

World Premiere - 23, 25,26 May, La Seine Musicale, Paris

Laurence Equilbey & Antonin Baudry present a new multimedia project

BEETHOVEN WARS

A motion manga space opera projected on a 200° wrap-around screen

A symphonic journey into the metaverse

**Insula orchestra & accentus conducted by Laurence Equilbey
Elena Giacone - soprano, Matthieu Heim – bass**



Coproduction with Grand Théâtre de Provence & Orchestre Philharmonique Royal de Liège

Thursday 23 May 2024, 20:00
Saturday 25 May 2024, 16:30 & 20:00
Sunday 26 May 2024, 16:30 & 20:00
La Seine Musicale, Boulogne-Billancourt

Beethoven Wars

Beethoven King Stephen
Beethoven The Ruins of Athens

Ellen Giacone Soprano
Matthieu Heim Bass

Laurence Equilbey conductor
Insula orchestra & Accentus

Antonin Baudry Director
Arthur Qwak Film co-director
Sandrine Lanno Co-Director

On **23 May 2024**, **Laurence Equilbey and Antonin Baudry** present the world premiere of ***Beethoven Wars***, an innovative, augmented-reality multimedia concept. Tailor-made for La Seine Musicale, the new 200° wrap-around curved screen will envelope the audience in this motion manga with live performance from Insula Orchestra and Accentus choir. 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.

Manga often depicts a heightened characterisation of good and bad with fantastical, mythological creations. On a distant planet, Stephan and Gisèle face the end of a world devastated by war. Two enemy peoples embark on a space quest that will bring them back to Earth, after epic intergalactic battles set to Beethoven's soundtrack. Will they succeed in bringing peace and harmony to mankind?

Total immersion is the key to this experience. A projection surface of over 50 linear metres by 10 metres (height) curved over 200° surrounds the viewer - each spectator becomes a participant in the journey. An immersive image with an exceptional resolution of 15K x 2K, involving 5 Barco UDX-4K 40 video projectors, places the spectator at the centre of the plot, enveloping them in the combined emotion of the story and the live classical music.

La Seine Musicale's auditorium on the Ile Seguin is an architectural jewel in solid oak, renowned the world over for the quality of its acoustics. Deploying this immersive solution in this masterpiece, without altering its integrity, represents an extraordinary challenge that required a specially designed screen to present the action in 3D and 2D. Eventually it will have a 3D afterlife outside of the concert hall.

Written in 1811 by August von Kotzebue, a few years after the promulgation of the Napoleonic Code, Beethoven's *King Stephen* and *The Ruins of Athens* celebrate heroism, the advent of Law and Peace in Europe and underline the importance of art. The librettos also resonate particularly with today's audiences. The beginning of the 2020s is marked by crucial episodes for humanity: the pandemic, war and climate change have thrown a pall over our idea of normal. *Beethoven Wars* aims to bring back to the forefront unity, exchange and communication between people.

Laurence Equilbey

"We first worked with Antonin Baudry on La Nuits des rois and I am now thrilled to be collaborating on a totally new multimedia project. Mixing Beethoven and Manga provides a new creative proposition never seen before that allows us to reach a completely new audience. With Insula orchestra, we have presented a range of multi-media projects, which have involved rotating stages, a 50-meter slide to swimming pool but Beethoven Wars is our most ambitious project to date."

Beethoven Wars is the winner in the 'augmented live performance' category of the fourth 'Programme d'Investissements d'Avenir', launched as part of the French Government's France Relance 2030 plan to support artistic development in the digital sector.

Insula Orchestra

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: LAURENCE EQUILBEY RESIDENT ORCHESTRA AT THE SEINE MUSICALE

www.insulaorchestra.fr/en

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. 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...



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.

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 June 2023, Insula orchestra organised 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 receives support from the Hauts-de-Seine department and is resident orchestra at the Seine Musicale. It is sponsored by Région Ile-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

Laurence Equilbey

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. In 2022/2023, Laurence Equilbey will perform the last ballads of Robert Schumann with Antonin Baudry, and work with Mat Collishaw on Fauré's *Requiem*. 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 celebrates its 30th birthday in 2022/2023, she continually explores the great repertoire of vocal music. In March 2023, she will conduct a program dedicated to Mendelssohn. 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 recently been released under the label Warner Classics – Erato: Louise Farrenc's *1st and 3rd 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

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