

Laurence Equilbey and her vibrant Insula orchestra make their UK debut at the Barbican Centre on 21 September 2015, coinciding with their CD release of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Franco Fagioli

21 September 2015 | 7:30pm

Barbican Centre, London
MAGNIFICAT

Zelenka *Miserere in C minor*
Mozart *Solemn Vespers K339*
CPE Bach *Magnificat*

Insula orchestra
accentus Choir
Laurence Equilbey *conductor*
Judith Van Wanroij *soprano*
Wiebke Lehmkuhl *alto*
Reinoud Van Mechelen *tenor*
Andreas Wolf *bass*



Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice
CD release: 11 September 2015
Archiv Produktion

Insula orchestra | accentus Choir
Franco Fagioli | Malin Hartelius | Emmanuelle de Negri

"An orchestral sound like no other – sumptuous strings, pleasant winds, juicy brass, unique percussion [...] a great discovery"

Michael Egéa, DestiMed - 2014

French conductor **Laurence Equilbey** brings her new ensemble **Insula orchestra** with the renowned **accentus choir** to **London** for their **UK debut** at the **Barbican Centre** on **21 September 2015**, with a programme of masterpieces entitled **Magnificat**. Insula orchestra is to become the vibrant resident ensemble at the **new Paris arts centre - La Cité Musicale de L'île Seguin** – under construction on the site of the former Renault car factory on an island in the Seine in the south east side of the French capital. Following their Salzburg debut last year and the Barbican in September, the 2015/16 season sees **Insula orchestra** taking to the international stage with further touring to Basel for an all-Beethoven programme and a concert performance of Mozart's *Lucio Silla* in Vienna.

For their Barbican debut, Equilbey's programme of choral masterpieces includes trademark Mozart alongside his lesser-performed contemporaries. For Mozart's *Solemn Vespers*, Zelenka's *Miserere* and

CPE Bach's *Magnificat*, they are joined by the critically-acclaimed **accentus choir** alongside soloists **Judith Van Wanroij**, **Wiebke Lehmkuhl**, **Reinoud Van Mechelen** and **Andreas Wolf**.

The Barbican concert coincides with their first CD release for the Deutsche Grammophon label (Archiv Produktion) of **Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice**, with acclaimed countertenor **Franco Fagioli** and sopranos **Malin Hartelius** and **Emmanuelle de Negri**. This follows **Insula orchestra's** first and much lauded CD of Mozart's *Requiem*, which The Observer gave 4 stars; **"The wiry Insula orchestra is softened by basset horns and bassoons, while the accentus Choir has a light European texture"**.

With their passion for bringing music to a wider public, Insula orchestra aims to use technology to reach out to new audiences – in particular the younger generations. For their performances of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* in April 2015, **Insula orchestra** created a series of alternative YouTube videos which regularly generate tens of thousands of views. Watch their video 'Orfeo's mind [here](#).



[Click here to watch a press preview of Insula's Orfeo ed Euridice video](#)

Please note - this video is not available to the general public until September.

As Laurence Equilbey explains:

*"Engaging younger audiences is one of our key motivations for creating this orchestra following the creation of the **accentus choir** 20 years ago. We do this by using technology, social media, and inviting 15 young people to every concert we put on. We give them the best seats in the house and take them backstage afterwards to experience the informal spirit of our orchestra. What is important is the memory of that moment – it needs to be short and fun. Now we are taking the orchestra on tour to reach further audiences abroad."*

Laurence Equilbey, who names Harnoncourt as a key mentor and has conducted Concerto Köln and the OAE among others, founded **Insula orchestra** as specialists in music from the classical and pre-romantic eras on period instruments. They have since made their international debut in **Salzburg** in 2014 and released their first recording in the same year. Following the upcoming Barbican concert, next season's touring sees **Insula orchestra** making their debut in Switzerland and a return to Austria.

[Watch an interview with Laurence Equilbey here \(French with subtitles\)](#)

Insula orchestra's new home, the **Cité Musicale de L'île Seguin**, will open in February 2017 as part of an on-going transformation of the former industrial area into a vibrant residential, cultural and commercial quarter, located in Boulogne-Billancourt. The renovation of this ten-acre site is an initiative of the Conseil Départemental des Hauts-de-Seine. Designed by Japanese architect **Shigeru Ban**, the new carbon neutral arts centre takes the form of a boat on the River Seine.



The Auditorium – **Insula orchestra's** smaller chamber concert hall - will seat 1,100 and takes the external shape of a golden nest with an adaptable sail with electricity-generating solar panels and on the inside a honey-comb ceiling. The larger hall with seating for 4,000 spectators will be predominantly used for pop music. Insula orchestra will perform 10 concerts in the Auditorium per season and the opening season will comprise of a Mozart festival and a special season dedicated to young people and family concerts.

Gluck *Orfeo ed Euridice*

original version – 1762 including: highlights of Vienna and Paris versions (1774)

**Insula orchestra | accentus choir
Franco Fagioli | Malin Hartelius |
Emmanuelle de Negri**

**Archiv Produktion
Released: 11 September 2015**



Discover Orfeo ed Euridice in a new web-serial!

[Click here to watch a press preview of Insula's Orfeo ed Euridice video](#)

Please note - this video is not available to the general public until September.

Lorenzo, a committed classical music fan and an impassioned admirer of conductor Laurence Equilbey, meets Berenice and decides to introduce her Gluck's masterpiece *Orfeo ed Euridice*. The video shows the moving parallel between their burgeoning, young love and the myth of *Orfeo and Euridice*.

Plus further episodes to follow on culturebox.fr

2015/16 Season

Insula orchestra's 2015/16 season begins with a tour of their *Magnificat* programme, first at Arras on 25 August, followed by **La Chaise-Dieu** on 26 August, **London** on 21 September, **Paris** on 24, **Aix-en-Provence** on 25 and **Versailles** on 26.

This is followed by a tour of **Beethoven's Symphony No.3 "Eroica"** and **Piano Concerto No. 4**. Pianists Nicholas Angelich and Kotaro Fukuma join **Insula orchestra** and **Equilbey** for performances in **Aix-en-Provence, La Rochelle, Paris, Basel** (their Swiss debut), **Colombes** and **Mérignac**. **Insula orchestra** and Equilbey then perform **Mozart's Lucio Silla** with **Franco Fagiloi, Olga Pudova, Paolo Fanale, Chiara Skerath, Ilse Eerens, le jeune chœur de paris, Arnold Schoenberg Choir** and **Rita Cosentino** in a third tour travelling to **Paris, Le Havre, Vienna, Aix-en-Provence** and **Versailles** in April and May 2016.

"Absolute perfection"

Jean-Remi Barland (La Provence) 2015

"The orchestra is precise, sharp, sparkling, with controlled dynamics and its own interpretation"

Bérénice Clerc (Tout le Culture) 2013

"A purely dramatic experience"

BBC Music Magazine 2014



Insula orchestra have initiated a range of educational initiatives, working with the Hauts-de-Seine Council in Paris. Their schemes aim to bring music to schoolchildren who would not ordinarily have any access to classical music, in addition to the wider public. Their events include workshops (both initiatory and experienced) and outreach events at healthcare facilities.



Agenda of the 2015/16 Season Diary

25 August – 26 September 2015

Zelenka *Miserere in C minor*
Mozart *Solemn Vespers K339*
CPE Bach *Magnificat*

Judith Van Wanroij *soprano*, **Renata Pokupić** *alto**, **Wiebke Lehmkuhl** *alto*, **Reinoud Van Mechelen** *tenor*, **Andreas Wolf** *bass*
accentus choir, Insula orchestra, Laurence Equilbey

25 August 2015 - Arras, Église Saint Nicolas en Cité *

26 August 2015 - La Chaise-Dieu, Abbatiale Saint-Robert *

20 September 2015 - Boulogne-Billancourt (open rehearsal)

21 September 2015 - London, Barbican (UK)

24 September 2015 - Paris, Cité de la musique - Philharmonie 2

25 September 2015 - Aix-en-Provence, Grand Théâtre de Provence

26 September 2015 - Versailles, Chapelle Royale

5 March – 13 March 2016

Beethoven *Symphony No.3 "Eroica"*
Beethoven *Piano Concerto No. 4*

Nicholas Angelich *piano*, **Kotaro Fukuma** *piano**
Insula orchestra, Laurence Equilbey

5 March 2016 - Aix-en-Provence, Grand Théâtre de Provence

7 March 2016 - La Rochelle, La Coursive

8 March 2016 - Paris, Philharmonie 1

9 March 2016 - Basel, Stadtcasino (Switzerland)

12 March 2016 - Colombes, l'Avant Seine *

13 March 2016 - Mérignac, Le Pin Galant *

23 April – 2 May 2016

Mozart *Lucio Silla*

Franco Fagioli *Cecilio*, **Olga Pudova** *Giunia*, **Paolo Fanale** *Lucio Silla*,
Chiara Skerath *Lucio Cinna*, **Ilse Eerens** *Celia*
le jeune chœur de paris, **Arnold Schoenberg Choir** *
Insula orchestra, **Laurence Equilbey**, **Rita Cosentino** *concept and*
stage direction

23 April 2016 - Paris, Cité de la musique - Philharmonie 2

25 April 2016 - Le Havre, Le Volcan

27 April 2016 - Vienna, Theater an der Wien (Austria) *

29 April 2016 - Aix-en-Provence, Grand Théâtre de Provence

2 May 2016 - Versailles, Opéra Royal

Insula Orchestra

Founded by Laurence Equilbey and the Hauts-de-Seine Departmental Council in 2012, **Insula orchestra** has quickly gained an impressive number of enthusiastic reviews in its short history, helping to spread its name far beyond its home on the western edge of Paris. Appearances at major venues and high-profile festivals throughout France have earned the orchestra a reputation for artistic excellence.



Insula orchestra's repertoire ranges from the Classical to the Romantic eras, with Mozart, Schubert and Weber at its core in both symphonic and choral programmes. Performing on period instruments, its playing is adapted to the acoustics of today's large concert halls. The musicians, based around a core of renowned section leaders, also perform chamber music.

In Hauts-de-Seine, the orchestra is engaged in a wide range of cultural and educational activities whose aims include increasing the musical awareness of potential audiences and those who are new to classical music, as well as educational and outreach projects involving young people and schools.

Insula orchestra pays particular attention to vocal soloists, with artists such as Sandrine Piau, Werner Güra, Franco Fagioli or Ann Hallenberg. The orchestra also performs with prestigious soloists on period instruments such as Antoine Tamestit (violinist), Abdel Rahman El Bacha and Kristian Bezuidenhout (pianists).

Insula orchestra's 15/16 season opens with Bach's *Magnificat* and Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, continues with a Beethoven programme with the pianist Nicholas Angelich and proposes *Lucio Silla*, a Mozart's opera with Franco Fagioli, Paolo Fanale and Olga Pudova.

The orchestra regularly proposes innovative and fun web projects: Flashmobs'Art with principal dancers Marie-Agnès Gillot and Alice Renavand at the Chateau de Versailles in 2013, Take the baton in 2014, the Happening musical at the Salle du Jeu de Paume (Versailles) in 2015, and webseries Log book / Journal de bord around record releases (the webseries around Mozart's *Requiem* was seen almost 100 000 times).

Insula orchestra's first recording, Mozart's *Requiem*, with Sandrine Piau, Sara Mingardo, Werner Güra and Christopher Purves, was released in September 2014 on the naïve label. Recorded with the accentus choir and conducted by Laurence Equilbey, it was acclaimed by the press. Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Franco Fagioli will be released in September 2015 on Deutsche Grammophon label (Archiv Produktion).

Laurence Equilbey

Conductor and musical director of Insula orchestra and accentus,



Laurence Equilbey is acknowledged for her demanding, yet open-minded approach to her art. Her exploration of the symphonic repertoire has seen her conducting the orchestras of Lyon, Bucharest, Liège, Leipzig, Brussels Philharmonic, Café Zimmermann, Akademie für alte Musik Berlin, Concerto Köln, Camerata Salzburg, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, etc.

Laurence Equilbey has studied music in Paris, Vienna and London, and conducted with Eric Ericson, Denise Ham, Colin Metters and Jorma Panula. She is an associate artist of the Paris Chamber Orchestra, an associate artist of the Grand Théâtre de Provence in Aix-en-Provence, a companion of the Philharmonie de Paris and Artistic Director and Director of Education at the Department for Young Singers at the Paris Conservatory. She regularly conducts the Orchestra of the Opéra de Rouen.

In 2012, with support from the Conseil départemental des Hauts-de-Seine, she founded Insula orchestra, an ensemble devoted to the classical and pre-Romantic repertoire, using period instruments. In 2014, she recorded with her musicians Mozart's *Requiem* on the naïve label and she continues to honor the Austrian composer in 2015-2016, with *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, and also *Lucio Silla*, including at the Theater an der Wien. Their second album - Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Franco Fagioli - will be released in September 2015 on the Deutsche Grammophon label (Archiv Produktion).

With accentus, Laurence Equilbey continues to interpret the great vocal music repertoire. She conducts a Bruckner program in the spring with the Orchestra of the Opéra de Rouen Normandie. The extensive recorded work of accentus (on the naïve label) has received wide critical acclaim.

Past operatic engagements comprise Reynaldo Hahn's *Ciboulette* (Opéra Comique - April/May 2015), Britten's *Albert Herring* (Opéra de Rouen Haute- Normandie and Opéra Comique), Weber's *Der Freischütz* (Opéra de Toulon) and *Sous apparence* (Opéra de Paris).

Upcoming concerts include Bach/Mozart at The Barbican Centre with Insula orchestra (September 2015), *The Messiah* with BBC NOW (December 2015) and concert with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra (December 2015).

www.insulaorchestra.fr

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