

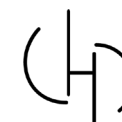


Prima Donna

Vivaldi and His Star: A Pyrotechnic Recital!

The daughter of a French wigmaker settled in Mantua, mezzo-soprano **Anna Giraud** met **Antonio Vivaldi** in the same city. The young singer and the composer soon formed a close bond, and Vivaldi gave her singing lessons that continued in Venice at the Ospedale della Pietà. Captivated by the woman who would become one of the leading prime donne of the Venetian stage, the “Red Priest” composed no fewer than ten leading roles for Anna, affectionately known as La Girò. Celebrated by the Venetians as *L’Anima del Prete Rosso* (“The Soul of the Red Priest”), she became the star of major operas such as *Griselda*, *Orlando*, *Alcina* and *Bajazet*.

Although she did not display the dazzling virtuosity of the great castrati, Anna Giraud was admired for her expressive singing, her warm lower register, her charisma and stage presence, and above all for her remarkable dramatic talent, praised by Carlo Goldoni himself. History has also remembered the aura of mystery and scandal surrounding the supposed love affair between the composer and his muse.



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Programme



ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)

Excerpts from: **Motet**, RV 629 ; **Violin Concerto**, RV 222 ; **Bajazet**, RV 703 ; **Juditha triumphans**, RV 644 ; **Concerto for Strings**, RV 127 ; **Cello Concerto**, RV 419

Cast



Blandine de Sansal, mezzo-soprano

Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte, harpsichord & conductor
Reynier Guerrero, solo violin

On stage



13 ARTISTS

1 soliste, 13 instrumentistes

Schedule



PREMIERE – 30 sept. 2026 – La Trinité, Lyon

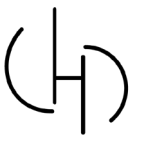
Touring



Available from May 2028

Blandine de Sansal

Mezzo-soprano



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

She performs as a soloist under the direction of conductors including Sébastien Daucé, Damien Guillon, Paul Agnew, Raphaël Pichon, Bertrand Cuiller, Jean-Christophe Spinosi and Camille Delaforge. Her operatic roles include Barberina (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Goffredo (*Rinaldo*), Orpheus (*Gluck*), and Nature in *Cupid and Death*.

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



Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Harpsichord & musical director

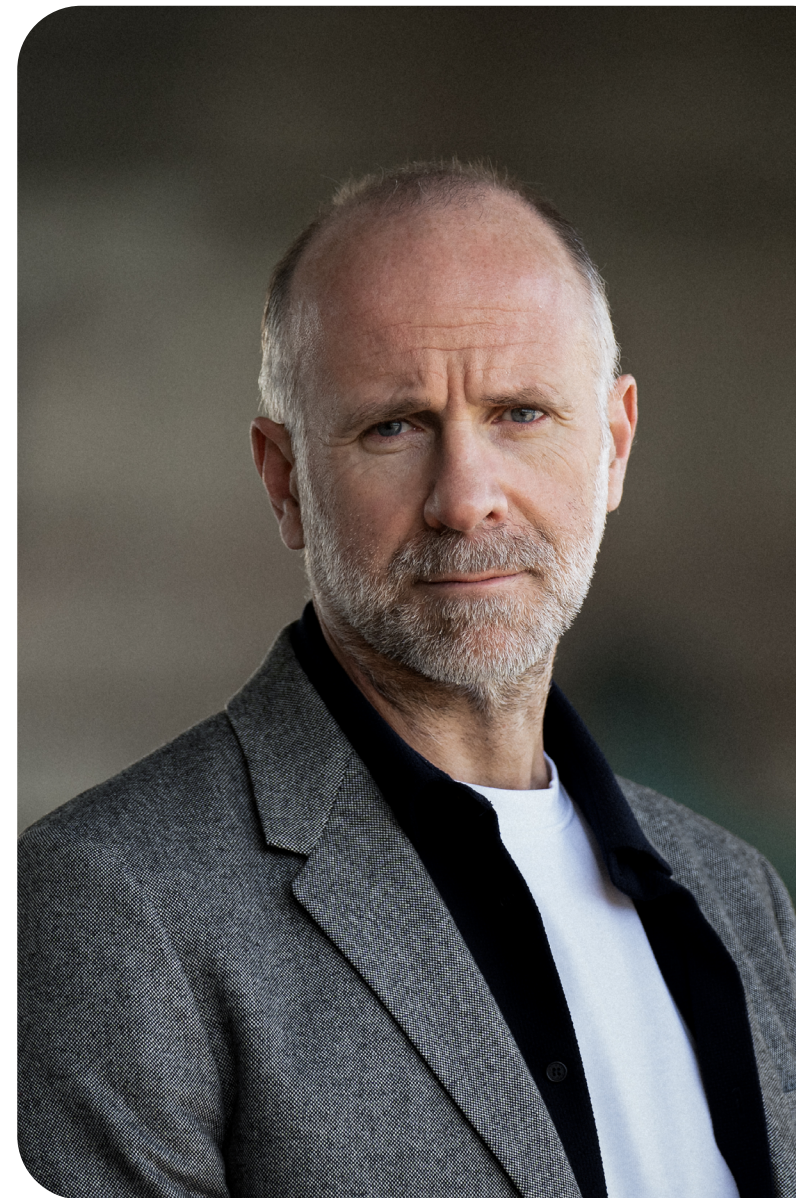
A conductor specializing in the interpretation of the Baroque repertoire on period instruments, **Franck-Emmanuel Comte** seeks above all to share his passion with the widest possible audience.

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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