

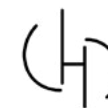


Noël napolitain

The magic of a popular and baroque Christmas

In Baroque Naples, the Christmas season is a time for intense musical celebrations. Traditional carols, tarantellas, and lyrically inspired airs blend together in a surprising artistic syncretism. A highlight of the religious calendar, it is also an occasion for Neapolitans to express a certain pagan spirit with a uniquely theatrical flair. This taste for staging the Christmas story, for the mystery of the Nativity, and for lyrical art merges to convey both devotion to Jesus and an irrepressible desire to dance and celebrate.

Through a program of Baroque arias and concertos, popular carols, and tarantellas, we invite you to share in this musical fervor for one exceptional evening.



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Program



V. Beer-Demander – *Overtura di natale*

A. Scarlatti – *Cantata « Oh di Betlemme altera povertà venturosa »* ; *Aria « Lagrime amare »* (*Abramo, il tuo semblante*)

C. Caresana – « *Non è vero* », « *Una dama la più fortunata* » (*La Veglia*)

D. Scarlatti – *Sonate K. 89 (Andante)*

PA. Ziani – *Aria « Dormite o pupille »*

Mezzacapo – *Tarentella « Napoli »*

Anonyme – *Bambino divino, La santa allegrezze, Ninna nanna al bambino Gesu alla napoletana, Suite of instrumental tarentellas, Tarentella « La Cicerenella »*

Cast



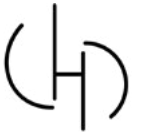
- **Heather Newhouse**, soprano
- **Vincent Beer-Demander**, mandolin
- **Reynier Guerrero**, violin
- **Florian Verhaegen**, violin
- **Aurélie Métivier**, viola
- **Aude Walker-Viry**, cello
- **Nicolas Jeannot**, double bass
- **Albane Imbs**, theorbo & guitar
- **Franck-Emmanuel Comte**, harpsichord & conductor

Duration



1 H 20 without intermission

Heather Newhouse



Soprano



Heather Newhouse, originally from Canada, studied voice at the University of Western Ontario (Bachelor of Music, 2005), then at the Guildhall School of Music in London (Master of Music, 2006), and at the CNSMD of Lyon, graduating in 2010. She then joined the European Academy of Music at the Aix-en-Provence Festival. In 2012, she won the Froville International Baroque Singing Competition and the Second Prize at the Mâcon International Competition. From 2011 to 2013, she was a member of the Studio of the Opéra National de Lyon.

She performs a varied repertoire, including Mozart's *Der Schauspieldirektor* with the Geneva Chamber Orchestra, *The Turn of the Screw* at Opéra du Rhin, *L'Europe galante* at Versailles, Berio's *Folk Songs* in Mulhouse, Denisov's *Quatre Jeunes Filles* in Monte-Carlo, and Mozart's *Requiem* with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. She also sings Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine*, Charpentier's *Litanies de la Vierge*, and Grieg's *Peer Gynt* at the Opéra de Lyon.

Heather Newhouse regularly collaborates with two Baroque ensembles, *Ausonia* and *Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu*. With the latter, under the direction of Franck-Emmanuel Comte, she has performed Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* as well as the hip-hop ballet *Folia* by Mourad Merzouki, which blends Baroque music with dance.

[Discover our musicians](#)

Vincent Beer-Demander

Mandolinist

Vincent Beer-Demander, mandolinist, concert artist, teacher, composer, arranger, organizer, and artistic director, develops a career characterized by the diversity of his practice. His eclectic collaborations have renewed the image of an instrument long associated with popular folklore.

Vincent Beer-Demander dedicates himself fully to music, having set aside intensive sports while retaining a taste for effort. He developed his repertoire and technique under Florentino Calvo at the *École Nationale d'Argenteuil* and with Alberto Ponce at the *École Normale de Musique de Paris*, obtaining a concert license—a rare achievement for a mandolinist at the time.

His career quickly took shape with numerous prizes, stage engagements, tours, commissions, creations, and diverse collaborations. Over twenty years, he has led many events in France and abroad. Based in Marseille, he founded a community academy and teaches at both the *Marseille Conservatory* and the *Royal Conservatory of Liège*, promoting the mandolin's repertoire and practice in musical life.



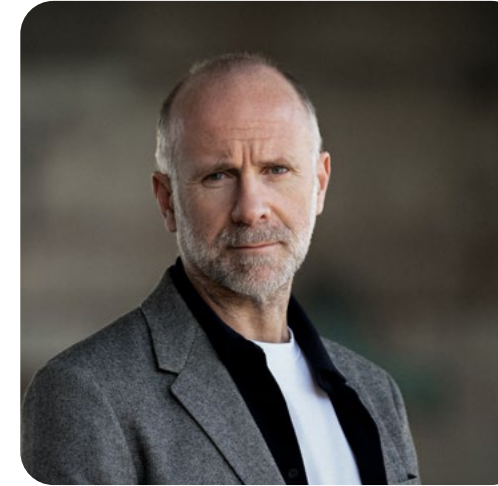
Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Harpsichord & Conductor

Franck-Emmanuel Comte, harpsichordist and conductor specializing in Baroque repertoire on period instruments, is passionate about sharing his love for music with a wide audience. His projects often include outreach and educational initiatives. Deeply committed to teaching and professional development, he lectures on Baroque aesthetics at the Catholic University of Lyon and chairs the jury of the Froville International Baroque Singing Competition.

Graduating from CNSMD Lyon, he quickly established himself on the musical scene, invited by numerous opera houses and orchestras in France and internationally. A recognized conductor, he regularly directs in major capitals and festivals worldwide. Passionate about Baroque repertoire, he also explores cross-disciplinary projects, such as the ballet *Folia* with Mourad Merzouki, performed over 160 times to 200,000 spectators. His latest recording, *The Ghost of Hamlet* (Arcana/Outthere), received multiple international awards.

In 2025, he became the artistic director of La Trinité, a concert season dedicated to early and unconventional music, co-organized by Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu and Superspectives. He also serves as the artistic director of the International J.-S. Bach Music Center in Saint-Donat and the Mont-Blanc Baroque Festival.



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu

Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu is a major player on the French baroque music scene. The ensemble is distinguished by a sensitive and dynamic interpretation of eighteenth-century vocal and instrumental repertoire, based on a consistently historical and philological approach.

Under the direction of **Franck-Emmanuel Comte**, the ensemble particularly promotes the originality and specificity of baroque manuscripts preserved in the libraries of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, producing reconstructions and editions of previously unpublished works that reflect Lyon's historic cultural ties with Italy.

Bringing the richness and diversity of baroque music into the present day is also one of the ensemble's major artistic goals. Through stimulating collaborations, the ensemble creates encounters between baroque aesthetics and artists from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Transmission and sharing lie at the heart of the ensemble's creative work, with numerous outreach and educational activities accompanying its concerts for a wide variety of audiences.

Under Franck-Emmanuel Comte's direction, the ensemble has given more than **1,700 concerts** in major European and world capitals as well as at many international festivals. Their recordings have been widely praised by the international press.

The projects of Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu are supported by Ville de Lyon, the Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Centre National de la Musique, SPEDIDAM, ADAMI and CPPF.



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