

**Laurence Equilbey announces Insula orchestra's first season at their new home La Seine Musicale with further multi-media stagings of Beethoven's *Egmont* and Mozart's *Thamos, King of Egypt*, plus a celebration of Louise Farrenc at the Barbican for International Women's Day**

**Opening of Season in Paris - 21 & 22 September**  
**Theater an der Wien, Vienna - 15 December**  
**Beethoven/Goethe *Egmont*** (staged by Séverine Chavrier)

**La Seine Musicale Paris - 16 & 17 February**  
**Barbican, London - 8 March**  
**Louise Farrenc**  
**and International Women's Day Celebration**

**La Seine Musicale, Paris - 22 - 26 June**  
**Festival Mozart Maximum**  
**with Mozart *Thamos, King of Egypt***



**Laurence Equilbey announces Insula orchestra's first season at their critically-acclaimed new home La Seine Musicale** celebrating the multi-media capabilities of their Shigeru Ban-designed concert hall to their full potential. The season opens with a rarely staged version of Goethe's play *Egmont* with musical interludes by Beethoven directed by Séverine Chavrier on 21 and 22 September, which will tour to Vienna in December.

Opened in spring, Insula orchestra's 1,150-seater concert hall at La Seine Musicale was met with enthusiasm by audiences and press. Equilbey's mission is to reform the entire experience of classical music with bite-size, multi-media concerts, flash-mobs and themed weekends with Insula orchestra and by programming guest performances.

Neue Züricher Zeitung's reaction to "the promised *This is the future*" was "it was difficult to contradict, but in the south-west of Paris there was not only another fabulous concert hall, but the first evening demonstrated with a lightness of touch how good old classical music can look like today." (Christian Berzins).

Later Fura dels Baus' production of Haydn's *Creation* was a textbook exercise in presenting a 18<sup>th</sup>-Century oratorio with the visual magic of the natural world

(while Adam and Eve frolicked in a water pool) and still capture the naivety of Haydn's era.



*"I couldn't be happier having arrived at La Seine Musicale this spring and now launching our first full season at our new home. It offers a safe haven to develop innovative music concepts, explore forgotten repertoire and direct outreach projects in all confidence, beyond limits and with all of those who support us. I am delighted to be able to invite the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra from America, the Helsinki Symphony Orchestra from Finland and befriended colleagues from France to take the concert stage at La Seine Musicale and look forward to widening the horizons of Insula orchestra to Poland."*

– Laurence Equilbey

## **EGMONT** Beethoven / Goethe

**Sheva Thehoval** (*Klara*), narrators, **Insula orchestra**, **Laurence Equilbey** conductor, **Séverine Chavrier** stage direction

21 & 22 September - La Seine Musicale, Paris  
15 December – Theater an der Wien, Vienna



Beethoven wrote the overture and instrumental music to Goethe's play *Egmont* while Vienna was a war-zone occupied by Napoleon's forces. Though the overture remains a favourite, the musical drama is rarely heard in its entirety. It recounts the tale of Count of Egmont, the Dutch nobleman who was arrested and executed for his resistance to the autocratic imperial rule of the Spanish Inquisition. Before his death, the hero Egmont, the father of 11 children, delivers a rousing speech and his execution becomes a victorious martyrdom in a fight against oppression. Director Chavrier will call upon a team of set designers and video-artist and lighting technicians to heighten the performance by soprano Sheva Thehoval, Insula orchestra and 4 narrating actors.

## BEETHOVEN/FARRENC

Beethoven *Triple Concerto*

Farrenc *Symphony n. 3*

**Alexandra Conunova** *violin*, **Natalie Clein** *cello*, **David Kadouch/Alice Sara Ott\*** *piano*, **Insula orchestra**, **Laurence Equilbey** *conductor*

13 February 2018 - Grand Théâtre, Aix-en-Provence

17 February 2018 - La Seine Musicale, Paris

8 March 2018 - Barbican Centre, London\*

On 16 and 17 February, Equilbey dedicates a weekend to the little known music of female composer Louise Farrenc (1804-1875). Following piano tuition with Hummel and later composition with Anton Reicha, Farrenc gained considerable fame as a performer. Only after seven years as Professor of Piano at the Paris Conservatoire did Farrenc receive the same pay as her male counterparts. She held the post for 30 years becoming one of the most successful and sought-after piano pedagogues of her time.

The majority of her compositions were for solo piano but her chamber music compositions are probably considered some of her finest works. She also composed two overtures and three symphonies, the third of which Guardian journalist Tom Service enthused about: "My own favourite movement is the finale, in which, after an implacable unison opening, there's one of the most memorable tunes anyone ever wrote in a symphonic finale; later on, Farrenc makes a passage of contrapuntal rectitude burn with a diabolical ferocity before a dark, uncompromisingly minor-key coda."

For the Female vs. Male weekend with music by Louise Farrenc, Equilbey has programmed a wind trio and sextet on 16 February and an orchestral concert the following evening coupling Farrenc's Third Symphony with Beethoven's Triple Concerto with violinist Alexandra Conunova, cellist Natalie Clein and pianist David Kadouch. Insula orchestra will replicate the symphonic programme at the Barbican for International Women's Day with Alice Sara Ott performing the piano in the Triple Concerto. Insula will also record the programme for release on Warners.



### Part of Female/Male Weekend

Including chamber music by French female composers Hélène de Montgeroult, Lili Boulanger and Louise Farrenc and a guest performance by Natalie Stutzmann who sings and leads her ensemble Orfeo55 in works by Vivaldi, Cavalli, Scarlatti.

16-18 February - La Seine Musicale

## BEETHOVEN/ANGELICH

**Beethoven** *Piano Concerto n. 5* (\*and *Piano Concerto n. 4*)  
**Beethoven** *Symphony n. 7*

**Nicholas Angelich** *piano*, **Insula orchestra**,  
**Laurence Equilbey** *conductor*

3 March 2018 - Grand Théâtre, Aix-en-Provence  
\*11 March 2018 - La Seine Musicale, Paris



### Part of Beethoven Weekend

Guest performances by the Diotima Quartet, violinist Lorenzo Gatto and the Philharmonic Orchestra of Warsaw with Lars Vogt on piano.

10-11 March - La Seine Musicale

Warner Classics-Erato will record the concert for later release.

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## THAMOS, KING OF EGYPT

**Mozart**

**Sandrine Piau** *soprano*, **Aline Martin** *alto*, **Reinoud van Mechelen** *tenor*,  
**Andreas Wolf** *baritone*, **accentus**, **Insula orchestra**, **Laurence Equilbey**  
*conductor*, **Yannis Kokkos** *stage direction*

25 & 26 June 2018 - La Seine Musicale, Paris

For Yannis Kokkos' staging of Mozart's *Thamos, King of Egypt*, Equilbey has assembled a cast of world class soloists. Mozart spent seven years on and off, from the age of 16 years, working on his incidental music to Gebler's play *Thamos, King of Egypt*. Though seldom performed, there were a number of high-profile recordings made for recent Mozart anniversaries. It was written for the election of the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg Colloredo and picks up on many of the themes of enlightenment and references to masonic traditions that Mozart later developed in the *Magic Flute*.



### Part of Mozart Maximum Festival

Featuring a hip-hop dance performance choreographed by Kader Attou on extracts from *Don Giovanni* and Mozart's *Requiem*, and a guest performance by Nicholas Collon's Aurora Orchestra.

22-26 June 2018 - La Seine Musicale, Paris

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## LA SEINE MUSICALE

Since its opening in April 2017 Insula orchestra has become the vibrant resident ensemble of the new concert venue in Paris on the ile Seguin: La Seine Musicale. Commissioned by the Departement des Hauts-de-Seine, the former Renault factory was transformed into a carbon neutral arts centre as part of an on-going transformation of the industrial site into a vibrant residential, cultural and commercial quarter. The multi-purpose music venue boasts two concert halls – a 1.150-seater auditorium and an arena allowing up to 6.000 visitors – four recording studios, restaurants and retail spaces, which will be at the heart of the cultural revitalisation of the area.

Architects **Shigeru Ban** and **Jean de Gastines** have conceived a structure like a boat floating on the Seine using the latest innovations in environmental technology and in sync with the days and the season. An adaptable sail constructed of solar panels moves around the central dome to maximize energy and to provide shade inside the building. The wood and glass dome - evocative of a nest - is repeated on the inside with overlapping wooden panels and suspended honey-comb panels to optimize acoustics. The acoustics have been honed by **Nagata Acoustics and Lamoureux**, world leaders in their field who recently completed the Philharmonie in Paris.



© Olivier Ravoire

*"Equilbey's programming and presentation ideas are anything but insular. The orchestra is a period-instrument ensemble, but she compensates for its limitations in repertoire by spanning the art forms, with cinema, theatre and dance elements integrated into the concerts."*

**The Times**

*"the faces at the Mozart weekend I attend are undeniably fresher. [...]while Insula continues to deliver a high standard of period-instrument performance, you feel that Equilbey's openness to experimentation will likely land on the right formula."*

**Cusp Magazine**

*"Instead of etiquette it is all about experiencing music. Insula orchestra has outreach all written over it. There are community projects, flash-mobs and events for children. La Seine Musicale should be an open house for all people."*

**Badische Zeitung**

*"Hardly 100 days after the opening of the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Paris counters with La Seine Musicale and shows how easy it is to bring Mozart and DJ's under one roof."*

**Kulturtipp**

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## ILOTS THEMED WEEKENDS

Insula orchestra has created themed weekends, so-called ilots 'islands' dedicated to opening the experience of classical music up to a wider audience in particular young people and families, offering a set of one-hour performances, flash mobs, musical speed dating to pet friendly performances and after-parties. These themed weekends allow Laurence Equilbey to programme guest performances for which she has invited amongst others the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra led by Louis Langrée, Emmanuelle Haïm's Concert d'Astrée, Nathalie Stutzmann and her Orfeo55 and Susanna Mälkki's Helsinki Symphony Orchestra to perform at La Seine Musicale.



### AMERICAN ISLAND WEEKEND

Featuring performances of works by Bernstein, Copland, Gerswhin Dvorak, Cage with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra led by Louis Langrée, the Béla Quartet, accentus and other guests

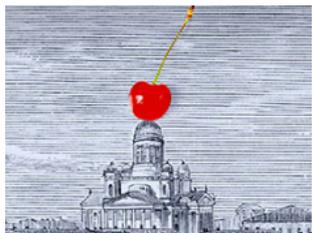
8-11 September 2017 – Paris, La Seine Musicale



### ITALIAN ISLAND WEEKEND

Insula orchestra will be conducted by Leonardo García Alarcón in works by Rossini, Cherubini and Mercadante. Further guest performances by pianist Sophie Pacini, Ensemble Correspondances by Sébastien Daucé and the Brass Banda of Pino Minafra.

12-14 January 2018 – Paris, La Seine Musicale



### HELSINKI ISLAND WEEKEND

Mahler's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony performed by the visiting Symphony Orchestra of Helsinki conducted by Susanna Mälkki. Further performances by laureats of the Queen Elisabeth Competition.

26-27 May 2018 – La Seine Musicale, Paris

## LA NONNE SANGLANTE

### Gounod

**Michael Spyres** *Rodolphe*, **Vannina Santoni** *Agnès*, **André Heyboer** *Comte de Luddorf*, **Jodie Devos** *Arthur*, **Jean Teitgen** *Pierre L'Ermitte*, **Luc Bertin-Hugault** *Le Baron de Moldow*, **Marion Lebègue** *La Nonne sanglante*, **Enguerrand de Hys** *Fritz*, **Olivia Doray** *Anna*  
**Insula orchestra**, **Laurence Equilbey** conductor, **David Bobée** director



2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 June 2018 – Opéra Comique, Paris

Insula orchestra explores more unfamiliar repertoire with performances of *La Nonne sanglante* by Charles Gounod for his centenary in 2018 at the Opera Comique. Michael Spyres leads the cast with Marion Lebègue as the Bloodied nun.

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### Forthcoming recordings

#### **Schubert *Lieder with orchestra***

Stanislas de Barbeyrac, Wiebke Lehmkuhl, accentus, Insula orchestra, conducted by Laurence Equilbey  
Warner Classics Erato – autumn 2017

#### **Beethoven Piano Concert N. 4 & 5**

Nicholas Angelich, Insula orchestra, Laurence Equilbey  
Warner Classics Erato – spring 2018

#### **Beethoven Triple Concerto, Choral Fantasy**

Bertrand Chamayou, Alexandra Conunova, Natalie Klein, David Kadouch, accentus, Insula orchestra, Laurence Equilbey  
Warner Classics Erato – spring 2018

## Insula orchestra

Founded by Laurence Equilbey and the Hauts-de-Seine General Council in 2012, **Insula orchestra** is the resident ensemble at the new Parisian arts centre La Seine Musicale. In its short history, appearances at major venues and high-profile festivals throughout France and on the international concert stage have earned the orchestra a reputation for artistic excellence. Recent visits included the Philharmonie of Paris, Theater an der Wien, Salzburg Mozart Week, Stadtcasino Basel and London's Barbican Centre.



**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 the Hauts-de-Seine department, 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. The orchestra also reconsiders the formats and codes of classical music to create an on-going dialogue between symphonic music and audiences in the spatial dimension of the concert hall and stage.

The orchestra embraces digital art and regularly presents innovative, multi-medial projects: flash-mobs like the arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport edited on Beethoven's *Eroica*, the Happening musical at the Salle du Jeu de Paume (Versailles) in 2015, and the virtual reality production Mozart 360°.



Insula orchestra pays particular attention to vocal soloists, having worked with artists such as Sandrine Piau, Werner Güra, Franco Fagioli and Ann Hallenberg recently. 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 2017/18 season focuses on Beethoven in Spring with new recordings and a staged version of Goethe's *Egmont* to open the season. This production by Séverine Chavrier will tour to the Theater an der Wien after performances at La Seine Musicale. Another highlight is a staged version of Mozart's *Thamos, King of Egypt* and the ensemble will focus on rediscovering works by female French composers Louise Farrenc, Hélène de Montgeroult and Lili Boulanger with performances in Paris, Aix-en-Provence and London.

Insula orchestra's discography consists of Mozart's *Requiem*, with Sandrine Piau, Sara Mingardo, Werner Güra and Christopher Purves (*Naïve*, 2014), Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Franco Fagioli (Deutsche Grammophon, 2015) and Mozart's *Solemn Vespers and Coronation Mass* with Sandrine Piau (Warner Classics Erato, 2017). A recording of Schubert Lieder with Stanislas de Barbeyrac and Wiebke Lehmkuhl to be released in October 2017 on the Warner Classics Erato label, with whom two further recordings are planned of works by Beethoven.

## 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 BBC National Orchestra of Wales, the orchestras of the Hessische Rundfunk, Lyon, Bucharest, Liège, Leipzig, Brussels Philharmonic, Café Zimmermann, Akademie für alte Musik Berlin, Concerto Köln, Camerata Salzburg, Mozarteum-orchester Salzburg.



In 2012, with support from the Hauts-de-Seine General Council, she founded Insula orchestra, an ensemble devoted to the classical and pre-Romantic repertoire, using period instruments. In April 2017 the period instrument ensemble started their residency at the new arts centre La Seine Musicale, where Equilbey is in charge of the classical music programme of the 1.150 seater Auditorium.

With accentus, Laurence Equilbey continues to interpret the great vocal repertoire such as the recent performance with the Orchestra of the Opéra de Rouen of *Comala* by Niels Gade in June 2017. She is 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 CRR, Regional Conservatoire of Paris. She regularly conducts the Orchestra of the Opéra de Rouen.

Past operatic engagements comprise of Mozart's *Lucio Silla* at the Theater an der Wien, Britten's *Albert Herring* by Britting at Opéra de Rouen and Opéra Comique, the ballet *Sous apparence* at Opéra de Paris, Reynaldo Hahn's *Ciboulette* at the Opéra Comique where Laurence Equilbey will conduct *La Nonne sanglante* by Gounod in June 2018.

On the concert stage recent guest conducting engagements included the Danisch National Choir and Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Frankfurt Radio Symphony (HR Sinfonie Orchester) in Germany, which was broadcast live.

At their new residency, La Seine Musicale, Laurence Equilbey and Insula orchestra plan to record two new Beethoven discs on the Warner Classics Erato label this season and in October 2017 a new CD of Schubert Lieder with Stanislas de Barbeyrac and Wiebke Lehmkuhl will be released. Their current discography consists of Mozart's Requiem (Naïve, 2014), Gluck's Orfeo ed Euridice (Deutsch Grammophon, 2015), Mozart's *Solemn Vespers and Coronation Mass* (Warner Classics Erato, 2017).

Laurence Equilbey studied music in Paris, Vienna and London, and conducted with Eric Ericson, Denise Ham, Colin Metters and Jorma Panula.

## DISCOGRAPHY



### **MOZART *Solemn Vespers, Coronation Mass* - 2017**

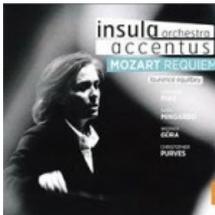
Sandrine Piau, Renata Pokupic, Benjamin Bruns, Andreas Wolf, accentus, Insula orchestra, Laurence Equilbey  
Label Warner Classics Erato



### **GLUCK *Orfeo ed Euridice* - 2015**

original version (Vienna 1762), including highlights of Vienna and Paris versions (1774) with Franco Fagioli, Malin Hartelius, Emmanuelle de Negri, accentus, Insula orchestra, conducted by Laurence Equilbey  
Label Archiv Produktion, 0289 479 531593

*"Equilbey and the Insula Orchestra [sic] are painstaking in their re-creation of Gluck's original sound world"* Gramophone Magazine, Tim Ashley



### **MOZART *Requiem* - 2014**

Sandrine Piau, Sara Mingardo, Werner Gura, Christopher Purves, accentus, Insula orchestra, conducted by Laurence Equilbey  
Label Naïve, EAN 822186053706

*"The wiry Insula orchestra is softened by basset horns and bassoons, while the accentus Choir has a light European texture".*  
The Observer, Nicholas Kenyon

Insula orchestra receives the support of:



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Le cercle des amis d'accentus et d'Insula orchestra

**[www.insulaorchestra.fr/en](http://www.insulaorchestra.fr/en)**

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