



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte

CHRISTMAS EVE WITH JANE AUSTEN

Concertos, Carols and Confidences...

What might one have heard during a musical evening in Jane Austen's England? Which melodies accompanied winter gatherings where family and friends came together to celebrate Christmas through music?

With ***Christmas Eve with Jane Austen***, Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu invites audiences to discover the musical world of one of Britain's greatest novelists, the author of *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and many other beloved works. A passionate music lover, Jane Austen played the fortepiano, sang with her family, and owned works by Corelli, Handel, as well as numerous traditional Christmas carols.

Québec conductor Mathieu Lussier has conceived a programme that recreates the warm atmosphere of these intimate musical gatherings, where instrumental music, spirituality and conviviality naturally intertwined. Featuring works by Manfredini, Corrette, Corelli, Bond and Handel, the programme paints a sensitive portrait of Georgian England, deeply shaped by the legacy of the European Baroque.

At the heart of the concert is Corelli's celebrated Christmas Concerto, an enduring musical symbol of the festive season. Excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* are paired with the radiant *Gloria* by the young Saxon composer, while Corrette's *Christmas Symphony* and Schmidt's *Chaconne* complete this elegant and festive evocation.

A Christmas evening filled with charm and poetry, inspired by the timeless world imagined by Jane Austen.

Programme



FRANCESCO MANFREDINI (1684-1762)

Sinfonia in D minor, Op. 2 No. 2

MICHEL CORRETTE (1707-1795)

Christmas Symphony No. 4

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)

Gloria, HWV deest

ARCANGELO CORELLI (1653-1713)

Christmas Concerto, Op. 6 No. 8

CAPEL BOND (1730-1790)

Concerto Grosso No. 5 in G minor

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)

How beautiful are the feet (Messiah)

If God be for us (Messiah)

JOHANN CHRISTOPH SCHMIDT (1694-1733)

Chaconne (Winter, The Four Seasons, 1719)

Cast



Heather Newhouse, soprano

Mathieu Lussier, conductor

Reynier Guerrero, violin solo

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On stage



1 soprano, 12 musicians

1 guest conductor

Mathieu Lussier

Conductor

Artistic Director of Arion Baroque Orchestra since June 2019, and Artistic Director of Domaine Forget de Charlevoix since 2022, Mathieu Lussier has energetically and passionately promoted the modern and baroque bassoon as solo instruments for more than two decades throughout North America, South America, and Europe. He also devotes considerable time to chamber music as a member of the ensemble Pentaèdre and is Associate Professor at the Music Faculty of the Université de Montréal.

Previous appointments include Associate Conductor of Les Violons du Roy from 2012 to 2018, where Lussier led the orchestra in over 100 concerts in Quebec and on tour in greater Canada, the United States, Mexico, and Brazil, collaborating with artists such as Marc-André Hamelin, Philippe Jarrousky, Alexandre Tharaud, Jeremy Denk, Jean-Guihen Queyras, Julia Lezhneva, Anthony Marwood, and Karina Gauvin. From 2008 to 2014 he served as Artistic Director and Conductor of the Lamèque International Baroque Music Festival, and has also conducted many other Canadian ensembles such as the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, the Orchestre symphonique de Québec, the Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières, the Orchestre symphonique de Drummondville, the Orchestre symphonique de Sherbrooke, the Calgary Symphony Orchestra, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, I Musici de Montréal, Symphony Nova Scotia, and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra.

His numerous solo recordings include over a dozen bassoon concertos (Mozart, Vivaldi, Fasch, Graupner, Telemann, and Corrette), a CD of bassoon sonatas by Boismortier, several CDs of music for solo bassoon by François Devienne, Étienne Ozi and Eugène Jancourt, and two CDs of wind music by Gossec and Méhul.



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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