

Baroque au Féminin: Itinéraire Baroque celebrates female composers in 2021 Festival



Thursday 29 July – Sunday 1 August 2021
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 20th annual Festival runs over an extended summer weekend from **Thursday 29 July – Sunday 1 August 2021**.

Among the eclectic topics celebrated in the 2021 Festival are the musical contributions of the early women composers **Chiara Margerita Cozzolani** and **Maria Xaveria Perucona**, a late-night harpsichord recital by Masaaki Suzuki, and instrumental focusses on the dulcimer and bass viol.



The Festival opens on **29 July** with **Project Amsterdam** performing arias and duos by Handel, as they are joined by soprano **Elizabeth Hetherington** and director and countertenor **Maarten Engeltjes**.

Four concerts are held in the **Église Abbatiale de Cercles** on **Friday 30 July**: the morning begins as **Ensemble La Cigala** and director **Inès d'Avena** explore the cantatas of the Neapolitan composer Giuseppe Porsile, who wrote sacred music for the Spanish Chapel in Naples and later in Vienna.

In the evening, **Simone Eckert** and her **Hamburger Ratsmusik** explore the music of the city and north Germany in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The day finishes with a harpsichord recital by **Masaaki Suzuki**, founder and leader of Bach Collegium Japan.

Undoubtedly the annual highlight is the **Itinéraire** that gives the Festival its name, held this year on **Saturday 31 July**. 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 Corelli, Scarlatti and Tartini presented by **Rie Kimura** and **Pieter Jan Bielder**, to Telemann's *Trio Sonatas* performed in *Telemannia* by **Ensemble Apollo**. Stretching the domains of early instrumental sound, **Franziska Fleischanderl** performs virtuoso Italian religious music written for the dulcimer in the eighteenth century while **Kaori Uemera** presents a defence of the bass viol.



Two well-renowned female composers are highlighted in the closing concert on **Sunday 1 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 Margerita 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 – appointed President of the influential Leipzig Bach Archive in 2019 – 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 29 July, 20:30

Opening Concert

Église de Cercles

"Io t'abbraccio"

Arias and Duos by Handel

Elizabeth Hetherington soprano

Maarten Engeltjes countertenor,
director

Project Amsterdam

Friday 30 July, 11:00-23:00

Baroque Music in Cercles

Église Abbatiale de Cercles

11:00 "Mannaggia Amore"

Cantatas and instrumental music by
Giuseppe Porsile

Ensemble La Cigala

Inès d'Avena director

13:30 Cœcilia

Free children's performance

Ton Koopman harpsichord

Marieke Koopman

**18:00 17th- & 18th-Century Music in
Hamburg and the north of Germany**

Hamburger Ratsmusik

Simone Eckert director

21:00 Harpsichord Recital

Masaaki Suzuki harpsichord

Saturday 31 July, 8:30-17:45

The Itinéraire Baroque

8:30 Organ Recital

Église de Champagne

Ton Koopman organ

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45

An Instrumental Songbook

Église de Cherval

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

Ensemble Florens

Emma Huijsser baroque harp, recorder

Edoardo Valorz harpsichord, organ

Kim Stockx dulcian, recorder

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45

Dulcimer Concert

Église de Saint Paul Lizonne

Franziska Fleischanderl dulcimer

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45

"L'Angelo contro il Diavolo"

Église de Bour des Maisons

Corelli, Scarlatti & Tartini

Rie Kimura violin

Pieter Jan Bielder harpsichord

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45

In Defence of the Bass Viol

Église de Grand-Brassac

Mayumi Kamata harpsichord

Kaori Uemera viola da gamba

11:00, 12:15, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45

Telemannia

Église de Coutres/Château de Montardy

Trio Sonatas by Telemann

Ensemble Apollo

David Rabinovich director

Sunday 1 August, 17:30

Closing Concert

Église de Saint Astier

Baroque au Féminin

Chiara Margarita Cozzolani *Vêpres de la vierge*

Maria Xaveria Perucona *Deux motets*

Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra

Amsterdam Baroque Choir

Ton Koopman director

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.

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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