

**Marking Les Talens Lyriques' 25th anniversary,
Christophe Rousset conducts three new productions:**

19 to 30 January - *The Fairy Queen* – Vienna

17 March to 3 April - *Magic Flute* - Dijon

26 April to 14 May - *Calisto* – Strasbourg



Marking Les Talens Lyriques' 25th anniversary, Christophe Rousset conducts three new productions across Europe in the first months of 2017. Following the modern premiere of Salieri's *Les Horaces* in Vienna earlier this season, Rousset returns to Theater an der Wien for a new production of Purcell's *Fairy Queen* directed by **Mariame Clément** from 19 January. Successful previous collaborations on Rameau's *Platée* and *Castor & Pollux* see Clément and Rousset reunite a second time this season in Strasbourg for Cavalli's *Calisto* in April. Prior to that, Rousset will conduct Mozart's *Magic Flute* for the first time in a new production by **David Lescot**. Their 25th anniversary celebrations continue in Holland with a revival of **Pierre Audi's** *Monteverdi Madrigals* in Amsterdam, which will tour to Brighton Festival as part of Les Talens Lyriques' multiple visits to the UK this year. The season culminates in Christophe Rousset's debut at London's Royal Opera House for Mozart's *Mitridate* in June.

First performed in 1692 to enormous success, the score of ***The Fairy Queen*** was lost after Purcell's early death and only rediscovered at the beginning of the twentieth century. It is now one of the greatest examples of a 'semi-opera', a form of theatrical entertainment that was extremely popular during the Restoration. Consisting of singing alongside spoken dialogue and dance, Purcell composed several 'semi-operas' throughout his career. With an anonymous libretto based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Fairy Queen* contains some of Purcell's finest music, including the arias 'The Plaint', 'Thrice happy lovers' and 'Hark! the echoing air.'

For Mariame Clément's new production of *The Fairy Queen* in January, Rousset is joined by a cast including **Anna Prohaska** as first soprano and **Kurt Streit** as first tenor.

As Mariame Clement explains:

"An operatic hybrid where the title role does not sing, where the characters Mystery, Sleep, Autumn and the Sun are the protagonists and drunken poets rub shoulders with fairies. Inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, yet not. What if, like a Russian doll, we set the "opera" as a play within a play with a director in a crisis of inspiration, a slightly alcoholic set designer, a promising soprano, a dutiful playwright, an anguished assistant and the story takes on its own life..."

For Mozart's *Magic Flute* in March **Julian Pregardien** takes to the stage in Dijon as Tamino alongside **Siobhan Stagg** as Pamina, **Jodie Devos** as the Queen of the Night, **Camille Poul** as Papagena and **Klemens Sander** as Papageno. David Lescot explains his vision for the production:

"In this *Magic Flute*, Sarastro and The Queen of the Night were formerly lovers and their destructive relationship mirrors the environmental catastrophe which has resulted in a drought and destruction of all flora and fauna. Papageno is the off-spring of this ill-fated relationship - he has been abandoned by his father and the Queen of the Night keeps him secret. The arrival of the Queen of the Night takes place in an old convertible, a vestige of a vanished world, pushed by women (as energy resources have dried up). One imagines around her a sort of City of Women, a world exclusively feminine, while Sarastro has built around him a male entourage: the war of the sexes prolongs the war in love."

In April, Les Talens Lyriques return to Strasbourg for Cavalli's *Calisto* staged by Mariame Clément with **Elena Tsallagova** in the title role, **Vivica Genaux** as L'Eternita and Diana, **Giovannai Battista Parodi** as Giove and **Raffaella Milanese** as his spiteful wife Giunone. This will be Rousset's second production of *Calisto* following a production in Paris four years ago.

As Mariame Clément explains:

"*Calisto* provides a catalogue of love in all its manifestations - carnal, chaste, happy, unhappy, languid, loyal, unfaithful, fickle, marital, platonic, violent... Arguably it even provides the first depiction of homosexual love in opera - when Jupiter succeeds in seducing the nymph Calisto by disguising himself as the goddess Diane. Depicting the world of gods, men, satyrs, shepherds and nymphs, some many different universes unfold beneath our eyes - reality, imaginary, fanciful, poetic, between the dreams of some and the fantasies of others..."

In the lead-up to his debut at the Royal Opera House, Rousset brings his Les Talens Lyriques three times to the UK, initially to the Wigmore Hall for a programme entitled *Bach and France*, followed by Monteverdi's *Madrigals* at Brighton Festival and a programme entitled *Zefiro torna* dedicated to Monteverdi's tenor duets at St John's Smith Square. Following the soundtrack to the film *Farinelli* which sold more than a million CDs worldwide, Rousset launched Les Talens Lyriques on the international stage with a stunning recording of Mozart's *Mitridate* with a then-fledgling cast including Cecilia Bartoli, Natalie Dessay, Juan Diego Florez, Sandrine Piau and Brian Asawa. He returns to Mozart's early opera with another stunning youthful cast including **Michael Spyres** in the title role alongside **Albina Shagimuratova**, **Bejun Mehta**, **Lucy Crowe** and **Andrew Tortoise**.



Following their sell-out *Farinelli* concerts, **Christophe Rousset** and the Swedish mezzo-soprano **Ann Hallenberg** recently released their recording '*Farinelli - A Portrait*' on Aparté. The recording includes works by composers Broschi, J.C. Bach, Giacomelli, Porpora, Hasse and Leo that were sung by the world's most famous 18th century castrato. The success of the soundtrack to the film *Farinelli* (1994), which sold more than a million discs worldwide, firmly established Les Talens Lyriques on the international Baroque scene two decades ago. To mark the ensemble's 25th anniversary, an exclusive sampler of 25 tracks accompanies the *Farinelli* disc, with music from Les Talens Lyriques's rich collection of recordings.

The Farinelli disc coincides with the release of the Handelian diptych *Alcina/Tamerlano* by Les Talens Lyriques and Rousset with Outthere. Hallenberg, who was awarded with a 2016 International Opera Award, also features on the Blu-ray of the Handel double bill production by Pierre Audi of *Alcina* and *Tamerlano*. Originally staged by Audi in the beautiful baroque Drottingholms Slottsteater in Stockholm in 2000, this production was revived and filmed in 2015 at La Monnaie, featuring **Sandrine Piau** in her role debut as *Alcina* and **Christophe Dumoux** as *Tamerlano*.



2016 – 2017 Season

Purcell *The Fairy Queen*

(NEW PRODUCTION)

Thursday 19 January 2017, 7pm

Saturday 21 January 2017, 7pm

Monday 23 January 2017, 7pm

Thursday 26 January 2017, 7pm

Saturday 28 January 2017, 7pm

Monday 30 January 2017, 7pm

Theatre an der Wien, Vienna, Austria

Anna Prohaska *Titania*

Kurt Streit *Oberon*

Marie-Claude Chappuis *Mezzo*

Ruper Charlesworth *Tenor*

Florian Boesch *Baritone*

Florian Kofler *Baritone*

Les Talens Lyriques

Arnold Schoenberg Choir

Erwin Ortner *Director of Chorus*

Christophe Rousset *conductor,*
harpsichord

Mariame Clement *director*

Mozart *The Magic Flute*

(NEW PRODUCTION)

Friday 17 March 2017, 8pm

Sunday 19 March 2017, 8pm

Tuesday 21 March 2017, 8pm

Thursday 23 March 2017, 8pm

Saturday 25 March 2017, 8pm

Opera Dijon, Dijon, France

Monday 3 April 2017, 7.30pm

Philharmonie 1, Paris, France

(concert performance)

Siobhan Stagg *Pamina*

Julian Pregardien *Tamino*

Jodie Devos *The Queen of the Night*

Dashon Burton *Sarastro*

Mark Omlée *Monostatos*

Sophie Junker *first lady*

Emilie Renard *Second lady*

Ewa Zaïcik *Senior lady*

Camille Poul *Papagena*

Klemens Sander *Papagena*

Christian Immler *The Speaker*

Les Talens Lyriques

Dijon Opera Chorus & Maîtrise

Etienne Meyer *Chorus Master*

Christophe Rousset *conductor*

David Lescot *director*

Bach and France

Sunday 9 April 2017, 7.30pm

Wigmore Hall, London

Friday 14 April 2017, 6pm

Music Spring Festival, Klaipeda Music

Spring Festival, Lithuania

BACH *Orchestral Suite in C major No. 1,*
BWV 1066

BACH *Harpsichord Concerto in D minor*
No. 8, BWV 1059

LECLAIR *Flute Concerto in C Major op. 3*

RAMEAU *Orchestral Suite of Castor and*
Pollux

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset *conductor*

Francesco Cavalli *The Calisto* (NEW
PRODUCTION)

Wednesday 26 April 2017, 8pm

Friday 28 April 2017, 8pm

Sunday 30 April 2017, 3pm

Tuesday 2 May 2017, 8pm

Thursday 4 2017, 8pm

Opera national du Rhin, Strasbourg,
France

Friday 12 May 2017, 8pm

Sunday 14 May 2017, 3pm

Opera national du Rhin, La Sinne,
Mulhouse France

Elena Tsallagova *Calisto*

Filippo Mineccia *Endimione*

Giovanni Battista Parodi *Giove*

Raffaella Milanese *Giunone, he
Destino*

Vivica Genaux, *The Eternita, Diana*

Guy de Mey *Linfea*

Lawrence Olsworth-Peter *La Natura,
Pane*

Nikolay Borchev *Mercurio*

Tai Oney *He Satirino*

Jaroslav Kitala *Silvano*

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset *conductor,
harpsichord and organ*

Mariame Clément *director*

Monteverdi Madrigals (STAGED)

Thursday 11 May 2017, 8pm

Saturday 13 May 2017, 3pm & 8pm

Tuesday 16 May 2017, 8pm

Wednesday 17 May, 8pm

Friday 19 May 2017, 8pm

Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam

Sunday 21 May 2017, 8pm

Brighton Festival, Brighton

(concert performance)

MONTEVERDI

Lamento d'Arianna (1623)

Il Ballo delle ingrate (1608)

Il Combattimento di Tancredi e

Clorinda (1624)

Soloists of the Opera Studio of the

Dutch National Opera

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset *conductor,
harpsichord and organ*

Pierre Audi *director*

Monteverdi, Castello, Fontana

Zefiro torna

Wednesday 7 June 2017, 7.30pm

St. John's Smith Square, London

MONTEVERDI

Extracts of

Settimo libro de madrigali (1619)

Madrigali Amorososi and guerrieri (1638)

Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in patria (1640)

Madrigali Amorososi and guerrieri (1638)

Madrigali e canzonette, libro

nono (1651)

L'incoronazione di Poppea (1642)

CASTELLO *Il primo libro di Sonata*

Concertante (1621)

FONTANA *Sonata settima*

Emiliano Gonzalez Toro tenor

Anders J. Dahlin tenor

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset *conductor and
harpsichord*

CHRISTOPHE ROUSSET GUEST CONDUCTING OTHER ENSEMBLES

Mozart *Mitridate re di Ponto*

Monday 26 June 2017, 6.30pm

Thursday 29 June 2017, 6.30pm

Saturday 1 July 2017, 6.30pm

Friday 7 July 2017, 6.30pm

Royal Opera House, London

Michael Spyres *Mitridate*

Albina Shagimuratova *Aspasia*

Bejun Mehta *Farnace*

Lucy Crowe *Ismene*

Andrew Tortise *Marzio*

Anett Fritsch *Sifare*

Jennifer Davis *Arbate*

Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Christophe Rousset *conductor*

Graham Vick *director*



Christophe Rousset Harpichordist, Conductor and Musicologist

Founder of the period instrument ensemble Les Talens Lyriques, Christophe Rousset is an inspirational musician and conductor specialising in the baroque and classical repertoire. Particularly inspired by European music of the 17th and 18th centuries, Rousset has rediscovered forgotten operas such as *Antigona* by Traetta, *La Capricciosa Corretta* by Martín y Soler, *Armida Abbandonata* by Jommelli, *La Grotta di Trofonio* by Salieri and *Temistocle* by Jean-Christien Bach.



His many recordings include the complete harpsichord works of François Couperin, Jean-Philippe Rameau, d'Anglebert and Forqueray, and his interpretations of works by J. S. Bach (*Partitas*, *Goldberg Variations*, *Harpichord Concertos*, *English Suites*, *French Suites*, *Klavierbüchlein für Wilhelm Friedemann*, *Well-tempered Clavier* are regarded as references. With his ensemble Les Talens Lyriques, his great successes on disc include Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, Mozart's *Mitridate*, several operas including most recently Rameau's *Zais* and Salieri's *Les Danaïdes* as well as many critically acclaimed recordings of operas by Lully including *Persée*, *Roland*, *Bellérophon*, *Phaeton*, *Amadis* and *Armide*. Christophe Rousset has received honorary awards from the French government for his pioneering efforts work in classical music.

Les Talens Lyriques

The vocal and instrumental ensemble Les Talens Lyriques was founded in 1991 by Christophe Rousset. By choosing the name, the conductor attested to his passionate interest in an 18th century music repertoire which he has fortunately begun to re-introduce to the public. Rousset, however, has in no way neglected composers of the previous century.



The repertoire ranges from Monteverdi (*L'Incoronazione di Poppea*) to Handel (*Scipione*, *Riccardo Primo*, *Rinaldo*, *Admeto*, *Giulio Cesare*, *Serse*, *Tamerlano*, *Alcina*, *Ariodante*), Lully (*Persée*, *Roland*, *Bellérophon*, *Phaeton*, *Amadis*, *Armide*), Cimarosa (*Il Mercato di Malmantile*, *Il Matrimonio Segreto*), Traetta (*Antigona*, *Ippolito ed Aricia*), Jommelli (*Armida abbandonata*), Martín y Soler (*La Capricciosa Corretta*) and even Mozart (*Mitridate*, *Re di Ponto*).

Les Talens Lyriques has recorded for DECCA (Universal Music), Naïve, Ambroisie, Aparté and Virgin Classics. In 1994, the ensemble has realised the original soundtrack of the film *Farinelli il Castrato*. In 2001, it won the Classical Music Victory.

Recent & forthcoming recordings

RAMEAU *Les Indes galantes*

DVD Alpha Classics August 2015

RAMEAU *Zaïs*

CD Aparté September 2015

BACH *The Well-Tempered Clavier, book 1&2*

CD Aparté February 2016

FORQUERAY *Pièces de viole*

CD Aparté May 2016

COUPERIN *Apotheosis of Lully & Corelli*

CD Aparté September 2016

FRANÇOIS COUPERIN

Book by Christophe Rousset, Actes Sud
September 2016

FARINELLI – A PORTRAIT

Works for Farinelli with Ann Hallenberg

CD Aparté November 2016

HANDEL *Alcina/Tamerlano*

Production Pierre-Audi

Blu-ray Outhere November 2016

MÉHUL *Uthal*

CD Palazzetto Bru Zane January 2017

LULLY *Armide*

CD Aparté Spring 2017

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