



INSULA  
ORCHESTRA



## 2024/25 Season

**Laurence Equilbey celebrates Insula orchestra's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with multi-media events at La Seine Musicale & on tour:**

Cherubini's opera **Médée** at the Comique, Paris  
magna-animation **Beethoven Wars** to Aix-en-Provence & Hong-Kong



**Opening of Season: Schumann & Chopin**  
**La Seine Musicale, 24,25 September**  
**Warsaw, 29 September**

**Médée - Opera Comique 8, 10,12,14 16 February**  
**Beethoven Wars – Aix-en-Provence, 22 March**  
**Beethoven Wars - Hong-Kong, 27,27 March**  
**Paradise and the Peri – La Seine Musicale, 14-17 May**

Conductor Laurence Equilbey celebrates Insula orchestra's belated 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at La Seine Musicale and on tour: presenting new multi-media projects **BO Baroque** and Schumann's monumental oratorio **Paradise and the Peri** and reviving the manga-animation **Beethoven Wars** on tour to Aix-en-Provence and to Hong Kong. Insula orchestra together with **accentus Choir** will champion Cherubini's rarely-performed **Medea** at the Opéra Comique in February. There are further tours to Poland with a Mozart-Chopin programme. Continuing their rediscovery of orchestral work of **Emilie Mayer**, they will record her Piano Concerto to be coupled with the 1<sup>st</sup> Symphony for release on Warner Classics in early 2026.

Laurence Equilbey commented,

**"In ten years, Insula orchestra has created a unique identity to which the setting of La Seine Musicale gives a magnificent echo. Ten years during which the**



INSULA  
ORCHESTRA



**orchestra has continuously brought masterpieces or rare works to life on period instruments, allowing the audience to rediscover them in a different way."**



Insula Orchestra and Laurence Equilbey open their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season on **24 and 25 September** at La Seine Musicale with French pianist **Lucas Debargue**, who shone at the 2015 Tchaikovsky Competition. With a programme of Chopin's *Piano Concerto No. 1* and Schumann's *Symphony No. 4*, Insula and Debargue embark on a Polish tour to Wrocław on **29 September**.

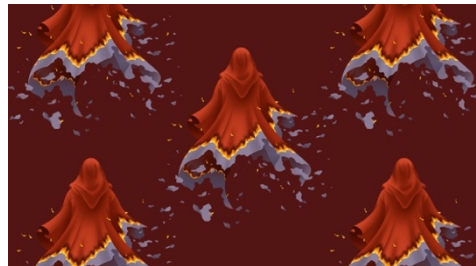
*"Since Glenn Gould's visit to Moscow and Van Cliburn's victory at the Tchaikovsky Competition in the heat of the Cold War, never has a foreign pianist provoked such a frenzy."* The Huffington Post

**Cinema Music: BO Baroque** on **13 and 14 December** is Insula orchestra's first multimedia event of the season at La Seine Musicale, before traveling to Aix-en-Provence for a performance at the Grand Théâtre de Provence. Exploring legendary filmscores featuring works by Vivaldi, Purcell, Bach, Handel and Mozart, Insula is joined by pianist **David Fray**, harpsichordist **Justin Taylor**, **Julien Martineau** on the mandolin, clarinetists **Pierre Génisson** and **Vicenzo Casale**, and Countertenor **Carlo Vistoli**.



On **23 January**, Insula Orchestra will welcome Italian guest conductor **Andrea Marcon** at La Seine Musicale for a Bach/Beethoven programme including Beethoven's *Symphony No. 1*, Kraus' *Symphony in C minor* and C.P.E. Bach's *Symphonies in Eb major and in D major*. Together they will be showcasing German classics from the end of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century through to the budding of Beethoven's stylistic revolution.

From **8 to 16 February**, Laurence Equilbey with Insula Orchestra and accentus Choir return to the Opéra Comique with a **new production** of Cherubini's little-known *Médée* directed by **Marie-Ève Signeyrole**. **Joyce El-Khoury** will sing Médée, **Julien Behr** Jason, **Edwin Crossley Mercer** will appear as Créon, **Lila Dufy** as Dircé and **Marie-Andrée Bouchard-Lesieur** as Nériss.



Continuing the rediscovery of works by female composers engaged by Laurence Equilbey in the past years, Laurence Equilbey champion Emilie Mayer's *Piano Concerto* with David Fray coupled with Schubert's *Symphony No. 9 « The Great »* at La Seine Musicale on **12 and 13 March**. The Piano Concerto will be recorded for a **new release** (early 2026) on Warner Classics coupled with Mayer's *Symphony No. 1*.

Premiered last season, Insula Orchestra, accentus and Laurence Equilbey tour the manga-animation *Beethoven Wars* to Aix-en-Provence on **22 March** and to Hong Kong on **27 and 28 March**. Freely adapting Beethoven's forgotten musical dramas King Stephan and The Ruins of Athens, this animation space opera combines manga and science fiction, evoking the landscapes of Star Wars. The project is directed by **Antonin Baudry**, **Sandrine Lanno** and **Arthur Qwak** (film co-director). Virtual reality versions of the *Beethoven Wars* universe will be available on various platforms in France and around the world throughout 2025. A 2D/3D film version, adaptable to all concert halls, will also be produced for orchestras wishing to take over the project.





INSULA  
ORCHESTRA



*"The outside of the domed hall is partially covered by solar panels which provide the daily energy use for the structure. Attention to the environment is at the heart of the building's ecological sustainability. The thread of this environmental ethos carries through to its programming - in particular with Beethoven Wars, a great of the Music director of Insula Orchestra - Laurence Equilbey..." Music Paper*

*"It's a phenomenally stylish piece of entertainment"* Thoroughly Good

On **14, 16 and 17 May**, Laurence Equilbey will collaborate with Austrian director **Daniela Kerck** and videographer Astrid Steiner for a multimedia staging of Schumann's *Le Paradis et la Péri*. Described by the composer as "My biggest work and I hope my best," Schumann's oratorio was considered a masterpiece by his contemporaries, including Wagner and his reticent future father-in-law, who had been reluctant to give his daughter in marriage. The heroic oriental tale based on Thomas Moore's epic poem *Lallah Rookh* recounts how the Péri, a legendary creature, was expelled from paradise and follows her quest for redemption. It will be brought to life by **Johanni van Oostrum** in the role of la Péri, tenor **Sebastian Kohlhepp**, alto **Agata Schmidt**, barytone **Samuel Hasselhorn**, **Bennan Hall** as the angel and **Clara Guillon** as the young girl. The production will continue to the Musikverein in Vienna on **30 May**.

Extract from the libretto:

But, hark! The vesper call to prayer, As slow the orb of daylight sets,  
Is rising sweetly on the air,  
From Syria's thousand minarets!  
The boy has started from the bed  
Of flowers, where he had laid his head, And down upon the fragrant sod Kneels  
lisping the eternal name of God From purity's own cherub mouth,  
And looking, while his hands and eyes Are lifted to the glowing skies,  
Like a stray babe of Paradise,

*Lost upon the earthly plain  
And seeking for his home again.*

Following an open-air performance of Bizet's *Carmen* in 3 different locations around La Seine Musicale on 13 and 15 June, the 10 year anniversary season comes to a close on **14 June** for a Bizet themed concert in coproduction with **Palazetto Bru-Zane** and featuring cellist **Victor Julien-La ferrière**, set against the backdrop of fireworks on the River Seine.

## 2025 recordings

**Emilie Mayer** *Symphonie No. 1, Piano Concerto*  
**Warner Classics - Erato**  
**David Fray** piano  
**Insula Orchestra**  
**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor

B.O. baroques  
Musiques de cinéma  
Warner Classics - Erato  
**Insula Orchestra**  
**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor

## 2023/24 Season Listings Full Listings

**Tuesday 24 September, 20:00**  
**Wednesday 25 September, 20:00**  
La Seine Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt  
**Sunday 29 September**  
National Forum of Music, Wrocław

**Chopin** *Piano Concerto No. 1*  
**Schumann** *Symphony No. 4*

**Lucas Debargue** piano  
**Insula orchestra**  
**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor

**Friday 13 December, 20:00**  
**Saturday 14 December, 18:00**  
La Seine Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt  
**Tuesday 17 December**  
Grand Théâtre de Provence, Aix-en-Provence

### Cinema Music - Baroque O.S.T.

Pieces by Vivaldi, Purcell, Bach,  
Haendel, Mozart

**David Fray** piano  
**Justin Taylor** harpsichord

**Julien Martineau** mandolin  
**Pierre Génisson** (13 Dec.) /  
**Vincenzo Casale** (14 Dec.) clarinet  
**Carlo Vistoli** Couterrenor

**Insula orchestra**  
**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor

**Thursday 23 January, 20:00**  
La Seine Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt

### Bach/Beethoven - Andrea Marcon

**J.M. Kraus** *Symphony in C minor*  
**C.P.E. Bach** *Symphony in Eb major*,  
*Symphony in D major*  
**Beethoven** *Symphony No. 1*

**Insula orchestra**  
**Andrea Marcon** Conductor

**8, 10, 12, 14, 16 February**  
Opéra Comique, Paris

**Cherubini** *Médée*

**Joyce El-Khoury** *Médée*

**Julien Behr** Jason  
**Edwin Crossley Mercer** Créon  
**Lila Dufy** Dircé  
**Marie-Andrée Bouchard-Lesieur**  
Néris

**accentus**  
**Christophe Grapperon** Choir Master  
**Insula orchestra**  
**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor  
**Marie-Ève Signeyrole** Director

**Wednesday 12 March, 20:00**  
**Thursday 13 March, 20:00**  
La Seine Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt  
**Friday 27 June**  
Cité de la musique et de la Danse,  
Soissons  
**Sunday 29 June**  
**Monday 30 June**  
Festival l'Offrande Musicale, Tarbes

#### **Anniversary Concert**

**Mayer/Schubert - D. Fray/L.**  
**Equilbey**

**Emilie Mayer** *Piano Concerto*  
**Franz Schubert** *Symphony No. 9 "The Great"*

**David Fray** piano  
**Insula orchestra**  
**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor

**Saturday 22 March**  
Grand Théâtre de Provence, Aix-en-Provence  
**Thursday 27 March**  
**Friday 28 March**  
HK Art Festival, HK City Hall, Hong-Kong

#### **Beethoven Wars**

**Ellen Giacone** Soprano  
**Matthieu Heim** Bass  
**accentus**  
**Insula orchestra**

**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor  
**Antonin Baudry** Director  
**Arthur Qwak** Film co-director  
**Sandrine Lanno** Co-Director

**Wednesday 14 May, 20:00**  
**Friday 16 May, 20:00**  
**Saturday 17 May, 18:00**  
La Seine Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt  
**Friday 30 May**  
Musikverein, Vienna

**Schumann** *Le Paradis et la Péri*

**Johanni van Oostrum** La Péri  
**Sebastian Kohlhepp** Tenor  
**Agata Schmidt** Alto  
**Samuel Hasselhorn** Baryton  
**Clara Guillon** La jeune fille  
**Bennan Hall** l'Ange

**accentus**  
**Insula orchestra**  
**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor  
**Daniela Kerck** Director  
**Astrid Steiner** video  
**Antonia Goldhammer** dramaturgy  
**Andrea Schmidt-Futterer** costume

**Saturday 14 June, 18:00**  
La Seine Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt

#### **Bizet, so French ! Seine de fête - Clôture de la saison anniversaire**

**G. Bizet** *Dances bohémiennes,*  
*Arlésienne suite No. 1, Carmen Suite No.*  
*1*  
**J. Massenet** *Fantaisie pour violoncelle*  
*et orchestre*  
**T. Dubois** *Andante cantabile*

**Victor Julien-Laferrière** cello  
**Insula orchestra**  
**Laurence Equilbey** Conductor  
**Palazzetto Bru Zane** coproduction

---

## **Insula Orchestra**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: LAURENCE EQUILBEY



**INSULA**  
ORCHESTRA



## RESIDENT ORCHESTRA AT THE SEINE MUSICALE



Insula orchestra's purpose is very clear: to serve music from the baroque, classical and pre-romantic eras at the best of its abilities – that is, in a historically informed way. Side-by-side with masterpieces of the repertoire, the orchestra also features rarer pieces, such as the work of Louise Farrenc or Clara Schumann. The ensemble performs on period instruments to match as closely as possible the original sound, text and writing design.

With support of the Hauts-de-Seine department, Insula orchestra was founded in 2012 by its artistic director and conductor Laurence Equilbey. In 2017, it inaugurated the Seine Musicale venue as its resident orchestra. The orchestra is in charge of part of the Auditorium's season, for which it invites numerous ensembles and artists. In June 2023, Insula orchestra organises the first edition of a series of conferences about period instruments at La Seine Musicale and launches, at the same time, the professional network HIP Europe. Insula orchestra also regularly performs in France and internationally in leading venues and festivals: Philharmonie de Paris, Grand Théâtre de Provence, Theater an der Wien, Stadtcasino in Basel, Elbphilharmonie of Hamburg, Barbican Centre in London, Louvre Abu Dhabi for its official inauguration...

The orchestra reinvents the formats and rules of classical music to reach out to all audiences. It regularly produces staged concerts to shine a new light on music, working with artists such as Yoann Bourgeois, Antonin Baudry, Pascale Ferran, David Bobée, La Fura Dels Baus... It is particularly active on the field of digital technologies, and delved in 360° experiences and virtual reality. A diversified and innovative education program, striving towards sharing and inclusion, was developed throughout the Hauts-de-Seine department. In 2022, a new resource centre has been created to widely share its musical and scientific research, as well as the developed educational and digital resources: Insula Documenta.

*Insula orchestra receives support from the Hauts-de-Seine department and is resident orchestra at the Seine Musicale. It is sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture and the Région Île-de-France. Mrs Aline Foriel-Destezet and Chargeurs Philanthropies are its great patrons. The circle of friends accio and the Insula orchestra – Laurence Equilbey foundation accompany its projects. Insula orchestra is a member of FEVIS and SPPF.*

***"Insula orchestra outdoes itself, rising to every powerful crescendo and diminuendo demanded by Equilbey".***

Limelight Magazine

[www.insulaorchestra.fr/en](http://www.insulaorchestra.fr/en)

**Laurence Equilbey**





**INSULA**  
ORCHESTRA



Conductor, musical director and founder of Insula orchestra and accentus, Laurence Equilbey embodies the alliance of artistic excellence and innovative, inclusive projects.

Her carrier in the symphonic repertoire has led her to conduct orchestras such as the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Montréal symphonic orchestra, Philharmonia in London, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, H&H Boston, Hessischer Rundfunk, the orchestras of Lyon, Liège or Leipzig, the Brussels Philharmonic, Copenhagen, Gulbenkian, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Concerto Köln, Camerata Salzburg, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Barcelona, Bilbao, etc.

With support from the Hauts-de-Seine department, she founded Insula orchestra in 2012. The period instrument orchestra inaugurated an artistic residency at the Seine Musicale, on the Seguin Island, in April 2017. It is also in charge of part of the Auditorium's season.

On the lyric scene, Laurence Equilbey conducted Weber's *Der Freischütz* staged by the new magic company 14:20 (Théâtre de Caen, Grand Théâtre de Provence, Bozar in Brussels, Theater an der Wien, Barbican centre, Ludwigsburg Festival, Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées) and Beethoven's *Fidelio* staged by David Bobée in London and at La Seine Musicale, but also Mozart's *Lucio Silla* with Rita Cosentino, Gounod's *Nonne Sanglante* staged by David Bobée, Mozart's most beautiful opera arias with Philippe Decouflé, etc.

Every season at the Seine Musicale, Laurence Equilbey creates staged performances with artists from diverse backgrounds. For example, Haydn's *Die Schöpfung* (performed in Aix-en-Provence, Hamburg, Vienna and New York) or Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* were created alongside with the theatre company La Fura dels Baus, Mozart's *Requiem* with Yoann Bourgeois, the ballet *Le Jeune homme et la Mort* (the Young man and Death) with choreographer Marie-Agnès Gillot, Mozart's *Mass in C minor* with Pascal Ferran. Laurence Equilbey is associated artist at the Grand Théâtre d'Aix-en-Provence and enjoys a privileged relationship with the Paris Philharmonie.

With accentus, which celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2022/2023, she continually explores the great repertoire of vocal music. Truly invested in education and the transmission of knowledge, she is artistic and teaching director of the Senior department for young singers / CRR de Paris.

Two recordings with Insula orchestra have been released under the label Warner Classics – Erato: Louise Farrenc's *1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Symphonies* (July 2021) and Mozart's *Lucio Silla* (April 2022).

Laurence Equilbey studied music in Paris, Vienna and London, with conductors such as Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Eric Ericson, Denise Ham, Colin Metters and Jorma Panula.

[laurenceequilbey.com](http://laurenceequilbey.com)

Insula orchestra receives the support of:



**INSULA**  
ORCHESTRA



avec le généreux  
soutien de  
Aline Foriel-Destezet



---

**For more information on any of the above, please contact:**

**Nicky Thomas Media**

9-12 The Stableyard, Broomgrove Rd, London SW9 9TL  
+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

[info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)

[www.nickythomasmedia.com](http://www.nickythomasmedia.com)