

Ensemble Artaserse

In 2002, after long collaboration in the most prestigious baroque ensembles in France and Europe, several musicians decided to form the Ensemble Artaserse. Those friends were Christine Plubeau (viola da gamba), Claire Antonini (theorbe), Yoko Nakamura (harpsichord and organ) and, of course, Philippe Jaroussky (counter-tenor). They gave in october 2002 a first and highly-acclaimed concert in the Theatre du Palais-Royal in Paris, with the *Musiche a voce sola* by the Italian composer Benedetto Ferrari.

With this ability to adapt to numerous repertoires including music by Antonio Vivaldi, George Friedric Handel, Claudio Monteverdi and Francesco Cavalli, the ensemble performed progressively in the most famous venues and festivals in France, such as the Festivals of Ambronay, Sablé, Pontoise, Saint-Michel-en-Thiérache, Festival de Musique Ancienne de Lyon, Salle Gaveau, the Auditorium du Louvre and the Théâtre du Chatelet in Paris, the Château de Versailles, the Bordeaux Opera, the Nancy Opera etc.

Abroad, Ensemble Artaserse have been invited to perform in the Palais des Beaux Arts in Brussels, in the Escorial in Madrid, the Palau de la Musica in Valencia or the Festival of Santiago de Compostelles (Spain), the Festival of the Azores (Portugal), the Prague Festival of ancien music, the South Bank Center and the Barbican Center in London, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Berliner Philharmonie, Prinzregententheater in Munich, the Bozar in Brussels and the Philharmonie Hall in Krakow (Poland) etc.

Because of its excellence, the ensemble works with the greatest voices in the world, such as Andreas Scholl, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Emoke Baráth and Cecilia Bartoli.

In 2022, Artaserse reached a new milestone. With a large cast and conducted by Philippe Jaroussky, the ensemble gave ten performances of Handel's "Giulio Cesare" at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées and the Opéra de Montpellier. In the following seasons, the ensemble, together with Philippe Jaroussky, will be in residence at the Montpellier Opera.

Highly acclaimed by press and public, Artaserse's discography demonstrates its musical openness and ability to adapt to the repertoire at hand. The ensemble has recorded several albums for Erato/Warner Classics: "Pietà", which explores Vivaldi's sacred music; "The Handel Album", which combines famous arias with unpublished operas by the composer; "Ombra mai fu", which opens the doors to the fascinating world of Cavalli's operas; and finally "La Vanità del Mondo", a CD that gathers real sacred jewels from the 17th and 18th centuries. On the recently released album

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"Dualità", on which the soprano Eموke Baráth sings the great arias of Handel's opera, Philippe Jaroussky slips into the role of conductor for the first time. The ensemble's discography also includes Benedetto Ferrari's "Musiche a voce sola" (Ambroisie-Naïve) and two very acclaimed albums for Virgin Classics: Virtuoso cantatas by Vivaldi and "Beata Vergine" with 17th century Italian music devoted to the Virgin Mary (Timbre de Platine of Opera International etc).

Ensemble Artaserse's international tours are supported by SPEDIDAM and Le Bureau Export.

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