

## Laurence Equilbey takes Insula orchestra on tour worldwide in 2019 and 2020

Including a new Beethoven project with La Fura dels Baus



***Pastoral for the Planet* with La Fura dels Baus**  
**Shanghai** May 2020    **Dortmund** 5 June 2020

***Der Freischütz* continues on tour in Europe**  
**Ludwigsburg** 12-14 July 2019    **Luxembourg** 6-8 October 2019  
**London** 4 November 2019

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

The Times

Over their 2019-2020 season, **Laurence Equilbey** and her **Insula orchestra** venture beyond their Parisian home, La Seine Musicale, taking their daring multimedia productions to Germany and China. A major new production of Beethoven's '*Pastoral*' *Symphony no. 6* tours to **Shanghai** in May 2020 with ecological video projections by **Carlus Padrissa** of **La Fura dels Baus**, before returning to **Dortmund** in June. Over 2019, Insula orchestra take *Der Freischütz* to **Ludwigsburg**, **Luxembourg** and **London** and a Scottish-themed programme to its German roots in **Köln** in September.

**May 2020** sees Equilbey and Insula orchestra depart on an ambitious tour Asia with an intrepid new production of **Beethoven's '*Pastoral*' *Symphony no. 6*** with 360° video projections with director **Carlus**

**Padrissa** of the Catalan theatre group **La Fura dels Baus** and scenography by **Mihael Milunovic**.

Padrissa and Milunovic address the deep relationship between man and ecology in a staging focusing on the tension and unbalance created by human activity and the necessity of environmental awareness in the relationship between man and nature. A digital project will feature interactivity with the stage design.

The new *Pastoral for the Planet* production is part of the Beethoven Pastoral Project encouraging engagement with the Pastoral symphony and the environment, and the performance in **Dortmund** on **5 June** marks **World Environment Day**.

The visionary theatre company **La Fura dels Baus** is renowned for its visionary and immersive theatrical experiences. This new project follows their 2017 Insula orchestra collaboration restaging 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 the recent La Fura dels Baus / Insula orchestra collaboration of Haydn's \*Creation\* here](#)

***"this Creation is not so much a concert as a maximalist extravaganza – albeit one with outstanding musicianship"***  
Classical Source

Beethoven's *Symphony no. 6* is set alongside a programme of short works by **Anton Reicha**, **Julius Rietz**, **Fanny Hensel-Mendessohn**, and **Carl Maria von Weber**, featuring soprano **Sophie Karthäuser**. Insula orchestra will also perform Beethoven's *Symphony no. 3*, '*Eroica*' alongside Mozart's *Symphony no. 41* in a separate concert in Shanghai.

Equilbey and her orchestra continue their phantasmagorical European tour of **Weber's *Der Freischütz*** with fully-staged performances at the **Grand Théâtre de la Ville, Luxembourg** (6 & 8 October) and at the **Barbican**

**Centre, London** (4 November), where it is semi-staged. The famous tale of dark magic and the spectacular is directed by **Clément Debailleul** and **Raphaël Navarro** from the interdisciplinary dance company Cie 14:20. As the period orchestra restores the music with historical authenticity, Debailleul and Navarro use astonishing illusions to recreate the bewitching attractions of the original Romantic production.

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

Colin Clarke, Seen and Heard International

The orchestra start their touring season by bringing the Scottish Highlands to the **Kölner Philharmonie** on **29 September** with a programme including Mendelssohn's *The Hebrides* overture and 'Scottish' *Symphony no. 3*. The programme explores the romantic fascination for Scotland and the third-century bard, Ossian. They are joined by baritone **Russell Braun** for Scottish songs and arias by Niels Gade, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven, arranged for voice and orchestra.

## Listings

### Sunday 29 September, 16:00

Philharmonie, Köln

**Niels Gade** *Echoes of Ossian*  
**Beethoven arr. Krawczyk** *Four Scottish Songs*  
**Mendelssohn** *The Hebrides*  
**Mendelssohn** *On Lena's Gloomy Heath*  
**Mendelssohn** 'Scottish'  
*Symphony no. 3*

With **Russell Braun** baritone

### Sunday 6 October, 17:00\* Tuesday 8 October, 20:00\*

Grand Théâtre de la Ville,  
Luxembourg

### Saturday 19 October, 19:30 Monday 21 October, 19:30 Wednesday 23 October, 19:30

Théâtre des Champs-Élysées,  
Paris

### Monday 4 November, 19:00\*\*

Barbican Centre, London

**Weber** *Der Freischütz*

With

**Tuomas Katajala** Max  
**Stanislas de Barbeyrac\*** Max  
**Johanni van Oostrum** Agathe  
**Chiara Skerath** Ännchen  
**Vladimir Baykov** Kaspar  
**Christian Immler** Eremit  
**Thorsten Grümbel** Kuno  
**Daniel Schmutzhard** Ottokar  
**Samuel Hasselhorn\*\*** Ottokar  
**Anas Séguin** Kilian

**Clément Debailleul, Raphaël Navarro** directors

**Friday 21 February, 20:00**  
**Saturday 22 February, 20:00**  
Grand Théâtre de Provence, Aix-en-Provence

### May 2020

Shanghai Concert Hall, China

### Friday 5 June

Konzerthaus, Dortmund

### Friday 17 April, 20:00

Échirolles, La Rampe

### Friday 24 April, 20:30

Théâtre de l'Archipel, Perpignan

**Beethoven** 'Introduction' from  
*The Creatures of Prometheus*  
**Reicha** 'Storm' from *Leonore*  
**Julius Rietz** 'Overture' from *Hero*  
*und Leander*  
**Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn**  
*Hero und Leander*  
**Carl Maria von Weber** *Kampf*  
*und Sieg*  
**Beethoven** 'Allegretto' from  
*Symphony no. 7*  
**Beethoven** 'Pastoral' *Symphony*  
*no. 6*

**Sophie Karthäuser** soprano  
**La Fura dels Baus**  
**Carlus Padrissa** director and  
video  
**Mihael Milunovic** design and  
scenography

### May 2020

Shanghai Concert Hall, China

**Beethoven** *Symphony no. 3,*  
*'Eroica'*  
**Mozart** *Symphony no. 41*

## 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)

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