

SHELDON ARTISTS

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Insula orchestra Instruments of *Then*, Spirit of *Today*

Founded in 2012 by Laurence Equilbey with support from the Département des Hauts-de-Seine, Insula orchestra is in residence at La Seine Musicale on Ile Seguin--an island in La Seine just a few miles downstream from Paris. The orchestra is in charge of part of the 1,150-seater auditorium's programming and invites numerous ensembles and artists. Insula orchestra shines both in France and abroad, in major venues and prestigious festivals: Philharmonie de Paris, Essen, Warsaw, Salzburg's Mozart Week, Theater an der Wien, Basel Stadtcasino, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Barbican Centre, the Louvre Abu Dhabi, and the Lincoln Center.

Performed on period instruments, Insula orchestra's artistic project is built around a repertoire ranging mainly from the Baroque to the Romantic eras. Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and Weber form naturally the core of this repertoire with symphonic programmes as well as programmes with choir and soloists. Its historically-rigorous approach and the artistic innovation it develops make it a major ensemble of our time.

The orchestra has developed a comprehensive, innovative programme of cultural and educational initiatives across its home base in the Hauts-de-Seine department. It revisits and reconsiders the formats and codes of classical music with the aim of drawing in new audiences, creating an ongoing dialogue between symphonic music, the spatial dimension of the venue and the stage. The orchestra associates each programme with a constellation of new digital, artistic and educational forms, featuring clips and Web series that resonate with our times and expand the artistic content of the project. 2021 will see the creation of a resource centre to share the orchestra's musical and scientific research, with a vast number of pedagogical and digital resources.

Insula orchestra regularly concertizes staged productions, notably Weber's *Der Freischütz* with the Cie of new magic 14:20, Mozart's *Requiem* with Yoann Bourgeois, Schumann's *La nuit des rois* with Antonin Baudry, and Haydn's *Creation*, among many others... Insula orchestra pays particular attention to vocal soloists as well, with artists such as Sandrine Piau, Werner Güra, Franco Fagioli and Ann Hallenberg. The orchestra also performs with prestigious soloists on period instruments such as violinist Antoine Tamestit and pianists Abdel Rahman El Bacha and Kristian Bezuidenhout.

The first recordings of Insula orchestra - Mozart's *Requiem* (**naïve**, 2014), Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* (**Deutsche Grammophon**, 2015), Mozart's *Coronation Mass* (**Warner Classics – Erato**, 2017) and Schubert's *Lieder with orchestra* (**Warner Classics – Erato**, 2017) – were all highly successful. To celebrate Beethoven's anniversary, Insula orchestra and Laurence Equilbey release two albums dedicated to the composer: Piano Concertos N° 4 & 5 with Nicholas Angelich as well as Triple Concerto and Choral Fantasy with Bertrand Chamayou, Alexandra Conunova, Natalie Clein, David Kadouch and **accentus**.