

Press Invitation

**Christophe Rousset and Les Talens Lyriques
perform the world premiere of Salieri's *Cublai,
Gran Kan De Tartari* in its original Italian version
at the Theater an der Wien in **April 2024****



5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 April 2024, 19:00

Theater an der Wien, Austria

Salieri: *Kubla Khan (Cublai, Gran Kan de Tartari)*

Carlo Lepore Cublai
Marie Lys Alzima
Alasdair Kent Timur
Lauranne Oliva Lipi
Fabio Capitanucci Orcano
Äneas Humm Posega
Ana Quintans Memma
Giorgio Caoduro Bozzone

Martin G. Berger Director

Arnold Schœnberg Chor
Erwin Ortner Chorus Master
Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset conductor

To be recorded this summer for Aparté

Rousset and Les Talens Lyriques presents the world premiere of Salieri's *Cublai, Gran Kan De Tartari*, in the original Italian version in a new production directed by Martin G. Berger at the Theater an der Wien from **5 to 15 April 2024**. It will be recorded this summer as their 6th Salieri opera disc for release next year.

Composed in 1788, Salieri's opera *Cublai, Gran Kan De' Tartari* was abandoned before its scheduled premiere for political reasons, as the theme became too sensitive when Austria entered the Russo-Turkish conflict in 1788.

Kublai, ruler of the Tartars, has a whole host of problems on his plate: his court officials are plotting against him, his own son is such a dimwit that the princess of the neighbouring country refuses to marry him, and to cap it all a couple of Italian adventurers are interfering with his country's traditions. Although the comic opera *Cublai, gran kan de' Tartari* by **Giambattista Casti** with music by **Antonio Salieri** is apparently set in Cathay, the situation it portrays is actually that of European royal courts, especially the court of the Russian tsar. The central question raised by the authors, in the true spirit of the Enlightenment in Europe, is how those in power deal with the responsibility they have for their lands. But because Russia was an ally of the Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II, the monarch cancelled the premiere following the outbreak of the Austro-Turkish War in 1787. As a result, one of the most unusual operas of the 18th-Century, which draws on the comic traditions of the *commedia dell'arte* and whose biting satire almost equals that of Jacques Offenbach's works, was forgotten for over 200 years.

Conductor Christophe Rousset has long championed Salieri's operas in an effort to restore the misunderstood composer's works to their rightful place. In 2005, Rousset released a landmark first recording of *La grotta di Trofonio*, followed by *Les Danaïdes* in 2017, *Les Horaces* in 2018, *Tarare* in 2019 and *Armida* in 2021. He now takes on responsibility for the belated premiere of the original Italian version of *Cublai, gran kan de' Tartari*.

Synopsis

Act 1

Kublai Kan, the powerful, pleasure-loving but not very drink-hardened ruler of Cathay, intends to marry his son Lipi to the Bengali princess Alzima. To this end, he has her brought to his court by his nephew Timur. However, this plan has two difficulties of which he is completely unaware: Alzima and Timur are in love, which is immediately obvious to everyone except the couple themselves. And Lipi, who was raised by the bigwig Posega and has had little contact with his father, has no interest in women and pursues other interests entirely. Posega, who for years has been telling Kublai Kan of his successes as a tutor, now finds himself in a tight spot. He impresses on Lipi that women are cruel and calculating and that on no account should he marry. Two Italian adventurers employed at the court of Cathay, Memma and Bozzone, make ironic comments about all these goings-on. The resolute Memma convinces all the Tartars to shave off their beards after the

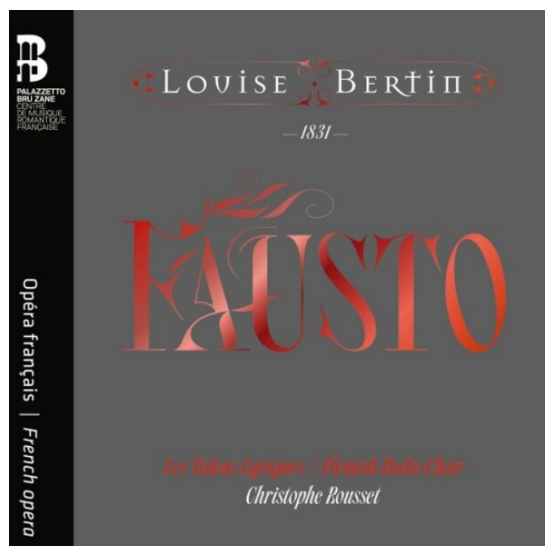
European fashion. In the end, the inevitable happens: the first official meeting between Alzima and Lipi ends in a scandal.

Act 2

It is Bozzone who finally states the obvious: if Kublai Kan made his nephew Timur his heir and the latter married Alzima, everything would turn out for the best for all concerned. Posega, fearing the loss of his position of power at the palace, discredits Timur, and especially Memma, to Alzima, telling her that Memma has her eye on the throne and is planning to overthrow Kublai Kan and Lipi and rule with Timur. But after many twists and turns everything turns out well: Timur is named heir to the throne of Cathay, he and Alzima become a couple, and Lipi can continue his "education" under Posega.

Current releases

Louise Bertin's *Fausto*



Les Talens Lyriques / Christophe Rousset
Chœur de la Radio Flamande

26 January 2024 / 2 CD Palazzetto Bru Zane

Karine Deshayes Fausto

Karina Gauvin Margarita

Ante Jerkunica Mefistofele

Nico Darmanin Valentino

Marie Gautrot Catarina

Diana Axentii Una Strega/Marta

Thibault de Damas Wagner/Un Banditore

Flemish Radio Choir

Thomas Tacquet Choir master

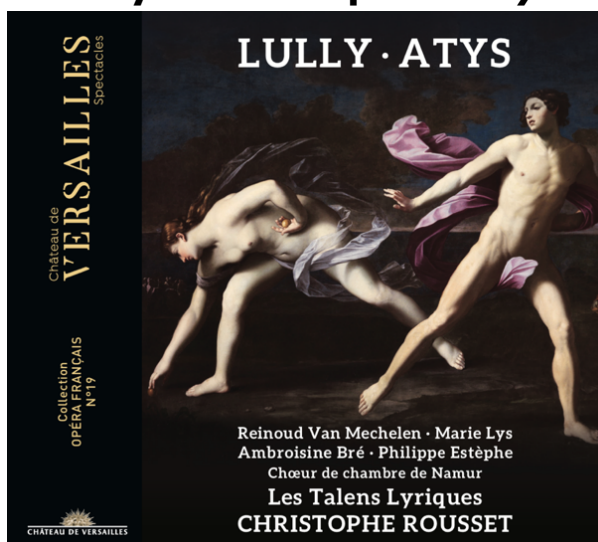
Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset Conductor

***"Christophe Rousset and... Les Talens Lyriques make Fausto
flare into life"***
Financial Times

***"Christophe Rousset proves the recently rediscovered score...
deserves a much wider audience."***
Guardian

Lully's masterpiece *Atys*



Disc number: CVS126

Reinoud Van Mechelen *Atys*
Ambroisine Bré *Cybèle*
Marie Lys *Flore, Sangaride*
Apolline Rai-Westphal *Melpomène, Mélisse*
Gwendoline Blondeel *Iris, Doris*
Kieran White *Un Zéphyr, Le Sommeil*
Nick Pritchard *Morphée*
Antonin Rondepierre *Phantase*
Olivier Cesarini *Le Temps, Le fleuve Sangar, Phobétor*
Philippe Estèphe *Célénus*
Romain Bockler *Idas*
Vlad Crosman *Un songe funeste*

Namur Chamber Choir
Thibaut Lenaerts *Chorus master*

Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset *conductor*

"Lully and Rousset are a marriage made in heaven."
Opera Magazine

Further upcoming disc releases

L'Olimpiade

Domenico Cimarosa

Les Talens Lyriques / Christophe Rousset

2024 / 2 CD Château de Versailles Spectacles

Toccatas

Johann Sebastian Bach

Christophe Rousset harpsichord

2024 / 1 CD Aparté

Season Listings

31 March 2024, 19:00

Theater an der Wien, Vienna

16 May 2024

Opéra Royal, Versailles, France

Cimarosa: *L'Olimpiade*

Josh Lovell Clistene

Rocío Pérez Aristeia

Marie Lys Argene

Maite Beaumont Megacle

Mathilde Ortscheidt Licida

Alex Banfield Aminta

Les Talens Lyriques

Christophe Rousset conductor

3, 4 May 2024

The Kennedy Center's Terrace Theater,
Washington DC

7 May 2024

El Museo del Barrio, New York

Mouret: *The Triumph of Thalia*

Claire van Kampen director

Antonia Franceschi choreography

Ah Young Hong soprano

Pascale Beaudin soprano

Margot Rood soprano

Angel Azzarra soprano

Matthew Newlin tenor

Patrick Kilbride tenor

Jean-Bernard Cerin baritone

Taylor Ward baritone bass

Jonathan Woody baritone bass

Opéra Lafayette

Christophe Rousset **GUEST CONDUCTOR**

22 May 2024

Le Majestic, Montereau-Fault-Yonne

24, 25 May 2024, 19:30

Mozartfest Würzburg, Germany

Mozart & Friends

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

« *Rivolgete a lui lo sguardo* » (*Così fan tutte*, K. 588)

« *Mentre ti lascio, oh figlio* », aria de concert K. 513

Giuseppe Sarti (1729-1802)

« *Come un agnello* » (*Fra i due litiganti il terzo gode*)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ouverture de La clemenza di Tito, K. 621 (1791)

Joseph Haydn

« *Chi spira e non spera* » (*L'anima del Filosofo*, 1791)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

« *Io ti lascio, oh cara, addio* », aria de concert K. A245/621a (1791)

« *Un bacio di mano* » aria de concert K. 541 (1788)

Symphonie n° 36 en do majeur « Linz », K. 425 (1783)

Vicente Martín y Soler

« *Dov'è dunque il mio ben?... Vo' dall'infami viscere* » (*Una cosa rara*, 1786)

Antonio Salieri

« *Torbido mar che freme* » (*La passione di Gesù Cristo*, 1776)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
« *Vedrò mentr'io sospiro* » (*Le nozze di Figaro*, K. 492, 1792)

Benjamin Appl baritone
Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset conductor

26 May 2024, 11:00

Fürstennal Residenz
Würzburg (Allemagne)

Mozart in Paris

Mozart: *Violin Sonata No.2 in D, K.7*
Claude Balbastre: *Pièce de clavecin en sonate avec accompagnement de violon, Sonate Ire*

Bach *Sonata for violin and keyboard in B flat major, Op. 10 No.1*

Boccherini *Violin Sonata in B-flat major, Op.5 No.3 G. 27*

Mozart *Violin Sonata No.18 in G major, K. 301/293a*

Gilone Gaubert violin
Christophe Rousset harpsichord,
conductor

17 May 2024, 18:00

Oslo Cathedral, Norway

28 May 2024, 19:00

Namur Concert Hall, Belgium

30 May 2024

Halle, Germany

Handel: Jephtha

Jeremy Ovenden Jephtha
Sophie Harmsen Storgé
Deborah Cachet Iphis
Tim Mead Hamor
Edwin Crossley-Mercer Zebel
soprano (Namur Choir) Angel

Namur Chamber Choir
Thibaut Lenaerts Chorus Master

Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset conductor

**17,19,21,23 and 25 June 2024,
20:00**

Théâtre national de l'Opéra comique,
France

Lully: *Armide*

Ambroisine Bré Armide
Cyrille Dubois Renaud
Apolline Raï-Westphal La Sagesse,
Phénice, Mélisse, une naïade
Florie Valiquette La Gloire, Sidonie,
Lucinde, une bergère héroïque
Edwin Crossley-Mercer Hidraot
Lysandre Châlon Ubalde, Aronte
Enguerrand de Hys Artémidore, Le
Chevalier Danois
Anas Séguin La Haine
Abel Zamora Un amant fortuné

Lilo Baur Director
Chœur Les Éléments
Joël Suhubiette Chorus Master
Les Talens Lyriques
Christophe Rousset Conductor

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