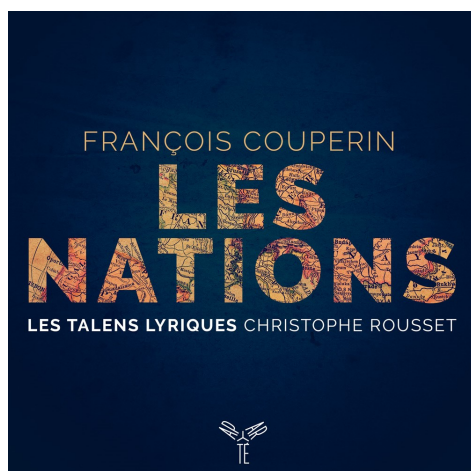


Les Talens Lyriques return to the Wigmore Hall following the release of their two latest CDs



Thursday 21 February, 19:30
Wigmore Hall

Monteverdi *Lamento d'Arianna*
Monteverdi *Mardigali guerrieri e amorosi, Libro ottavo* (extracts)
Monteverdi *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*

Christophe Rousset and **Les Talens Lyriques** return to the **Wigmore Hall** on **21 February** to present a special programme, **Warriors and Lovers**, exploring musical depictions of Italian literature in Monteverdi's madrigals. The group continues its survey of Couperin's works with two new discs: a new recording of his instrumental chamber collection – **Les Nations** – and a compilation from Les Talens Lyriques' twenty-five years of recordings – **Couperin & Moi** – both released on **Aparté**.

"Few composers reveal the secrets of their music as gradually as François Couperin. I have been playing his works for almost forty-five years now, and still I continue to discover new and unsuspected beauties. [...] It is my hope that this selection of some of my favourite passages from the composer's works will have wide appeal. I hope, too, that it will win over those who have not yet experienced the joy of getting to the heart of the rare and enchanting world of François Couperin."

- Christophe Rousset

Les Nations
December 2018
Aparté (AP197)

Gilone Gaubert-Jacques, Gabriel Grosbard violin
Jocelyn Daubigny, Stefanie Troffaes flute
Josep Domenech, Thomas Meraner oboe
Eyal Streett bassoon
Atsushi Sakaï viola da gamba
Laura Mónica Pustilnik theorbo

Christophe Rousset harpsichord, director
Les Talens Lyriques

Les Nations, released in **December 2018** on **Aparté**, is the penultimate release in Les Talens Lyriques' continued survey of the works of Couperin, celebrating the 350th anniversary of the composer's birth. The two-disc recording was made in **September 2017** in the **Banque de France's Golden Gallery**. Mixing French and Italian styles, the instrumental suites of *Les Nations* continue the ensemble's season theme: "**The Temptation of Italy**".

Les Nations is Couperin's fourth collection of instrumental chamber works, and is formed of four *ordres* – an Italian-style sonata followed by French dance suite – reflecting the four great political powers of Couperin's world: the French, Spanish, Holy Roman Empire ("Imperial") and the Savoy dynasty of Piedmont. Despite their solemn titles, these nimble compositions have a mysterious charm.

Couperin & Moi
December 2018
Aparté (AP193)

The final release of Les Talens Lyriques' Couperin anniversary celebrations, **Couperin & Moi** is director Christophe Rousset's personal portrait of the composer. This two-CD **Aparté** collection, released in **December 2018**, reissues many of Rousset's favourite recordings from the past 25 years in a single anthology collection, including a number of previously unreleased tracks, including *La Steinkerque*, *La Sultane*, and the 1701 *Air sérieux*. Les Talens Lyriques has tirelessly championed Couperin since the ensemble's formation in 1991.

Wigmore Hall

Presented especially for the **Wigmore Hall** on **21 February**, **Warriors and Lovers** (**Guerriers et Amoureux**) with soloists **Eugénie Warnier**, **Emiliano Gonzalez Toro** and **Magnus Staveland** takes its name from Monteverdi's collection of quasi-operatic madrigals of the same name. The programme opens with the famous **Lamento d'Arianna**, the only surviving fragment from Monteverdi's lost opera of the same name, an early work of great emotional intensity. Contrast is found in **II Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda**, with its musical evocations of thrusting swords, galloping horses and armoured combat, based on Tasso's *Gerusalemme Liberata*, the major work of Italian literature.

"I love Monteverdi as the beginning, the starting point, the field of possibilities. His music is a rejuvenating experience."

- Christophe Rousset

Les Talens Lyriques



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The ensemble Les Talens Lyriques, which takes its name from the subtitle of Jean-Philippe Rameau's opera *Les Fêtes d'Hébé* (1739), was formed in 1991 by the harpsichordist and conductor Christophe Rousset.

Championing a broad vocal and instrumental repertoire, ranging from early Baroque to the beginnings of Romanticism, the musicians of Les Talens Lyriques aim to throw light on the great masterpieces of musical

history, while providing perspective by presenting rarer or little known works that are important as missing links in the European musical heritage. This musicological and editorial work, which contributes to its renown, is a priority for the ensemble.

Les Talens Lyriques perform to date works by Monteverdi (*L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, *L'Orfeo*), Cavalli (*La Didone*, *La Calisto*), Landi (*La Morte d'Orfeo*), Handel (*Scipione*, *Riccardo Primo*, *Rinaldo*, *Admeto*, *Giulio Cesare*, *Serse*, *Arianna in Creta*, *Tamerlano*, *Ariodante*, *Semele*, *Alcina*), Lully (*Persée*, *Roland*, *Bellérophon*, *Phaéton*, *Amadis*, *Armide*, *Alceste*), Desmarest (*Vénus et Adonis*), Mondonville (*Les Fêtes de Paphos*), Cimarosa (*Il Mercato di Malmantile*, *Il Matrimonio segreto*), Traetta (*Antigona*, *Ippolito ed Aricia*), Jommelli (*Armida abbandonata*), Martin y Soler (*La Capricciosa corretta*, *Il Tutore burlato*), Mozart (*Mitridate*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Così fan tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte*), Salieri (*La Grotta di Trofonio*, *Les Danaïdes*, *Les Horaces*, *Tarare*), Rameau (*Zoroastre*, *Castor et Pollux*, *Les Indes galantes*, *Platée*, *Pygmalion*), Gluck (*Bauci e Filemone*, *Alceste*), Beethoven, Cherubini (*Médée*), García (*Il Califfo di Bagdad*), Berlioz, Massenet, Gounod (*Faust*) and Saint-Saëns.

The re-creation of these works goes hand in hand with close collaboration with stage directors and choreographers such as Pierre Audi, Jean-Marie Villégier, David McVicar, Eric Vigner, Ludovic Lagarde, Mariame Clément, Jean-Pierre Vincent, Macha Makeïeff, Laura Scozzi, Natalie van Parys, Marcial di Fonzo Bo, Claus Guth, Robert Carsen, David Hermann, Christof Loy, Jetske Mijnsen, Alban Richard and David Lescot.

As well as opera, Les Talens Lyriques explore other musical genres: madrigal, cantata, air de cour, symphonies, and the vast corpus of sacred music (masses, motets, oratorios, *Leçons de Ténèbres*, and so on). In formations varying from a handful of musicians to more than sixty, representing every generation, they give performances all over the world.

In 2018-2019 Les Talens Lyriques return to their first love, with a season entitled "The Temptation of Italy". Vocality will be celebrated in works ranging from masterpieces by Monteverdi, Purcell, Handel (*Agrippina*) and

Mozart (*La Betulia liberata*) to rarely heard or unpublished scores by Legrenzi (*La Divisione del mondo*), Salieri (*Tarare*), Leo and Porpora. After celebrating Telemann in 2017, the ensemble will be acting as François Couperin's representative abroad when they take his music to the American continent for the 350th anniversary of the composer's birth. "Couperin Year" will also be celebrated with recordings: *Les Nations* and the *Concerts Royaux* are to be released (in autumn and in December, respectively) on the Aparté label.

Les Talens Lyriques recorded the famous soundtrack for Gérard Corbiau's film *Farinelli* (1994), which sold over a million copies. The ensemble now has a discography comprising some sixty references, on various labels (Erato, Fnac Music, Auvidis, Decca, Naïve, Ambrosia, Virgin Classics, Outhere and Aparté). This season, it will conclude the cycle of French operas by Salieri with the release of *Les Horaces* in September 2018 (Aparté) and the recording of *Tarare* in the autumn (also for Aparté).

Since 2007 the musicians of the ensemble have been working to introduce schoolchildren to music, via a programme of ambitious artistic actions and innovative educational initiatives. They are in residence in schools in Paris and Île-de-France, where they have created a student orchestra with young secondary school pupils and a small choir ("Le petit chœur des Talens"). The three *t@lenschool* educational applications, downloadable free of charge, have met with much enthusiasm and have received several national and international awards.

The ensemble Les Talens Lyriques receives subsidies from the French Ministry of Culture and the City of Paris, and generous support from its Circle of Patrons. The ensemble wishes to thank its principal Patrons, the Annenberg Foundation / GRoW - Gregory and Regina Annenberg Weingarten, Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet and Mécénat Musical Société Générale.

Since 2011 Les Talens Lyriques have been associate artists, in residence at the Singer-Polignac Foundation in Paris. Les Talens Lyriques are founding members of FEVIS (Federation of Specialised Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles) and of PROFEDIM (Professional Union of Music Producers, Festivals, Ensembles, and Independent Distributors).

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Christophe Rousset **Harpichordist, Conductor, Musicologist**



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The founder of the ensemble Les Talens Lyriques and internationally recognised harpsichordist Christophe Rousset is a musician and conductor inspired by a passion for opera and the rediscovery of the European musical heritage.

His studies (harpsichord) with Huguette Dreyfus at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, then with Bob van Asperen at the Royal Conservatory of

The Hague (winning the coveted First Prize in the Seventh Bruges International Harpsichord Competition at the age of twenty-two), followed by the creation of his own ensemble, Les Talens Lyriques, in 1991, have enabled Christophe Rousset to obtain a perfect grasp of the richness and diversity of the Baroque, Classical and pre-Romantic repertoires.

Christophe Rousset is now invited to appear with Les Talens Lyriques all over Europe (Opéra National de Paris, Opéra Comique, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Philharmonie de Paris, Opéra Royal de Versailles, Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Lausanne Opéra, Teatro Real Madrid, Vienna Staatsoper and Theater an der Wien, Théâtre Royal de La Monnaie and Bozar in Brussels, London's Wigmore Hall and Barbican Centre, and so on), as well as on tour in other parts of the world (Mexico, New Zealand, Canada, United States, etc.).

At the same time he continues to pursue an active career as a harpsichordist and chamber musician, playing and recording on some of the world's finest period instruments. His recordings of the harpsichord

works of Louis and François Couperin, Rameau, D'Anglebert, Royer, Duphy, Forqueray, Balbastre and Scarlatti, and those devoted to J. S. Bach (Partitas, Goldberg Variations, Harpsichord Concertos, English Suites, French Suites, *Klavierbüchlein für Wilhelm Friedemann*, Well-Tempered Clavier) are regarded as references.

Teaching is of paramount importance to Christophe Rousset, who organises and gives many master-classes and academies (Paris Conservatoire CNSM, Ambronay, Fondation Royaumont, Operastudio Vlaanderen-Ghent, OFJ Baroque, Junge Deutsche Philharmonie-Berlin, Accademia Chigiana-Siena, Amici della Musica in Florence, Britten-Pears Orchestra at Snape Maltings) and, together with members of Les Talens Lyriques, plays an active part in introducing young secondary school students in Paris and the Île-de-France to music.

Christophe Rousset also appears regularly as a guest conductor: Liceu Barcelona, San Carlo Naples, La Scala Milan, Opéra Royal de Wallonie, London's Royal Opera House, Orquesta Nacional de España, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Orchestre du Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, etc.

He is active too in the field of research and writing, through critical editions, the publication of monographs devoted to Jean-Philippe Rameau and François Couperin (Actes Sud, 2007 and 2016, respectively).

2017 saw the publication of a series of interviews by Camille de Rijck in which Christophe Rousset shares his thoughts on music: *L'impression que l'instrument chante*, Éditions de la Cité de la Musique - Philharmonie de Paris (La rue musicale - Entretiens).

Christophe Rousset is a Knight of the French Legion of Honour, a Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters, and a Knight of the National Order of Merit.

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