

**L'Opéra Royal du Château de Versailles announce
new productions with the Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
for the 2024-25 season:**

**Porpora's rarely-performed *Polifemo*
Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*, followed by a Spanish tour
Bizet's *Carmen*, followed by a run in Hong Kong**



L'Opéra Royal du Château de Versailles announce a glittering **2024-25 season**, mounting four new productions with the **Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal**: **Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* (18-20 October)**, **Porpora's *Polifemo* (4-8 December)**, **Bizet's *Carmen* (14-22 January)** and **Donizetti's *La Fille du Régiment* (4-12 April)**. The last three productions will be adorned with costumes by **Christian Lacroix** and recorded for the Château de Versailles Spectacles label.

The golden glow of the Sun King's palace now radiates beyond Versailles, as the Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal takes to the road, bringing:

- ***Dido & Aeneas*** on a Spanish tour to **Madrid (24 October)** and **Oviedo (26 October)**
- **New Year's Day** celebration with **Sonya Yoncheva** to **Gstaad (1 & 2 January)**
- ***Carmen*** dressed by **Christian Lacroix** to **Hong Kong**
- **The Three Countertenors** to **Karlsruhe**.

"During the upcoming season, the Royal Opera Orchestra will take centre stage both in the orchestra pit and in the Chapel, featuring over 20 productions and more than 40 performances, in addition to tours across France and abroad, often accompanied by the Royal Opera Choir. The musicians will celebrate Johann

Strauss's bicentennial with a special New Year's concert" Laurent Brunner, director of the Opéra Royal

Further highlights include **Galuppi's *L'Uomo Femina*** championed by **Vincent Dumestre** and **Le Poème Harmonique** in a new production, plus concert performances of **Handel's *Sosarme*** with the inhouse orchestra, **Charpentier's *Mass for Four Choirs***, **Caccini's *Alcina***, and **Lully's *Proserpine*** with **Les Talens Lyriques** and **Christophe Rousset**. Following the critical acclaim of Charpentier's ***David et Jonathas***, Marshall Pynkoski's sumptuous production returns due to popular demand. The glories of the baroque world - both rarities and legendary works - will be on magnificent show, fit for a King.

Chateau de Versailles Spectacles' record label, ICMA's Label of the Year, boasts an ever-growing catalogue with further editions of the operas listed above: *Polifemo*, *Carmen*, *La Fille du Regiment*, *Proserpine* and many more besides.

The season will open on **22 September 2024** in the Chapelle Royale with **Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine***, one of the founding pieces of European sacred music. **Raphael Pichon** and the **Pygmalion Choir and Orchestra** return after their critically acclaimed performances of the *Vespro* in Versailles in 2019.

On **18, 19 and 20 October 2024**, a new production of **Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*** will be staged at the Opéra Royal, directed by **Cécile Roussat** and **Julien Lubek**, conducted by **Stefan Plewniak** and with a cast almost fully composed of singers from the recently-founded **Academy of the Opéra Royal**. The Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal will then tour to Madrid on **24 October** and Oviedo on **26 October**.

On **4, 6 and 8 December**, the Opéra Royal will unveil a new production of **Porpora's** rarely performed opera ***Polifemo***. With its show-stopping ***Alto Giove aria*** written for Farinelli the super-star castrato of the day, *Polifemo* was met with a tremendous success at its premiere in London at the King's Theatre. The new production will be directed by **Justin Way** with sets by **Roland Fontaine** and costumes designed by haute-couture designer **Christian Lacroix**. The Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal will be conducted by **Stefan Plewniak** with a stellar cast including **Franco Fagioli** as Acis, **Julia Lezhneva** as Galatée, **Paul-Antoine Bénos-Djian** as Ulysse, **José Coca Loza** as Polifemo and **Éléonore Pancrazi** as Calypso.

Another rarity will come to Versailles on **13, 14 and 15 December** as the Opéra Royal programmes **Galuppi's *L'Uomo Femina*** directed by award-winning actress, singer and film director **Agnès Jaoui**. The plot follows the misadventures of Eufemio who, due to a series of misunderstandings and comic situations, is forced to dress like a woman. The opera was first premiered in 1762 in Venice. The score was then forgotten and recovered only recently by musicologist Bernardo Ticci. **The Poème Harmonique Orchestra** will be conducted by **Vincent Dumestre**.

On **16 December**, **Marco Angioloni** will conduct the Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal in a concert version of **Handel's *Sosarme***, with **Rémy Brès-Feuillet** in the lead role. The opera will be recorded on CD for the label Chateau de Versailles Spectacles.

The Opéra Royal will stage a new production of **Bizet's *Carmen*** between **14-22 January 2025**, directed by **Romain Gilbert** and conducted by **Hervé Niquet**. Haute-couture designer Christian Lacroix will collaborate on the costumes design for this project that will see **Adèle Charvet** and **Éléonore Pancrazi** in the role of Carmen, and **Julien Behr** and **Kevin Amiel** in the role of Don José. This new production of the world-famous opera will be recorded on DVD for the label Château de Versailles Spectacles and the production will tour to **Hong Kong 20-30 March**.

On **3 March 2025**, **Francesca Caccini's** little-known ***Alcina*** will be performed in the Salon d'Hercule in Versailles in a concert version with **Ensemble I Gemelli** conducted by **Emiliano Gonzalez Toro**. Francesca Caccini (1587-1640) is recognised by historians as the first known woman to compose an opera. Although she composed many other pieces but only this opera survived to the present day. The opera will be recorded on CD for the label Château de Versailles Spectacles.

The next new production of the Opéra Royal will be **Donizetti's** sassy, swashbuckling ***La Fille du Régiment***, to be performed between **4-12 April 2025**. The production will be directed by **Jean-Romain Vesperini** with sets by Roland Fontaine and costumes designed by Christian Lacroix. **Gaétan Jarry** will conduct the Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal and the **Choeurs de l'Armée Française** in this opera starring **Gwendoline Blondeel** as Marie, **Enea Scala** as Tonio and **Jean-François Lapointe** as Sulpice.

On **22 May**, **Valentin Tournet** and the Chapelle Harmonique Choir and Orchestra will perform **Rameau's** one-act opera ***Les Fêtes de Ramire*** with a libretto by **Voltaire**, presented for the first time in 1745 at the Palace of Versailles. This concert will be recorded on CD for the label Château de Versailles Spectacles.

Wagner's *Siegfried* will come to the Opéra Royal on **25 May 2025** in concert version. With the **Orchestre du Théâtre National de la Sarre** conducted by **Sébastien Rouland**, the cast will feature **Tilmann Unger** as Siegfried and **Aile Asszonyi** as Brünnhilde. To celebrate the forthcoming hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Ring, the Opéra Royal of Versailles asked the Saarland National Theatre of Saarbrücken to stage each of the four Ring operas over four years and to present them in a concert version in Versailles: the singers will perform their roles without a score, and the orchestra and chorus will also be on stage.

On **15 June**, **Christophe Rousset** and **Les Talens Lyriques** will return to Versailles with **Lully's *Proserpine*** after their performance of the composer's critically acclaimed *Atys* last year. The cast will include **Marie Lys** as Proserpine, **Nick Pritchard** as Mercure, **Ambroisine Bré** as Aréthuse, **Véronique Gens** as Cérès and **Jean-Sébastien Bou** as Crinise. Like *Atys*, *Proserpine* will be recorded on CD for the Château de Versailles Spectacles Label. Christophe Rousset, ardent defender of Lully's music, will have now recorded almost the entirety of Lully's operas.

L'Opéra Royal du Château de Versailles

Inaugurated on 16 May 1770 with Lully's *Persée*, the opulent **Opéra Royal** was commissioned by Louis XV and built to celebrate the marriage of the Dauphin, the future Louis XVI, to the archduchess of Austria, Marie-Antoinette. Designed by Jacques-Ange Gabriel, the Opéra Royal provided a permanent location for palace entertainment, and with operas heard by assembled nobility including Rameau's 1777 *Castor et Pollux* (for the visit of the Emperor Joseph II) and Gluck's 1782 *Iphigène en Aulide*.

The luxurious Opéra Royal was intended for exceptional use, and never served as a public theatre nor hosted a full season, hosting only forty or so performances before the fall of the French monarchy. Thousands of candles were needed to light the theatre, and the theatre also doubled as a ballroom and banqueting hall, with an ingenious mechanism designed to raise the orchestra pit to stage level to allow for dancing. The spectacular acoustics are a feature of the original neo-classical design, with the building made of wood painted as faux marble, rather than marble itself.



Opéra Royal © Agathe Poupeney

Historic state visits continued to take place in the Opéra Royal after the French revolution, including a visit by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1855 and Queen Elizabeth II in 1957. The building has since enjoyed a colourful history, with the Sénat convening there for three years from 1876.



The stage mechanisms (© Thomas Garnier)

The theatre has since been restored to its 1770 original state, and reopened in 2009 after an extensive two-year renovation brought equipment to a modern standard. The old staging mechanisms can still be seen, and lighting imitates the original candlelit performances.

Sacred music-making took place in the historic **Chapelle Royale**. Completed in the reign of Louis XIV and inspired by Gothic architecture, the King would have attended King's mass in the chapel each morning,

performed by musicians of the Royal Court, including François Couperin.

Today, music can be heard across the grounds of Versailles, with **Opéra Royal du Château de Versailles** performances taking place from the Galerie des Glaces to the Cour de Marbre to the Gardens. Such a practice harks back to music-making at the Château before 1770, before the long construction of the Opéra Royal was finished, when temporary makeshift performance venues would be constructed all over the premises to celebrate major occasions.

Selected Listings

Full season listings available at:
operaroyal-versailles.fr/en

Sunday 22 September, 15:00

Royal Chapel, Versailles

Monteverdi: Vespro della Beata Vergine

Perrine Devillers Soprano
Zachary Wilder Tenor
Robin Tritschler Tenor
Antonin Rondepierre Tenor
Nicolas Brooymans Bass
Etienne Bazola Bass
Renaud Brès Bass

Pygmalion Chœur et orchestre
Raphaël Pichon Conductor

Sunday 29 September, 17:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

Joyaux du bel canto (GALA)

Lauranne Oliva Soprano
Juliette Mey Mezzo-soprano
Léo Vermot-Desroches Tenor
Halidou Nombre* Baritone
*Member of the Académie de l'Opéra Royal

Chœur de l'Opéra Royal
Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Gaétan Jarry Conductor
Stefan Plewniak Conductor

Saturday 12 October, 19:00

Royal Chapel, Versailles

Fauré: Requiem
(recorded)

Isaure Brunner Soprano
Jean-Gabriel Saint-Martin Baritone

Chœur de l'Opéra Royal
Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Victor Jacob Conductor

Friday 18 October, 20:00

Saturday 19 October, 19:00, 21:00

Sunday 20 October, 15:00, 18:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

Saturday 5 October 2024

Lyon

Monday 7 October

Toulouse

Thursday 24 October

Madrid, Spain

Saturday 26 October

Oviedo, Spain

Purcell: Dido & Aeneas **NEW PRODUCTION**

Sonya Yoncheva Dido
Sarah Charles* Belinda
Halidou Nombre* Énée
Attila Attila Varga-Tóth* La sorcière
et un marin
Pauline Gaillard*, Flore
Royer* Sorcières
Arnaud Gluck Un esprit
Lili Aymonino Deuxième femme
*Members of the Académie de l'Opéra Royal
Soloists from the Académie de
l'Opéra Royal

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Stefan Plewniak Conductor
Cécile Roussat, Julien
Lubek Directors

Monday 4 November, 20:00

Salon d'Hercule, Versailles

Marina Viotti recital

Marina Viotti Mezzo-soprano

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Andrès Gabetta Conductor

Tuesday 12 November, 20:00
Royal Chapel, Versailles

Charpentier: Messe à Quatre
Choeurs
(recorded)

Pauline Gaillard* Soprano
Attila Varga-Tóth* Tenor
Léo Guillou-Kérédan Tenor
Halidou Nombre* Baritone
*Members of the Académie de l'Opéra Royal

Maîtrise de Paris
Chœur de l'Opéra Royal
Consort Musica Vera
Jean-Baptiste Nicolas Conductor

Saturday 16 November, 19:00
Royal Chapel, Versailles

Mozart: Le Devoir du Premier
Commandement
(recorded)

Gwendoline Blondeel L'esprit de la
Justice, L'esprit du monde
Mathide Ortscheidt La Miséricorde
Julien Behr L'Esprit du christianisme
Jordan Mouaïssia Le Chrétien
Ensemble Il Caravaggio
Camille Delaforge Conductor

Saturday 23 November, 19:00
Sunday 24 November, 15:00
Royal Chapel, Versailles

Mozart: Requiem

Marie Prebost Soprano
Mathide Ortscheidt Mezzo-soprano
Bastien Rimondi Tenor
Edwin Fardini Bass
José-Antonio Salar-Verdu Clarinet

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Théotime Langlois de
Swarte Conductor

Wednesday 4 December, 20:00
Friday 6 December, 20:00
Sunday 8 December, 15:00
Royal Opera, Versailles

Porpora: Polifemo **NEW PRODUCTION**
(recorded)

Franco Fagioli Acis
Julia Lezhneva Galatée
Paul-Antoine Bénos-Djian Ulysse
José Coca Loza Polifemo
Éléonore Pancrazi Calypso

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Stefan Plewniak Conductor
Justin Way Director
Christian Lacroix Costumes
Roland Fontaine Sets

Friday 13 December, 20:00
Saturday 14 December, 19:00
Sunday 15 December, 15:00
Royal Opera, Versailles

Galuppi: L'Uomo Femina **NEW**
PRODUCTION

Eva Zaïcik Crétidea
Lucile Richardot Ramira
Victoire Bunel Cassandra
Anas Seguin Gelsomino
Victor Sicard Roberto
François Rougier Giannino

Poème Harmonique Orchestra
Vincent Dumestre Conductor
Agnès Jaoui Director

Saturday 21 December, 19:00
Sunday 22 December, 15:00
Royal Chapel, Versailles

Handel: The Messiah

Marie Lys Soprano
Nicolò Balducci Countertenor
Rémy Burnens Tenor
Halidou Nombre* Baritone
*Members of the Académie de l'Opéra Royal

Chœur de l'Opéra Royal
Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Gaétan Jarry Conductor

Monday 16 December, 20:00

Salon d'Hercule, Versailles

Handel: Sosarme

(recorded)

Rémy Brès-Feuillet Sosarme

NN Elmira

Marco Angioloni Haliata

Éléonore Pancrazi Erenice

Nicolò Balducci Melo

Logan Lopez Gonzalez Argone

Giacomo Nanni Altomaro

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Marco Angioloni Conductor

Friday 20 December, 21:00

Salon d'Hercule, Versailles

Paul-Antoine Bénos-Djian recital

(recorded)

Paul-Antoine Bénos-Djian Tenor

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Théotime Langlois de

Swarte Conductor

Monday 23 December, 20:00

Royal Chapel, Versailles

Sonya Yoncheva chante Noël

Sonya Yoncheva Soprano

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Stefan Plewniak Conductor

Monday 30 December, 20:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

Concert du Nouvel An

Marie Lys Soprano

Rémy Burnens Tenor

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Stefan Plewniak Conductor

*En collaboration avec l'Orchestre du
Château de Schönbrunn*

Wednesday 1 January

Thursday 2 January

Gstaad, Switzerland

Gstaad New Year Festival

Sonya Yoncheva Soprano

Chœur de l'Opéra Royal

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Stefan Plewniak Conductor

Tuesday 14 January, 20:00

Wednesday 15 January, 20:00

Thursday 16 January, 20:00

Friday 17 January, 20:00

Saturday 18 January, 19:00

Sunday 19 January, 15:00

Tuesday 21 January, 20:00

Wednesday 22 January, 20:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

20-30 March

Hong Kong, Switzerland

Bizet: Carmen **NEW PRODUCTION**

(recorded)

Adèle Charvet (14, 16, 18, 21
January) / **Éléonore Pancrazi** (15, 17,
19, 22 January) Carmen

Julien Behr (14, 16, 18, 21 January) /

Kevin Amiel (15, 17, 19, 22

January) Don José

Alexandre Duhamel Escamillo

Florie Valiquette (14, 16, 18, 21

January) / **Vannina Santoni** (15, 17,

19, 22 January) Micaëla

Gwendoline Blondeel Frasquita

Ambrosine Bré Mercédès

Matthieu Walendzik Le Dancaïre

Attila Varga-Tóth Le Remendado

Nicolas Certenais Zuniga

Halidou Nombre Moralès

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Hervé Niquet Conductor

Romain Gilbert Director

Christian Lacroix Costumes

Antoine Fontaine Sets

Sunday 26 January, 15:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

Happy Birthday Bill!

Ana Vieira Leite Soprano
Juliette Mey, Rebecca Leggett Mezzo-soprano
Bastien Rimondi Tenor
Matthieu Walendzik Baryton
Les Arts Florissants
William Christie Conductor

Thursday 30 January, 21:00

Salon d'Hercule, Versailles

Saturday 22 February
Karlsruhe, Germany

Les Trois Contre-Ténors (3ème edition),

Samuel Mariño Countertenor
Théo Imart Countertenor
Rafał Tomkiewicz Countertenor

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Stefan Plewniak Conductor

Monday 3 March, 20:00

Salon d'Hercule

Francesca Caccini: Alcina
(recorded)

Ensemble I Gemelli
Emiliano Gonzalez Toro Conductor

Friday 14 March, 20:30

Royal Chapel, Versailles

Charpentier: Te Deum
Handel: Coronation Anthems

Chœur de l'Opéra Royal
Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Gaétan Jarry Conductor

Friday 4 April, 20:00

Sunday 6 April, 15:00

Tuesday 8 April, 20:00

Thursday 10 April, 20:00

Saturday 12 April, 19:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

Donizetti: La Fille du Régiment **NEW**
PRODUCTION

(recorded)

Gwendoline Blondeel Marie
Enea Scala Tonio
Jean-François Lapointe Sulpice
Éléonore Pancrazi La Marquise de Berkenfield
Jean-Gabriel Saint-Martin Hortensius
Flore Royer La duchesse de Crakentorp
Chœur de l'Armée française
Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Gaétan Jarry Conductor
Jean-Romain Vesperini Director
Christian Lacroix Costumes
Roland Fontaine Sets

Monday 5 May, 20:00

Grande Salle des Croisades, Versailles

Marie Lys recital
(recorded)

Marie Lys Soprano
Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Gaétan Jarry Conductor

Thursday 15 May, 20:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

Les Prodiges du Romantisme

Hyuk Lee Piano
Bohdan Luts Violon

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Victor Jacob Conductor

Thursday 22 May, 20:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

Rameau: Les Fêtes de Ramire
(recorded)

Mélissa Petit
Mathias Vidal
Nahuel di Pierro
Jehanne Amzal
Floriane Hasler
David Tricou
Chœur et Orchestre de La Chapelle Harmonique
Valentin Tournet Conductor

Friday 23 May, 20:00

Royal Chapel, Versailles

Clérambault: Te Deum - Histoire de la Femme adultère
(recorded)

Chœur de chambre de Namur
A Nocte Temporis
Reinoud Van Mechelen Conductor

Sunday 25 May, 15:00

Royal Opera, Versailles

Wagner: Siegfried

Tilmann Unger Siegfried
Paul McNamara Mime
Simon Bailey Der Wanderer
Werner van Michelen Alberich
Hiroshi Matsui Fafner
Melissa Zgouridi Erda
Aile Asszonyi Brünnhilde
Bettina Maria Bauer Stimme des Waldvogels

Chœur et Orchestre du Théâtre National de la Sarre
Sébastien Rouland Conductor

Sunday 15 June, 15:00

Royal Chapel, Versailles

Lully: Proserpine
(recorded)

Ambroisine Bré Aréthuse, la Paix

NN Cyané, la Félicité, une Nymphé
Véronique Gens Cérès, l'Abondance
Jean-Sébastien Bou Crinise, la Discorde

Marie Lys Proserpine, la Victoire

Nick Pritchard Mercure

Laurence Kilsby Alphée, une ombre heureuse, un juge des enfers, une furie

Olivier Gourdy Pluton

Olivier Cesarini Ascalaphe

David Witczak Jupiter, suivant de Proserpine, un juge des enfers, une furie

Chœur de chambre de Namur

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset Conductor

Monday 30 June, 21:00

Salon d'Hercule, Versailles

Bach: concertos pour 1.2.3 violons(s)

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal
Théotime Langlois de Swarte Violin, Conductor

Saturday 5 July, 20:00

Sunday 6 July, 20:00

Petit Théâtre de la Reine, Versailles

Vivaldi: La Senna Festeggiante

Franciana Nogues L'Âge d'Or

Rafał Tomkiewicz La Vertu

Timothée Varon La Seine

Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal

Gaétan Jarry Conductor

Hande Kodja Director

Château de Versailles Spectacles



© Nicolas Chavance

A private subsidiary of the Château de Versailles, Château de Versailles Spectacles' mission is to perpetuate the tradition of shows and performing arts through exceptional events. True to its history, Château de Versailles continues today to be the backdrop for a rich cultural life and a great variety of events.

Shows and performances are programmed all year long in exceptional settings – open air shows, Versailles Fountains Shows, costume receptions – and a musical season at the Opéra Royal and the Chapelle Royale de Versailles, with operas, concerts, theatre, and ballets interpreted by world-renowned artists.

The Opéra Royal reopened in 2009, and now offers a programme of opera, music and dance performed by renowned French and international artists including Cecilia Bartoli, Philippe Jaroussky, Marc Minkowski, Raphaël Pichon, Leonardo García Alarcón, Jordi Savall, Sir John Eliot Gardiner, Angelin Preljocaj, Sébastien Daucé, Franco Fagioli, Jean-Christophe Spinosi, Robert King, Hervé Niquet, William Christie, Sébastien d'Hérin, Vincent Dumestre, and others.

Château de Versailles Spectacles celebrated its tenth season with the launch of a new record label, Château de Versailles Spectacles, comprising both CD and DVD recordings made during concerts taking place in the Opéra Royal and the Chapelle Royale. The organisation recently launched the Orchestre de l'Opéra Royal as it celebrated the building's 250th anniversary in 2020.

en.chateauversailles-spectacles.fr

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