



Dixit Dominus

G.-F. Haendel

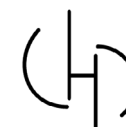
Haendel and Bach: The Theatre of Emotions

Approaching ***Dixit Dominus*** Haendel's, means affirming a deep conviction: the Baroque repertoire is not a frozen heritage, but a true theatre of emotions, a sonic laboratory where music is experienced as a physical, dramatic, and sensory event.

Composed in 1707, this dazzling work reveals a young and bold Handel, nourished by Italian exuberance and already driven by an irresistible theatrical instinct. The ***Dixit Dominus*** goes beyond the framework of sacred music to become a dramatic fresco, where biblical text turns into gesture, tension, movement, and light. This spectacular dimension lies at the heart of our approach and highlights the full modernity of a visionary Handel.

Composed in the same year, ***Christ lag in Todesbanden*** bears witness to the expressive power of the young Bach, already evident in his earliest cantatas. Alternating between monumental chorale, arias, and ensembles, the work combines vocal virtuosity with contrapuntal clarity. In dialogue with the ***Dixit Dominus***, it offers another vision of the afterlife: more inward-looking, crossed by shadow and light, where the divine presence feels closer, almost human.

Between these two masterpieces, two more rarely performed works build luminous bridges: the motet ***Lobet den Herrn*** by the Cantor of Leipzig — presented here from a manuscript preserved at the Lyon Municipal Library — and the delicate ***Salve Regina*** for solo soprano by the young Handel.



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Programme



Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Cantata Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 4
(Mühlhausen, 1707)

Motet Lobet den Herrn, BWV 230 (Leipzig, vers 1730)
in the version of the manuscript held at the Lyon Municipal Library

Georg Friedrich Haendel (1685–1759)
Salve Regina, HWV 241 (Rome, 1707)
Dixit dominus, HWV 232 (Rome, 1707)

Distribution



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

Spirito – Chœur de chambre
Thibaut Louppe, choir preparation

Heather Newhouse, soprano
Magali Perol-Dumora, soprano
Léo Fernique, *viola*
Almeno Gonçalves, tenor
Imanol Iraola, baritone

On stage



32 artists

15 instrumentalists, 16 singers, 1 conductor

Schedule



PREMIERE – 3 june 2027 – La Trinité, Lyon

Touring



Touring in June and July 2027

Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu is one of France's leading Baroque ensembles. It is renowned for its expressive and dynamic interpretations of eighteenth-century vocal and instrumental repertoire, rooted in a rigorous historical and philological approach.

Under the artistic direction of **Franck-Emmanuel Comte**, the ensemble is particularly committed to promoting the rich heritage of Baroque manuscripts preserved in the libraries of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. Through research, reconstruction and the publication of previously unpublished works, it highlights the unique musical ties that once linked Lyon and Italy.

Bringing the richness and diversity of Baroque music into dialogue with the present day is another defining aspect of the ensemble's artistic vision. Through inspiring collaborations, Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu creates encounters between Baroque aesthetics and artists from a wide range of musical and cultural backgrounds. Education and outreach lie at the heart of its mission, with numerous projects designed to engage audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Under Franck-Emmanuel Comte's direction, the ensemble has performed more than **1800 concerts** in major European and international cities, as well as at leading festivals worldwide. Its recordings have received widespread acclaim from the international press.

Spirito **chamber choir**

Spirito is a professional chamber choir with a flexible line-up, performing in formats ranging from intimate vocal ensembles to large-scale a cappella choir, a repertoire for which it is particularly renowned.

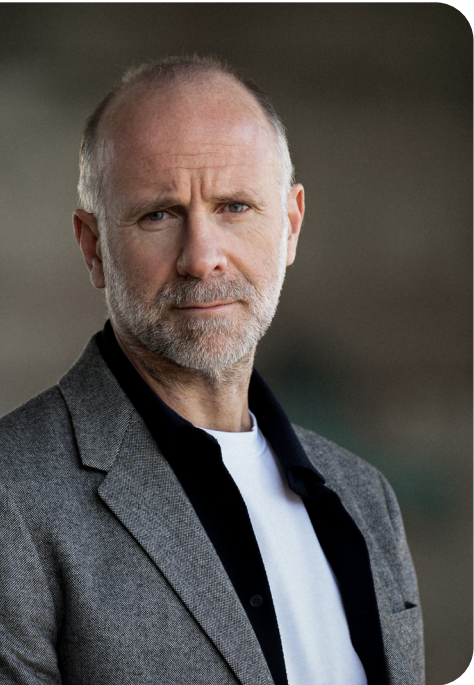
Alongside its core a cappella activity, the choir regularly performs the great oratorio and symphonic repertoire in collaboration with the **Orchestre national de Lyon**, as well as the **Orchestre des Pays de Savoie** and the **Orchestre national d'Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes**. Its distinctive artistic identity is also reflected in innovative programmes that build bridges between early music, traditional music and contemporary creation.

In 2019, Spirito was appointed by the French Ministry of Culture to lead the **National Centre for Vocal Art** for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region.



Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Harpsichord & Direction



Franck-Emmanuel Comte is a conductor and harpsichordist specialising in the performance of Baroque repertoire on period instruments, driven above all by a desire to share his passion with the widest possible audience.

In 1993, he founded **Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu (CHD)** in Lyon, the internationally acclaimed ensemble of which he remains Artistic Director. He has led the ensemble in more than **1,800 concerts** and recorded around twenty albums. *The Ghost of Hamlet* (Arcana/Outhere, 2025) received numerous international press awards, while *Furioso* (2026), featuring countertenor Xavier Sabata, explores the many faces of Orlando in Baroque opera.

A frequent guest conductor at major international festivals and in concert halls across Europe and beyond, Franck-Emmanuel Comte is also committed to interdisciplinary projects, notably *Folia*, co-created with choreographer **Mourad Merzouki**, which has been performed more than 160 times before audiences of over **100,000**.

Since 2025, he has also been Artistic Director of **La Trinité**, Lyon's concert season dedicated to early and «irregular» music. He is also Artistic Director of the **J.S. Bach International Music Centre** in Saint-Donat and the **Pays du Mont-Blanc Baroque Festival**.

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

Spirito receives ongoing support through partnership agreements with the **Ministère de la Culture – DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes**, the **Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes** and the **Ville de Lyon**.

Both organisations are members of **FEVIS**, **Scène Ensemble**, **Arviva** and the **Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Spectacle Vivant** Network



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