Nova...) and as well as performing on the concert stage, he has conducted operas in Opéra de Dijon and Festival de Saint-Céré (Mozart's Don Giovanni, Magic Flute, Marriage of Figaro, Abduction from the Seraglio, Opera Bouffa of Offenbach, and les Caprices de Marianne by Henri Sauguet.). At the Opéra de Massy he conducted the French premiere of Kurt Weill's "Silbersee".

Since 2006, he has also been the Artistic Director of the Festival Musique des Lumières de l'Abbaye-école de Sorèze and was recently awarded the prestigious Officier des Arts et des Lettres honour by the French Ministry of Cultural Affairs.



CIELO ARTERIAL (2015)

COMMISSIONED BY THE CHAMBER CHOIR LES ÉLÉMENTS

"In the realm of electro acoustic sound, Cielo Arterial mixes textures, images, and sounds of the text on which the piece is based, by Catherine Peillon. The representation of a changing sky that sometimes reddens... inhales drops of water... wakes up strong, energetic, full of life and movement, and which before had broken up its clouds to reveal itself clear. A sky smooth and calm as if the music was the light... crossed directions... ascents, falls, straight lines... a grainy texture, friction, clusters... as well as perfect harmonies and true intervals, poised... and then... the phonetics of the language like a grain that weaves sound and then composes the tune of the voice."

Iván Solano, composer

LUMINE CLARESCET (2015)

COMMISSIONED BY THE CHAMBER CHOIR LES ÉLÉMENTS

"This piece was created for 18 solo voices. The chosen texts, in Latin, are part of the prophecies of Sybille de Cumes. Part of this old repertoire had already been set to music by Orlando di Lasso in the 16th century. The pagan and hermetic nature of these texts has always fascinated me, although the content had been influenced by the Christian culture of the time. The nature of these texts allows the composer to create exquisite pictures with sounds, to the extent that they mention chromaticism, transcendence, meditation, eternity, and the submission of man to the laws of gods".

António Chagas Rosa, composer

