



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Bad Girls

Rebellious Women of the Old Testament

The Bible is not only the foundation of Christian doctrine; it is also an extraordinary collection of captivating stories. Among its rich gallery of characters, women occupy a unique place, portrayed alternately as models of virtue or as embodiments of temptation, desire and downfall. Salome, Eve, Herodias, Ruth, Susanna, Deborah, Judith and Mary Magdalene: these legendary figures have long inspired the imagination of Baroque librettists and composers.

In this recital, **Franck-Emmanuel Comte** brings together three charismatic soloists to give voice to these biblical “bad girls”. **Sophie Junker**, **Blandine de Sansal** and **Emmanuelle de Negri** vividly embody these complex and contradictory heroines, alternately celebrated or condemned by a sacred tradition that transformed them into timeless archetypes of freedom, desire and transgression.

Programme



Arias, duets and trios from oratorios by Alessandro Scarlatti, Georg Friedrich Handel, Giovanni Bononcini, Antonio Caldara, Johann Joseph Fux and others

Cast



Sophie Junker, soprano
Emmanuelle de Negri, soprano
Blandine de Sansal, mezzo-soprano

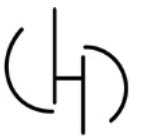
Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte, harpsichord & musical director
Reynier Guerrero, solo violin
Pedro-Octavio Diaz, musicologist

On stage



18 artists
3 soloists, 15 instrumentalists

Sophie Junker



After studying at IMEP in Namur and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, French-Belgian soprano Sophie Junker has established herself as one of the most distinguished voices of her generation, particularly in early music and Handelian opera. Winner of the London Handel Competition and the Cesti Competition in Innsbruck, she regularly collaborates with leading conductors and ensembles and performs on Europe's major stages.

A specialist in Handel's repertoire, she has appeared in numerous roles and has worked with ensembles and conductors including Leonardo García Alarcón, Le Poème Harmonique, Bach Collegium Japan, Academy of Ancient Music and Pomo d'Oro.

Her debut solo album, ***La Francesina***, recorded with Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu and released by Aparté in 2020, received both an International Classical Music Award and the Forum Opéra Trophy.

Emmanuelle de Negri

Revealed early in her career in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* and Pasquini's *Sant'Agnese*, Emmanuelle de Negri has enjoyed a long-standing collaboration with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants. She also performs regularly with France's leading period ensembles, including Pygmalion, Le Poème Harmonique, Le Banquet Céleste, Les Accents and Le Concert d'Astrée.

Her repertoire ranges from Monteverdi, Cavalli, Rameau and Mozart to Offenbach and Dukas, under the baton of conductors such as William Christie, Riccardo Muti, René Jacobs, Raphaël Pichon, Vincent Dumestre and Emmanuelle Haïm.

In December 2026, she reunites with Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu for ***Missa Concertata***, a programme built around a newly discovered manuscript by Pergolesi. Her discography includes acclaimed recordings such as *Dardanus*, *Castor et Pollux*, *Atys*, *Bien que l'Amour* and *Santa Teodosia*.

Blandine de Sansal

Trained at the École Normale Alfred Cortot and the Sorbonne, Blandine de Sansal is the winner of the Léopold Bellan International Competition and the 2022 Frouville International Baroque Singing Competition, where she was awarded both First Prize and the Audience Prize.

She performs as a soloist under the direction of Sébastien Daucé, Damien Guillon, Paul Agnew, Raphaël Pichon, Bertrand Cuiller, Jean-Christophe Spinosi and Camille Delaforge, appearing in roles such as Barberina (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Goffredo (*Rinaldo*), Orfeo (*Gluck*) and Nature in *Cupid and Death*.

A frequent recital guest with Il Caravaggio, the Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal and numerous festivals, she has also performed with Les Arts Florissants at the Konzerthaus Vienna. Since 2024, she has collaborated regularly with Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu on several programmes dedicated to Vivaldi.

Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Harpsichord & musical director

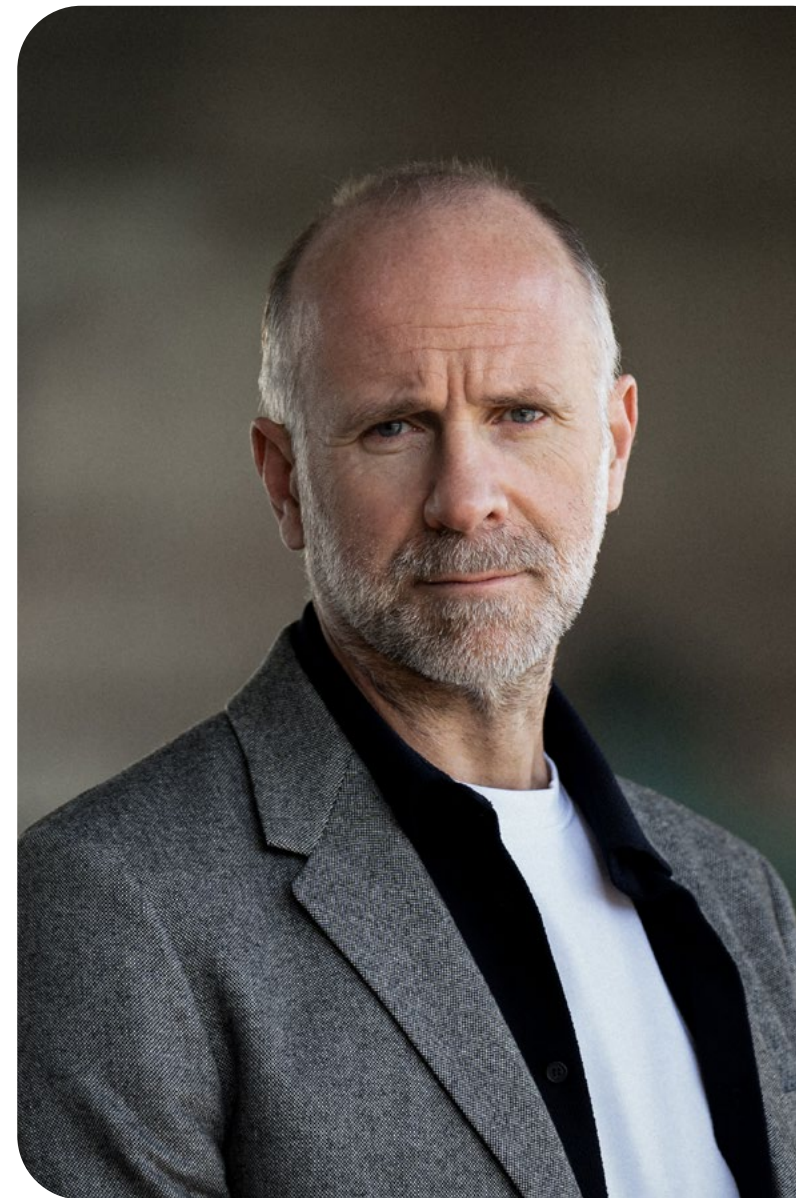
A conductor specializing in the interpretation of the Baroque repertoire on period instruments, **Franck-Emmanuel Comte** seeks above all to share his passion with the widest possible audience.

After graduating from the CNSMD in Lyon, he quickly held key positions and received invitations from major opera houses (Nantes, Lyon, Paris Opera Studio...) and orchestras (Orchestre des Pays de Savoie, Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain, University of Auckland Orchestra, Collegium Musicum Riga, Arion Baroque Orchestra in Montreal...).

Regularly invited to conduct in major European and international capitals (Barcelona, London, Moscow, Montreal, New York, Washington, Helsinki, Krakow, Rome, Brussels, Madrid, Tel Aviv, Beijing...) and at numerous international festivals (Ambronay, La Chaise-Dieu, Halle Handel Festival, Bayreuth Baroque Festival, Bruges Early Music Festival, London Baroque Festival, Granada Sacred Music Festival...), Franck-Emmanuel Comte is deeply passionate about Baroque music as well as cross-disciplinary and unconventional projects, such as *Folia*, a dance production co-created with choreographer Mourad Merzouki, performed before more than 100,000 spectators over 160 performances.

In 1993, he founded **Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu (CHD)**, a Lyon-based ensemble of international renown, of which he remains the Artistic Director. He has conducted the ensemble in more than **1,800 concerts** and recorded around twenty albums. *La Francesina*, recorded with soprano Sophie Junker and released in 2020, was widely acclaimed and received both an International Classical Music Award and the Forum Opéra Trophy. *The Ghost of Hamlet*, released on the Arcana/Outhere label in 2025 with soprano Roberta Mameli, received numerous distinctions from the international press. In spring 2026, *Furioso*, featuring countertenor Xavier Sabata and devoted to the many faces of Orlando in Baroque opera, was released.

In 2025, he became Artistic Director of **La Trinité**, a concert season dedicated to early and "irregular" music, co-organized by Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu and Superspectives. Franck-Emmanuel Comte is also Artistic Director of the **Centre Musical International J.S. Bach in Saint-Donat** and the **Festival baroque du Pays du Mont-Blanc**.



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu

Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu is a leading ensemble on the French Baroque scene. It stands out for its sensitive and dynamic interpretations of 18th century vocal and instrumental repertoire, consistently guided by a historically informed and philological approach.

Under the direction of **Franck-Emmanuel Comte**, the ensemble is particularly committed to exploring the originality and distinctiveness of Baroque manuscripts preserved in the libraries of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, producing numerous reconstructions and editions of previously unpublished works that reflect Lyon's historic ties with Italy.

Transposing the richness and diversity of Baroque music into the contemporary world is also one of the ensemble's key artistic focuses. Through stimulating collaborations, Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu fosters encounters between Baroque aesthetics and artists or traditions from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

Education and outreach lie at the heart of the ensemble's creative work, with concert experiences complemented by numerous programs designed to engage diverse audiences.

Under Franck-Emmanuel Comte's direction, the ensemble has performed over **1,700 concerts** in major European and international capitals and at leading festivals worldwide.

Their recordings have been widely acclaimed by the international press.

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



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