

Baroque au Féminin: Itinéraire Baroque celebrates female composers in 2020 Festival



Thursday 30 July – Sunday 2 August 2020
Périgord Vert, France

The intimate **Itinéraire Baroque Festival** and Artistic Director **Ton Koopman** announce a 2020 programme championing an intrepid range of Baroque gems in historic churches across the French Dordogne. Set in the picturesque medieval villages and towns of the **Périgord Vert**, the 19th annual Festival runs over an extended summer weekend from **Thursday 30 July – Sunday 2 August**.

Among the eclectic topics celebrated in the 2020 Festival are the musical contributions of women as composers and patrons, including **Archduchess Isabella Clara Eugenia**, **Chiara Margerita Cozzolani** and **Maria Xaveria Perucona**.

The Festival opens on **30 July** with Ton Koopman directing his **Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra** in a diverse programme of works by Leclair, Corelli, De Fesch, Telemann and Bach, joined by soprano **Ilse Eerens**. Koopman, who recently celebrated his 75th birthday, is the newly appointed President of the influential Leipzig Bach Archive.

Three concerts are held in the **Église Abbatiale de Cercles** on **Friday 31 July**: the morning begins as **Ensemble Les Surprises** and director **Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas** explore the brief sacred motets – *Méditations* – of four French contemporaries: Marc-Antoine Charpentier, Sébastien de Brossard, Marin Marais and Robert de Visée.





In the early evening, the Spanish ensemble **La Grande Chapelle** and music director **Albert Recasens** highlight the influential musical patronage of the Archduchess Isabella Clara Eugenia (1566 – 1633), whose flourishing reign over the Spanish Netherlands notably created the famous Flemish Baroque tradition of Rubens. Her prosperous and metropolitan court in Brussels hosted the leading composers Pedro Ruimonte, Peter Philips and Pieter Cornet. The day finishes with ***What Travel in Foreign Countries***, exploring the English lutenist John Dowland through his overseas travels, a programme performed by **Simone Eckert** and her **Hamburger Ratsmusik**.

Undoubtedly the annual highlight is the **Itinéraire** that gives the Festival its name, held this year on **Saturday 1 August**. After an opening organ concert given by Ton Koopman, festivalgoers take in five 'taster' concerts in small groups exploring the small forgotten Romanesque churches in the Périgord-Charentes region of Dordogne. While the performers remain in the same church all day, the listener travels between churches in search of their next baroque 'amuse-bouche'.

Each festivalgoer samples an eclectically unique selection of music from across continents, periods, instruments and genres up-close, from the Spanish airs of Louis XIII's French Court to Handel's Italian Cantatas, to a defence of the bass viol by **Kaori Uemera**. Performers over the day include the **Ensemble Florens**, **Contrasto Armonico** and the **Ensemble el Sol** directed by **Chloé Sévère**.



Two well-renowned female composers are highlighted in the closing concert on **Sunday 2 August**, both talented nuns who capitalised on the enlightened musical activities of Milanese convent life to produce exquisite writing for female voices. Writing for the highly-accomplished singers in her convent Santa Radegonda, **Chiara Margherita Cozzolani's** virtuosic two-choir **Vespers** is one of the largest-scale of the time. Alongside **Maria Xaveria Perucona's** equally ornate motets, the nuns' music is performed by Ton Koopman's **Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra** and upper-voice **Amsterdam Baroque Choir**.



In the **Périgord Vert**, a beautiful unspoiled region of the Dordogne with its quiet stone-built villages, Artistic Director Ton Koopman has created a Festival that matches baroque music with the graceful medieval architectural heritage of the area. Originally founded as an *itinéraire*, or one-day Festival of concerts on a pilgrimage circuit to the small parish churches, the Festival has gradually expanded into an extended 4-day weekend, attracting new audiences to the Périgord Vert.

Each year, some 3,000 visitors attend the dozen concerts in the festival, with many even returning to settle in the area, restoring the farmhouses and châteaux and enjoying the gardens and sumptuous local gastronomy.

Ton Koopman commented:

"This rural area of Périgord Vert is perhaps lesser known than the more famous Dordogne valley with its majestic castles and strategic crusader fortresses. These

smaller villages on rivers dotted across the countryside, many inhabited since prehistoric times, have a quieter, intimate charm. It seemed a shame to see so many of these historic churches closed for much of the year, so we started the festival to open up their doors and fill them with music. 19 years on, I am delighted that the festival has grown and become a regular fixture in the summer calendar, attracting visitors from far and wide."

The **Dordogne**, named after the great Dordogne River in Aquitaine, is one of the most picturesque regions in Europe, famous for prehistoric caves and gastronomic delicacies – *foie gras*, walnuts, truffles, duck and goose dishes, and *Le Caviar Perle Noir* (caviar produced in the heart of the Périgord Vert), perfectly complemented by wines from St. Emillion or apple cider. Visitors to the Dordogne are captivated by the area's lush green golf courses, canoe trips along the river and beautiful walks and bike rides across the undulating landscape.



The region is rich in magnificent castles, historical museums and luscious green valleys. The Dordogne is also well known under the former name Périgord, dating back to when it was occupied by the Gauls. Then, it was divided into four separate parts for the four tribes: the Périgord Noir (for the darkness of the stone), the Périgord Blanc (for limestone quarries), the **Périgord Vert** (for the forest) and the Périgord Pourpre (for wine).

Full Festival Listings

Thursday 30 July, 20:30

Opening Concert

Église de Cercles

**Leclair, Corelli, De Fesch, Telemann
& Bach**

Ilse Eerens soprano
Ton Koopman harpsichord, director
Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra

Friday 31 July, 11:00-23:00

Baroque Music in Cercles

Église Abbatiale de Cercles

12:00 Meditations

**Marc Antoine Charpentier, Sébastien
de Brossard, Marin Marais,
& Robert de Visée**

Ensemble Les Surprises

Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas
director

**15:15 Discussion with Gilles
Cantagrel**

**16:30 Architecture and heritage
conference**

**18:00 Pedro Ruimonte: El Parnasso
Español**

**Pedro Ruimonte, Peter Philips &
Pieter Cornet**

La Grande Chapelle
Albert Recasens director

**21:00 What Travel in Foreign
Countries**

**Dowland's travels and the
contemporary reception of his music**

Hamburger Ratsmusik

Simone Eckert director

Saturday 1 August, 9:45-17:45
The Itinéraire Baroque

9:45 Welcome Concert
Église de Celles

Ton Koopman organ

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45
An Instrumental Songbook
Église de Montagnier

**Dowland, Trabaci, Bertoli, van Eyck,
Böddecker, Sweelinck & Tartaglino**

Ensemble Florens

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45
Italian Cantatas by Handel
Église de Saint Méard de Dronne

Contrasto Armonico

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45
The Angel against the Devil
Église de Saint Victor

Corelli, Scarlatti & Tartini

Rie Kimura violin

Ton Koopman
Harpsichordist, organist, conductor



Hailing from Zwolle in the Netherlands, Ton Koopman is an acclaimed organist, harpsichordist and conductor, as well as the Artistic Director of Itinéraire Baroque.

From the beginning of his musical studies in Amsterdam Koopman was fascinated by authentic instruments and a performance style based on sound scholarship; in 1969, at the age of 25, he created his first Baroque orchestra. In 1979 he founded the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, followed by the Amsterdam Baroque Choir in 1992.

Koopman's extensive activities as a soloist, accompanist and conductor have been recorded on a large number of LPs and CDs for labels such as Erato, Teldec, Sony, Philips and DG, along with his own record label, Antoine Marchand, distributed by Challenge Records.

Pieter Jan Bielder harpsichord

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45
In Defence of the Bass Viol
Église de Grand-Bassac

Mayumi Kamata harpsichord
Kaori Uemera viola da gamba

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45
Spanish Queens
Château de Montardy

**Spanish Airs at the Court of Louis
XIII**

Ensemble el Sol
Chloé Sévère director

Sunday 2 August, 17:30
Closing Concert
Église de Cercles

The Feminine Baroque

Chiara Margarita Cozzolani *Vêpres à
la vierge*
Maria Xaveria Perucona *Deux motets*

Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra
Amsterdam Baroque Choir
Ton Koopman director

Over the course of his 45-year career Koopman has appeared in some the most important concert halls and festivals in the world, including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Philharmonie in Munich, the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York. He has been Principal Conductor of the Netherland Radio Chamber Orchestra and has collaborated with leading international orchestras such as the Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Chicago Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome and Wiener Symphoniker.

Between 1994 and 2004, Koopman was engaged in a unique project, conducting and recording all the existing Cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach, a massive undertaking for which he has been awarded the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis 'Echo Klassik', the BBC Music Magazine Choral Award in 2008, the Prix Hector Berlioz and has been nominated for a Grammy Award in America and Gramophone Award in the UK.

In 2000 Koopman received an Honorary Degree from the Utrecht University for his academic work on the Bach Cantatas and Passions and has been awarded both the prestigious Silver Phonograph Prize and the VSCD Classical Music Award. In 2006 he has received the 'Bach-Medaille' from the City of Leipzig.

Koopman publishes regularly and for a number of years he has been engaged in editing the complete Händel Organ Concertos for Breitkopf & Härtel. He has published Händel's Messiah and Buxtehude's Das Jüngste Gericht for Carus.

Koopman leads the class of harpsichord at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, is Professor at the University of Leiden and is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music in London.

www.itinerairebaroque.com

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