

**Itinéraire Baroque marks Ton Koopman's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday  
with his Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and friends  
for Bach's St John Passion and more**



**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024**  
Périgord Vert, France

<https://www.itinerairebaroque.com>

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Add photo of a concert in Cercles and a Chateau de Connezac

**Itinéraire Baroque** celebrates **Ton Koopman's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday** with his **Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra** for an extended weekend from **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in the Dordogne**. Championing an intrepid range of Baroque gems in historic churches, Ton Koopman welcomes friends, both old and new, concluding on the Sunday with a performance of Bach's St John Passion with soloists **Elizabeth Breuer, Sophia Faltas, Tilman Lichdi** and **Klaus Mertens** in **St Astier**.



Starting 23 years ago, after **Ton and Tini Koopman** bought a home in the **Périgord Vert**, the festival revolves around Cercles extending to the picturesque medieval villages and towns. This year's festival opens with **Les Surprises** presenting a *Night in Venice* of Monteverdi and his successors at St Mark's Basilica. On the Friday, viola de gamba player **Robert Smith** and his ensemble **Fantasticus** make an eagerly-awaited return with a *Buxtehude Pilgrimage*, before Tini Mathot Koopman plays 4 hand duets on the fortepiano with **Verena Habel** exploring Mozart's teenage years, narrated by **Pierre Florac**. For the

Friday evening concert, Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra present a programme of Telemann, Vivaldi and Bach with bass baritone Klaus Mertens.

Undoubtedly the annual highlight is Saturday's **Itinéraire** which gives the Festival its name. After an opening viola de gamba concert of Marin Marais given by **Robert Smith** in Mareuil, festivalgoers take in four 'taster' concerts in small groups exploring the forgotten Romanesque churches of the region. While the performers remain in the same church all day, the audience travel in 4 groups between churches in search of their next baroque 'amuse-bouche'. Each festivalgoer samples a unique selection of music from across continents, periods, instruments and genres up-close, benefitting from a musical and historical journey through the countryside. This year's bucolic itinerary will range from a vocal programme with **Johanette Zomer** and **Fred Jacobs** to **Musica Gloria** presenting a Purcell programme *Musick for a while*. **Cantoria** celebrate *Dios y Hombre* (God and Man) with Spanish sacred vocal music from 16<sup>th</sup> century. The private residence of Chateau de Connezac opens its doors to **Ensemble Les Aromates** lead by Michèle Claude.

In the beautiful and unspoiled region of the **Périgord Vert**, with its quiet stone-built villages, Artistic Director Ton Koopman – appointed President of the influential Leipzig Bach Archive in 2019 – has created a Festival that matches baroque music with the medieval architectural heritage of the area. Originally founded as an *itinéraire*, or one-day Festival of concerts on a pilgrimage circuit to the small parish churches, the Festival has gradually expanded into an extended 4-day weekend, attracting new audiences to baroque music.

Shortly after Bach's epic 250th anniversary in 2000, **Koopman** founded the Itinéraire Baroque with local psychiatrist **Robert-Nicolas Huet** in 2001. The partnership was forged on their close friendship and mutual desire to bring life to the magnificent Romanesque churches of the region. Each year, some 3,000 visitors attend the dozen concerts in the festival, with many even returning to settle in the area, restoring the farmhouses and châteaux and enjoying the gardens and sumptuous local gastronomy.



**Ton Koopman** commented:

*"This rural area of Périgord Vert is perhaps lesser known than the more famous Dordogne valley with its majestic castles and strategic crusader fortresses. These smaller villages on rivers dotted across the countryside, many inhabited since prehistoric times, have a quieter, intimate charm. It seemed a shame to see so many of these historic churches closed for much of the year, so we started the festival to open up their doors and fill them with music. 22 years on, I am delighted that the festival has grown and become a regular fixture in the summer calendar, attracting visitors from far and wide."*



The **Dordogne**, named after the great Dordogne River in Aquitaine, is one of the most picturesque regions in Europe, famous for prehistoric caves and gastronomic delicacies – *foie gras*, walnuts, truffles, duck and goose dishes, and *Le Caviar Perle Noir* (caviar produced in the heart of the Périgord Vert), perfectly complemented by wines from St. Emillion or apple cider. Visitors to the Dordogne are captivated by the area's lush green, canoe trips along the river and beautiful walks and bike rides across the undulating landscape. As in previous years, festivalgoers will be able to sample local organic produce

from this charming landscape at Café Baroque, located in the square outside Saint-Cybard in Cercles.



The region is rich in magnificent castles, historical museums and luscious green valleys. The Dordogne is also well known under the former name Périgord, dating back to when it was occupied by the Gauls. Then, it was divided into four separate parts for the four tribes: the **Périgord Noir** (for the darkness of the stone), the **Périgord Blanc** (for limestone quarries), the **Périgord Vert** (for the forest) and the **Périgord Pourpre** (for wine).

The festival is committed to ensuring that artists travel in the most eco-friendly way possible. This, along with their support of locally-sourced organic produce, reflects the festival's dedication to minimising their carbon footprint and showing their appreciation of the beautiful countryside where the festival is held.

## Full Festival Listings

**Thursday 1 August 2024, 20:30**

Abbatiale de Cercles

### ***A Night in Venice***

The Masters of the San Marco Chapel

Pieces by **Giovanni Legrenzi, Tarquinio Merula, Giovanni Antonio Rigatti, Claudio Monteverdi, Alessandro Grandi, Antonio Lotti, Salomone Rossi, Francesco Cavalli, Giovanni Battista Fontana**

**Les Surprises** Ensemble

**Louis-Noël Bestion de Camoulas**  
conductor

**Friday 2 August 2024, 12:00**

Abbatiale de Cercles-La Tour Blanche

### ***Un pèlerinage Buxtehude***

**Ensemble Fantasticus**

**Rie Kimura** violin  
**Elise Dupont** violin  
**Robert Smith** viola da gamba  
**Maggie Urquhart** violone  
**Fred Jacobs** theorbo

**Pieter-Jan Belder** harpsichord

**Friday 2 August 2024, 17:30**

Abbatiale de Cercles

### ***Mozart à quatre mains***

Reading of Mozart's letters written as a teenager

**Tini Mathot, Verena Habel** 4-hand  
piano forte

**Pierre Florac** narrator

**Friday 2 August 2024, 20:30**

### ***Bist du bei mir***

**G.Ph. Telemann**

*Trio Sonata in C minor* TWV 42:c2  
Recorder, oboe and continuo

**Nicolaus Bruhns**

*Mein Herz ist bereit*  
Bass, violin and continuo

**Antonio Vivaldi**

*Concerto in G minor* RV 107  
Recorder, oboe, violin, bassoon and continuo

**J.S. Bach / G.H. Stölzel**

*Bist du bei mir*  
Bass and continuo

**Antonio Vivaldi**

*Concerto in G minor* RV 105  
Recorder, oboe, violin, bassoon and continuo

**J.S. Bach**

*Cantata BWV 158 Der Friede sei mit dir*  
Bass, oboe, violin and continuo

**G.P. Telemann**

*Quartet in G major* TWV 43:G6  
Recorder, oboe, violin and continuo

**Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra**

**Reine Marie Verhagen** recorder  
**Antoine Torunczyk** oboe  
**Wouter Verschuren** bassoon  
**Catherine Manson** violin  
**Konstanze Waidosch** cello  
**Klaus Mertens** bass barytone

**Ton Koopman** harpsichord, organ, conductor

**Saturday 3 August 2024, 09:30 ?**

Église de Mareuil

***La Gracieuse***

**Marin Marais** *Three Suites*

**Robert Smith** viola da gamba  
**Mike Fentross** theorbo

**Saturday 3 August 2024, 11:15, 12:30, 15:30, 17:00**

Église De Puyrenier

**Catalina Vicens** Organetto

**Saturday 3 August 2024, 11:15, 12:30, 15:30, 17:00**

Église de Champeaux

***Musick for a While***

Henry and Daniel Purcell

**Musica Gloria**

**Pieter De Praetere** countertenor  
**Nele Vertommen** oboe, recorder  
**Anne-Linde Visser** cello, viola da gamba  
**Beniamino Paganini** harpsichord, recorder

**Saturday 3 August 2024, 11:15, 12:30, 15:30, 17:00**

Église de Saint Front-sur-Nizonne

***Dios y Hombre***

Pieces by **Mateo Flecha "El Viejo", Francisco Guerrero, Alonso Mudarra**

**Cantoria**

**Inés Alonso** soprano  
**Oriol Guimerà** alto  
**Jorge Losana** tenor, conductor  
**Víctor Cruz** bass  
**Pablo FitzGerald** vihuela

**Saturday 3 August 2024, 11:15, 12:30, 15:30, 17:00**

Église de Saint Félix de Bourdeilles

***La Naissance de l'Air Baroque***

Pieces by **Giulio Caccini, Giovanni Girolamo Kapsperger, Johann Nauwach, Constantijn Huygens, Nicholas Lanier, Michel Lambert et Henry Purcell.**

**Johannette Zomer** soprano  
**Fred Jacobs** theorbo

**Saturday 3 August 2024, 17:30**

Château de Connezac



Outdoor 'Apéritif' concert gathering  
all festivalgoers of the day

## ***Musique à la Cour des Ommeyades***

### **Ensemble les Aromates**

**Isabelle Duval** flutes  
**Jean-Baptiste Frugier** violin  
**Julien Blanchard** contrebasse  
**Jean-Loup Deschamps** bowed viol,  
viola  
**Freddy Eichelberger** spinet,  
organetto  
**Michelle Claude** percussions,  
conductor

**Sunday 4 August 2024**

Église de Saint -Astier

## **Closing concert**

### **J.S Bach *St John Passion***

### **Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Choir**

**Elizabeth Breuer** soprano  
**Sophia Faltas** alto  
**Klaus Mertens** bass  
**Tilman Lichdi** tenor

**Ton Koopman** conductor

## **Ton Koopman**

### **Harpsichordist, organist, conductor**

Hailing from Zwolle in the Netherlands, Ton Koopman is an acclaimed organist, harpsichordist and conductor, as well as the Artistic Director of Itinéraire Baroque.

From the beginning of his musical studies in Amsterdam, Koopman was fascinated by authentic instruments and a performance style based on sound scholarship; in 1969, at the age of 25, he created his first Baroque orchestra. In 1979 he founded the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, followed by the Amsterdam Baroque Choir in 1992.

Koopman's extensive activities as a soloist, accompanist and conductor have been recorded on a large number of LPs and CDs for labels such as Erato, Teldec, Sony, Philips and DG, along with his own record label, Antoine Marchand, distributed by Challenge Records.

Over the course of his 45-year career, Koopman has appeared in some the most important concert halls and festivals in the world, including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Philharmonie in Munich, the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, the Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall in New York. He has been Principal Conductor of the Netherland Radio Chamber Orchestra and has collaborated with leading international orchestras such as the Royal Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Chicago Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome and Wiener Symphoniker.



Between 1994 and 2004, Koopman was engaged in a unique project, conducting and recording all the existing Cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach, a massive undertaking

for which he has been awarded the Deutsche Schallplattenpreis 'Echo Klassik', the BBC Music Magazine Choral Award in 2008, the Prix Hector Berlioz, and has been nominated for a Grammy Award in America and Gramophone Award in the UK.

In 2000 Koopman received an Honorary Degree from the Utrecht University for his academic work on the Bach Cantatas and Passions and has been awarded both the prestigious Silver Phonograph Prize and the VSCD Classical Music Award. In 2006 he received the 'Bach-Medaille' from the City of Leipzig.

Koopman publishes regularly and for a number of years he has been engaged in editing the complete Händel Organ Concertos for Breitkopf & Härtel. He has published Händel's Messiah and Buxtehude's Das Jüngste Gericht for Carus.

Koopman leads the class of harpsichord at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, is Professor at the University of Leiden and is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music in London.

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

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