

## A gravity-defying staging of Mozart's unfinished *Requiem* with Yoann Bourgeois and Insula orchestra



### **Mozart** *Requiem* (staged)

**10, 11 June:** Les Nuits de Fourvière, Lyon

**27, 28, 29, 30 June:** La Seine Musicale, Paris

***"Equilbey's programming and presentation ideas are anything but insular."***

The Times

**Insula orchestra** and conductor **Laurence Equilbey** let silence speak this **June** as they present a unique gravity-defying staging of **Mozart's** seminal ***Requiem*** in **Lyon** and **Paris**. This new production sees the unfinished composition performed in its fragmented form with a staging directed by the acrobat and dancer **Yoann Bourgeois**. Insula orchestra perform with **accentus** choir and soloists **Hélène Carpentier & Natalie Perez, Giuseppina Bridelli & Eva Zaïcik, Jonathan Abernethy, and Christian Immler**.

The fraught history of Mozart's *Requiem* is well known, as are the challenges of presenting the 'complete' work today. Mozart died with several movements of his seminal work left behind only in sketch form: the version frequently performed is one completed by Franz Xavier Süssmayr.

The circus artist **Yoann Bourgeois** applies concepts of perpetual motion and suspension to human bodies, using a corporeal box of tricks to visually represent the void left in Mozart's interrupted masterpiece. The director crafts illusions of tempo through gravity-defying movement and momentary suspensions, where the body neither rises nor falls, to capture

the abyss, as *"the absence of weight opens up a fleeting window to eternity."*



Watch Yoann Bourgeois here: <https://youtu.be/PxJ-FUb78q8>

Inspired by Foucault's pendulum, Bourgeois has used stages rotating at different speeds to capture life accelerating in a relentless rat race or slowing down, falling behind, and being overtaken. Bourgeois mirrors the comedy and tragedy inherent to the human condition: his characters are propelled to slip and tumble, and are buoyed to capture a sense of exhilaration and turbulence.

An acrobat, actor, juggler, and dancer, Yoann Bourgeois trained at ENACR (National School of Circus Arts Rosny-sous-bois) before training in contemporary dance at the CNDC (Centre National de Danse Contemporaine) in Angers.

The period-instrument **Insula orchestra** and conductor **Laurence Equilbey** are renowned for their innovative and fresh approaches to classical and romantic repertoire. Mozart's *Requiem* premieres at **Les Nuits de Fourvière** in Lyon on **10-11 June** and returns to the orchestra's Parisian home, **La Seine Musicale**, from **27-30 June** as part of their **Maximum Mozart Festival 2019**.



Upcoming multimedia productions include further performances of **Weber's *Der Freischütz*** in Luxemburg (Grand Théâtre de la Ville, 6-8 October), Paris (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, 19-23 October), and London (Barbican, 4 November). Directed by the interdisciplinary dancers and magicians Clément Debailleul and Raphael Navarro of Cie 14:20, this new phantasmagorical production has been credited as:

*"a staging of incredible insight in tandem with a powerful, intense performance garlanded by a chorus of the highest level"*

Seen and Heard International

## Listings

**10 & 11 June, 21:30**

Les Nuits de Fourvière, Lyon

**27 & 28 June, 20:30**

**29 & 30 June, 16:30 & 20:30**

La Seine Musicale, Paris

**Mozart** *Requiem*

**Hélène Carpentier/Natalie**

**Perez** soprano

**Giuseppina Bridelli/Eva Zaïcik**

alto

**Jonathan Abernethy** tenor

**Christian Immler** bass

**Insula orchestra**

**accentus**

**Laurence Equilbey** musical  
director

**Yoann Bourgeois** director

## 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 de Paris, Theater an der Wien, London's Barbican Centre, New York's Lincoln Center, Hamburg's Elbphilharmonie, and Essen's Philharmonie.

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 ongoing dialogue between symphonic music and audiences in the spatial dimension of the concert hall and stage.

Insula orchestra works in particular with celebrated vocal soloists, recently including artists such as Sandrine Piau, Werner Güra, Franco Fagioli and Ann Hallenberg. The orchestra also performs with prestigious period instruments soloists such as Antoine Tamestit (violinist), Abdel Rahman El Bacha and Kristian Bezuidenhout (pianists).

Insula orchestra's 2018/19 season focuses on **Beethoven in Spring** with new recordings, and staged versions of Carl Maria von Weber's *Der Freischütz* and Mozart's *Requiem*. The production of Weber's *Der Freischütz* by Clément Debailleul and Raphaël Navarro will tour to the Théâtre de Caen, Grand Théâtre de Provence, BOZAR, Theater an der Wien and Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiele.



Insula orchestra's discography includes 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), Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* and *Coronation Mass* with Sandrine Piau (Warner Classics Erato, 2017) and Schubert's *Lieder With Orchestra* with Stanislas de Barbeyrac and Wiebke Lehmkuhl (Warner Classics Erato, 2017). Two further recordings of Beethoven are planned with Warner Classics Erato label.

## Laurence Equilbey



The conductor and musical director of Insula orchestra and its partner choir, accentus, **Laurence Equilbey** is acknowledged for her demanding yet open-minded approach to her art. Her exploration of 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, CamerataSalzburg, Mozarteum-orchester Salzburg.

In 2012, with support from the Hauts-de-Seine General Council, she founded Insula orchestra, an ensemble devoted to performing classical and pre-Romantic repertoire on period instruments. In April 2017 the orchestra started their residency at the new arts centre La Seine Musicale, where Equilbey is in charge of the classical music programme for the 1,150-seat auditorium.

With accentus, Laurence Equilbey continues to interpret large-scale 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* at Opéra de Rouen and Opéra



Comique, the ballet *Sous apparence* at Opéra de Paris, and Reynaldo Hahn's *Ciboulette* at the Opéra Comique, where Equilbey also conducted *La Nonne sanglante* by Gounod in June 2018.

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

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

Insula orchestra receives the support of:



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

---

**For more information on any of the above, please contact:**

**Nicky Thomas Media**

101 Bell Street, London NW1 6TL

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)20 7258 0909

[info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)

[www.nickythomasmedia.com](http://www.nickythomasmedia.com)