**Le Cercle de l’Harmonie**

Le Cercle de l'Harmonie is an innovative ensemble, renowned for the character and specificity of its interpretations and its transparent, dynamic sound. It is one of the leading ensembles to tackle the classical and romantic repertoire on period instruments. Almost 20 years after its creation, the orchestra continues its exploration under the baton of Jérémie Rhorer, supported by musicians as passionate as ever.

Jérémie Rhorer is the founder and musical director of the orchestra, a charismatic personality with a unique and powerful approach to music. Trained at the school of Emil Tchakarov, Jérémie Rhorer was nourished by the interpretations of Nikolaus Harnoncourt before taking his first steps alongside William Christie and Marc Minkowski. From then on, he was firmly convinced that the composer's intentions could only really be understood in terms of the sound colours available to him for composing: the instruments of his time. In 2005, bringing together musicians trained at the best schools, he founded Le Cercle de l'Harmonie, taking its name from the ensemble once founded by the Chevalier de Saint-George, a musician at the turning point in the last years of classicism, which Jérémie Rhorer wishes to revisit.

Working with period instruments is inconceivable without a true interpretation ethic. Returning to the original text and colours, Le Cercle de l'Harmonie reveals all its dramatic force in readings that are radical because they are faithful. Jérémie Rhorer's new vision consists of moving away from the ‘heaviness’ that tradition can bring, to rediscover the brilliance and breath of the spirit intended by the composer. This is how the orchestra made its name with an innovative performance of Mozart's Idomeneo at the Beaune Festival in 2006, soon followed by other major works by the composer such as Don Giovanni, The Marriage of Figaro, Così fan tutte, The Abduction from the Seraglio and The Magic Flute, all of which have been recorded for the Alpha-Classics label. They approach the instrumental repertoire in the same spirit, offering energetic and passionate interpretations of Mozart, Gluck, Haydn and Beethoven.

For several years now, the ensemble has been following the chronological thread that links classicism and romanticism, bringing its knowledge and experience to later repertoires. It's a coherent vision that has led them to tackle Rossini (Il barbiere di Siviglia, Tancredi), Verdi (La Traviata, Rigoletto, Il Trovatore) and even Wagner, in the tradition of Beethoven, as well as the French school (Berlioz, Méhul, Gossec, Auber...), not forgetting the dawn of Romanticism embodied by Cherubini (Médée, Lodoïska) or Spontini (La Vestale, Olimpie). In the symphonic repertoire, it is now Mendelssohn, Schumann, Brahms and Bruckner to which they are restoring all their brilliance, thanks to in-depth work on the balance of sound and the construction of the discourse.

Le Cercle de l'Harmonie is an independent, versatile ensemble capable of adapting its line-up to the repertoire, with around 50 principal musicians. Today, the orchestra is invited to perform all over the world, from the Philharmonie de Paris to the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, not forgetting La Fenice in Venice, Salzburg, the Théâtre des Champs-Elysées, the Festival d'art lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence, the Bozar in Brussels, the Barbican Centre in London, the Edinburgh Festival... The musicians are also committed to their local territory: since 2018 they have been in residence at the Grand Théâtre de Provence. Because their artistic commitment goes beyond the simple framework of a concert, the musicians are involved in various educational and social initiatives, pursuing a genuine reflection on the transmission but also the medical virtues of music, in particular with an ambitious programme around music and health. Le Cercle de l'Harmonie is keen to play an active role in this regional initiative in the south of France (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur).