

Itinéraire Baroque



In the Périgord Vert, a beautiful unspoiled region of the Dordogne with its quiet stone-built villages, Artistic Director Ton Koopman has created a Festival that matches baroque music with the graceful medieval architectural heritage of the area. Originally founded as an *itinéraire*, or one-day Festival of concerts on a pilgrimage circuit to the small parish churches, the Festival has gradually expanded into an extended 4-day weekend, attracting new audiences to the Périgord Vert.

Each year, some 3,000 visitors attend the dozen concerts in the festival, with many even returning to settle in the area, restoring the farmhouses and châteaux and enjoying the gardens and sumptuous local gastronomy.

Ton Koopman commented:

"This rural area of Périgord Vert is perhaps lesser known than the more famous Dordogne valley with its majestic castles and strategic crusader fortresses. These smaller villages on rivers dotted across the countryside, many inhabited since prehistoric times, have a quieter, intimate charm. It seemed a shame to see so many of these historic churches closed for much of the year, so we started the festival to open up their doors and fill them with music. 19 years on, I am delighted that the festival has grown and become a regular fixture in the summer calendar, attracting visitors from far and wide."

The Dordogne, named after the great Dordogne River in Aquitaine, is one of the most picturesque regions in Europe, famous for prehistoric caves and gastronomic delicacies – *foie gras*, walnuts, truffles, duck and goose dishes, and *Le Caviar Perle Noir* (caviar produced in the heard of the Periford Vert), perfectly complemented by wines from St. Emillion or apple cider. Visitors to the Dordogne are captivated by the area's lush green golf courses, canoe trips along the river and beautiful walks and bike rides across the undulating landscape.

The region is rich in magnificent castles, historical museums and luscious green valleys. The Dordogne is also well known under the former name Périgord, dating back to when it was occupied by the Gauls. Then, it was divided into four separate parts for the four tribes: the Périgord Noir (for the darkness of the stone), the Périgord Blanc (for limestone quarries), the Périgord Vert (for the forest) and the Périgord Pourpre (for wine).

Ton Koopman

Harpsichordist, organist, conductor



Hailing from Zwolle in the Netherlands, Ton Koopman is an acclaimed organist, harpsichordist and conductor, as well as the Artistic Director of Itinéraire Baroque.

From the beginning of his musical studies in Amsterdam Koopman was fascinated by authentic instruments and a performance style based on sound scholarship; in 1969, at the age of 25, he created his first Baroque orchestra. In 1979 he

founded the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, followed by the Amsterdam Baroque Choir in 1992.

Koopman's extensive activities as a soloist, accompanist and conductor have been recorded on a large number of LPs and CDs for labels such as Erato, Teldec, Sony, Philips and DG, along with his own record label, Antoine Marchand, distributed by Challenge Records.

Over the course of his 45-year career Koopman has appeared in some the most important concert halls and festivals in the world, including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Philharmonie in Munich, the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York. He has been Principal Conductor of the Netherland Radio Chamber Orchestra and has collaborated with leading international orchestras such as the Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Chicago Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome and Wiener Symphoniker.

Between 1994 and 2004, Koopman was engaged in a unique project, conducting and recording all the existing Cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach, a massive undertaking for which he has been awarded the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis 'Echo Klassik', the BBC Music Magazine Choral Award in 2008, the Prix Hector Berlioz and has been nominated for a Grammy Award in America and Gramophone Award in the UK.

In 2000 Koopman received an Honorary Degree from the Utrecht University for his academic work on the Bach Cantatas and Passions and has been awarded both the prestigious Silver Phonograph Prize and the VSCD Classical Music Award. In 2006 he has received the 'Bach-Medaille' from the City of Leipzig.

Koopman publishes regularly and for a number of years he has been engaged in editing the complete Händel Organ Concertos for Breitkopf & Härtel. He has published Händel's Messiah and Buxtehude's Das Jüngste Gericht for Carus.

Koopman leads the class of harpsichord at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, is Professor at the University of Leiden and is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music in London.

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