



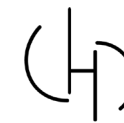
Dolce Follia

A Feast for the Senses, driven by the Spirit of the Follia

Dolce Follia is an invitation to cross boundaries: those between art music and popular traditions, between the concert hall and the village square, between contemplative listening and the irresistible impulse to dance. A signature programme of Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu, *Dolce Follia* presents a vibrant, liberated and deeply embodied vision of the Baroque, where masterpieces by Vivaldi, Purcell, Merula and Strozzi meet Neapolitan tarantellas and the oral traditions that shaped European musical life throughout the 17th and 18th centuries.

Performed entirely **from memory** the programme frees the musicians from the printed score, creating an immediate and direct connection with the audience. Glances are exchanged, bodies move with the pulse of the music, and listening becomes a shared experience. This compelling stage presence, fuelled by the commitment of every performer, transforms the concert into a vivid musical journey where virtuosity, spontaneity and improvisatory spirit come naturally to life.

At the heart of this journey lies the **Follia** the programme's guiding thread, embracing its rich double meaning: the madness of human passion and the iconic dance that has travelled across centuries. From Vivaldi's celebrated *La Follia* to the hypnotic rhythms of the tarantella, this irresistible energy flows from one work to the next, weaving together ecstatic love, spiritual fervour and the irresistible urge to move. More than a musical theme, the Follia becomes a celebration of freedom, imagination and the unifying power of music.



Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Programme



Henry Le Bailly – *Yo soy la locura* ; **Antonio Sartorio** – *Quando voglio (Cesare in Egitto)* ; **Henry Purcell** – *Curtain Tune (Timon of Athens)* ; **Santiago de Murcia** – *Tarentellas (Codex Saldivar)* ; **Tarquinio Merula** – *Canzonetta spirituale sopra alla nanna* ; **Antonio Vivaldi** – *La Follia (Sonata RV 63), Allemande (Cello Sonata RV 44)* ; **Barbara Strozzi** – *Che si può fare* ; **Anonyme** – *Donna Isabella, Suite of Neapolitan Tarantellas, La Carpinese, Cachua Serranita*

Cast



Heather Newhouse, soprano

Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu
Franck-Emmanuel Comte, harpsichord & musical direction

On stage

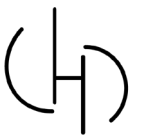


8 ARTISTS

1 soloist, 7 instrumentalists

Heather Newhouse

Soprano



Originally from Canada, **Heather Newhouse** studied voice at the University of Western Ontario (Bachelor of Music, 2005). In 2006, she continued her studies at the Guildhall School in London (Master of Music, 2006), then at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon, where she graduated in 2010. She went on to take part in the European Academy of Music at the Aix-en-Provence Festival. In 2012, she won the International Baroque Singing Competition of Frouville and the Second Prize at the International Competition of Mâcon. From 2011 to 2013, Heather Newhouse was a member of the Studio of the Opéra National de Lyon. Her repertoire is wide-ranging: *Der Schauspieldirektor* by Mozart with the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève, *The Turn of the Screw* at the 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 Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal. She has also performed Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine*, Charpentier's *Litanies de la Vierge*, and Grieg's *Peer Gynt* at the Opéra de Lyon.

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



Franck-Emmanuel Comte

Harpsichord & Musical direction

Franck Emmanuel Comte is a conductor 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.

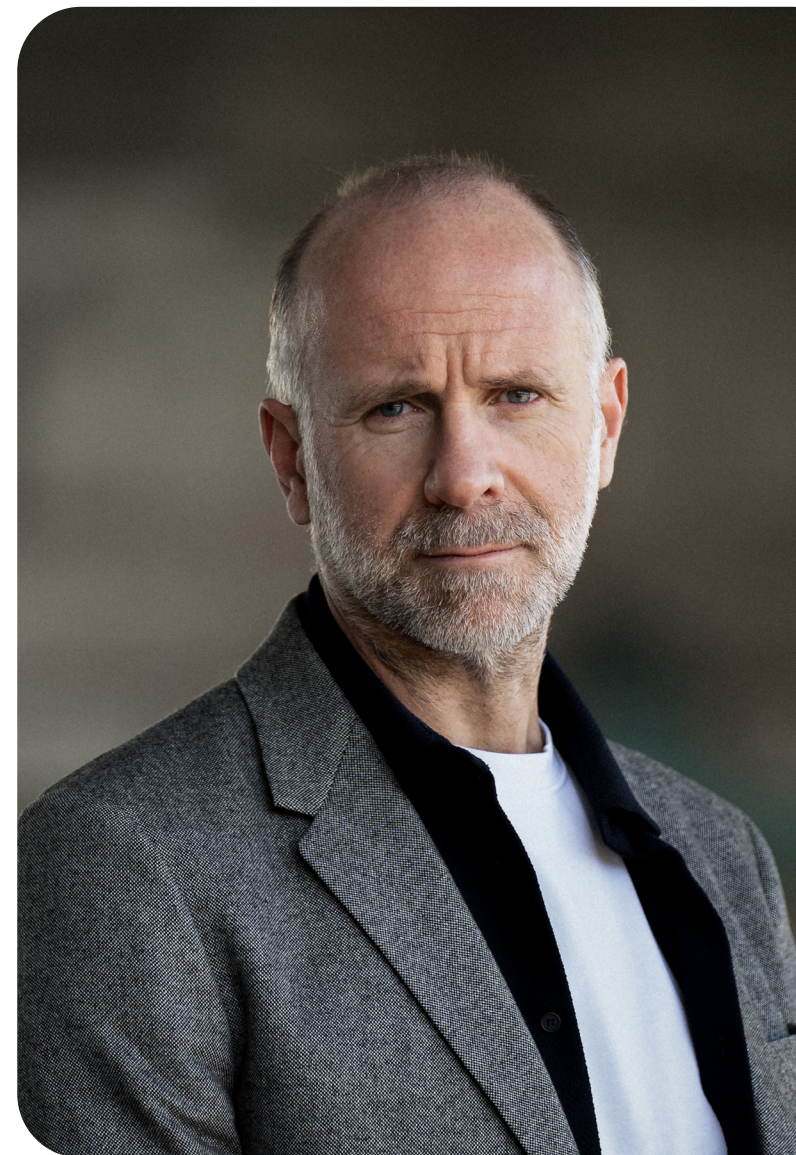
Upon graduating from the **Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Lyon** (CNSMD Lyon), he quickly took on key artistic positions and was invited to conduct for opera houses (Nantes, Lyon, Studio Opéra de Paris, among others) and orchestras including the Orchestre des Pays de Savoie, Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain, University of Auckland Orchestra, Collegium Musicum Riga, and Arion Baroque Orchestra in Montreal.

A frequent guest conductor in major European and international cities—including Barcelona, London, Moscow, Montreal, New York, Washington, Helsinki, Kraków, Rome, Brussels, Madrid, Tel Aviv and Beijing—he also appears regularly at leading festivals such as the Ambronay Festival, La Chaise-Dieu Festival, Handel-Festspiele Halle, Bayreuth Baroque Opera Festival, Bruges Festival of Early Music, London Baroque Festival, and the Granada Festival of Sacred Music. Alongside his commitment to Baroque repertoire, he is deeply engaged in interdisciplinary and innovative projects, notably *Folia*, a ballet co-created with choreographer Mourad Merzouki, which has been performed more than 160 times for over 100,000 spectators.

In 1993, he founded **Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu (CHD)**, the internationally acclaimed Lyon-based early music ensemble of which he remains Artistic Director. He has led the ensemble in more than 1,800 concerts and recorded around twenty albums.

His long-standing collaboration with acclaimed choreographer **Mourad Merzouki** has become a defining aspect of his artistic career. Together, they created ***Folia***, an acclaimed production bringing together Baroque music, hip-hop dance and electronic music in a vibrant dialogue between artistic traditions and contemporary creation. Since its premiere, the production has toured extensively in France and abroad, with more than 160 performances seen by over 100,000 spectators, establishing itself as one of the landmark collaborations between early music and contemporary dance.

Since 2025, Franck-Emmanuel Comte has also served as Artistic Director of **La Trinité**, a concert season dedicated to early and “irregular” music, co-produced by Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu and Superspectives. He is also Artistic Director of the **J.S. Bach International Music Centre in Saint-Donat** and of the **Pays du Mont-Blanc Baroque Festival**.



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 **La Ville de Lyon**, the **Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes**, the **Centre National de la Musique**, the **SPEDIDAM**, the **ADAMI** and the **CPPF**.*



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