

Marking Beethoven's 250th Anniversary, Insula orchestra and La Fura dels Baus stage *Pastoral for the Planet* for UN World Environment Day with European tour



Aix-en-Provence 21-22 February 2020
Paris (La Seine Musicale) 26-27 February 2020
Dortmund 5 June 2020 (UN World Environment Day)
Bremen 5-6 September 2020

Beethoven *The Creatures of Prometheus*, Introduction: la Tempesta
Anton Reicha *Lenore*, *Storm* (2nd part)
Julius Rietz *Hero und Leander*, Overture
Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn *Hero und Leander*
Carl Maria von Weber *Kampf und Sieg (Battle and Victory)* & *Obéron*, Cavatine
Beethoven Symphony No. 7, 2nd movement & Symphony No. 6, 'Pastoral'

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

The Times

Marking **UN World Environment Day** on 5 June 2020, **Laurence Equilbey** and her **Insula orchestra** join **Carlus Padrissa** of the Catalan theatre group **La Fura dels Baus** to create a daring new multimedia production, *Pastoral for the Planet*, with 360° video projections.

55 musicians, actors and dancers will participate in the project, pairing Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony no. 6 with the music of his contemporaries: **Anton Reicha**, **Julius Rietz**, **Fanny Hensel-Mendessohn**, and **Carl Maria von Weber** creating a tale of the relationship between mankind and the natural world.

Beginning with the story of Prometheus and the creation of mankind, Insula orchestra introduce Julius Rietz's stormy concert overture to *Hero and Leander*,

setting the Greek myth that sees Leander drown in a tumultuous storm as he tries to reach his love. Rietz's setting is paired with Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn's scenes of the same story, performed with soprano **Sophie Karthäuser**. From raging storms to human carnage, Insula orchestra travel through the 'Battle Music' from Weber's *Kampf und Sieg* and cover the aftermath in the 'Allegretto' from Beethoven's *Symphony no. 7*.



[Watch Insula orchestra perform Weber's Battle Music from *Kampf und Sieg*](#)

The programme culminates in Beethoven's '*Pastoral*' *Symphony no. 6*, the composer's hymn of nature and peace. The project is performed in Dortmund to mark **UN World Environment Day** on **5 June 2020**, joining the **Beethoven Pastoral Project** encouraging orchestras around the world to engage with the environment through the '*Pastoral*' *Symphony*.

Pastoral for the Planet premieres in **Aix-en-Provence** on 21 February 2020 before arriving at the orchestra's new Parisian home, **La Seine Musicale**, on 26 February. The tour finishes at **Musikfest Bremen** on 5-6 September as the orchestra begins its 2020-21 season.

Carlus Padrissa (stage design) from **La Fura dels Baus** and **Mihael Milunovic** (scenography) explore the complicated relationship between man and nature in a staging focusing on the world's finite resources and human choices, set against the natural cycling and recycling of life.

Carlus Padrissa said:

"Planet Earth is a closed system. That means that the only external contribution is the sun's energy. That is, the materials that make up the planet are finite, and what is renewed, such as the water or oxygen we breathe, is the responsibility of the work that Nature does for free. Life works in cycles and not in linear processes. The history of ecosystems itself is a cycle and not a progressive line like the one that aims to explain the history of mankind. Recycling, understood as the return to the natural cycles of materials, is essential to be able to maintain the natural stocks and therefore allow the functioning of natural processes."

The visionary theatre company **La Fura dels Baus** is renowned for its immersive theatrical experiences. This new project follows their 2017 Insula orchestra collaboration staging Haydn's *Creation*, described as "a *spectacle whose sheer visual novelty cut to the core of what Haydn's work is about: the wonder of creating something new*" in the Financial Times.



[Watch Haydn's Creation by La Fura dels Baus & Insula orchestra](#)

Insula orchestra mark the 2020 Beethoven anniversary with period performances of **Beethoven's Symphony no. 3, 'Eroica'** in La Rampe and Perpignan, paired with **Clara Schumann's Piano Concerto** with talented pianist **Gabriela Montero**. Their two latest discs, released in their 2018-9 season, feature Beethoven's *Piano Concertos no. 4 & 5* performed by Nicholas Angelich, and the composer's *Triple Concerto* with soloists Alexandra Conunova, Natalie Clein and David Kadouch, both released on Warner's Erato label.

Listings

Friday 21 February, 20:00

Saturday 22 February, 20:00

Grand Théâtre de Provence, Aix-en-Provence

Wednesday 26 February, 20:30

Thursday 27 February, 20:30

La Seine Musicale, Paris

Friday 5 June, 20:00

Konzerthaus, Dortmund

Saturday 5 September

Sunday 6 September

Musikfest Bremen

Beethoven *The Creatures of Prometheus*, Introduction: la Tempesta

Anton Reicha *Lenore, Storm* (2nd part)

Julius Rietz *Hero und Leander*, Overture

Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn *Hero und Leander*

Carl Maria von Weber *Kampf und Sieg (Battle and Victory)* & *Obéron*, Cavatine

Beethoven Symphony No. 7, 2nd movement & Symphony No. 6 'Pastoral'

Friday 17 April, 20:00

Échirolles, La Rampe

Friday 24 April, 20:30

Théâtre de l'Archipel, Perpignan

Clara Schumann *Piano Concerto*
no. 1

Beethoven *Symphony no. 3,*
'Eroica'

Gabriela Montero piano

Insula orchestra

Laurence Equilbey conductor

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 2019/20 season focuses on Beethoven and Mozart with new recordings and staged versions called *Pastoral for the Planet* and *Magic Mozart*. The production of *Magic Mozart* by the company 14:20, pioneer of the New



Magic arts movement will tour to Grand Théâtre de Provence, La Seine Musicale, Grand Théâtre du Luxembourg, l'Avant Seine / Théâtre de Colombes.

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, Camerata Salzburg, 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

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

Nicky Thomas Media

2-6 Baches St, London N1 6DN

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

info@nickythomasmedia.com

www.nickythomasmedia.com