

SIMONE MENEZES & SEBASTIÃO SALGADO

AMAZÔNIA

with Simone Menezes (Conductor) // Camila Provenzale (Soprano) // Sebastião Salgado (Pictures)

The late Sebastião Salgado, world-renowned photographer and winner of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, impressively documented over decades how closely the beauty and fragility of our planet are linked. His focus on the Amazon rainforest in particular shows the unrivalled natural power of this habitat, but also the threats to which it is exposed. Together with the Italian-Brazilian conductor Simone Menezes, Salgado created an extraordinary project that combines his moving photographs with the music of his Brazilian compatriot Heitor Villa-Lobos.

Commissioned by the Philharmonie de Paris in 2018, *Amazônia* is a collaboration between the renowned photographer and conductor Simone Menezes.

Salgado had just published his exhibition *Amazonia*, while Menezes was working on Villa-Lobos' *Floresta do Amazonas*. She created a 45-minute suite for orchestra and soprano, for which Salgado selected over 200 photographs inspired by Villa-Lobos. The concert also includes *Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4* and Philip Glass' *Aguas da Amazonia*, creating an extraordinary event with Salgado's images and Villa-Lobos' music.

Since its debut, *Amazônia* has been embraced by audiences worldwide, with performances at prestigious venues such as the Barbican Centre, Santa Cecilia Orchestra, and the National Orchestra of Spain. In 2024, it was performed by the Luxembourg Philharmonic, Liceo Barcelona, and Frankfurt Radio Orchestra. The concert was also recorded live and released on CD in 2023 by the Alpha label.

This concert, whose dramaturgy focuses on the beauty and fragility of the Amazon rainforest, is more than just a performance. It is an appeal to humanity to protect our environment and a lasting tribute to the unspoiled landscapes that Salgado captured photographically for decades.

H. Villa-Lobos: *Bachianas Brasileiras Nr. 4 - Prelúdio*

P. Glass: *Águas da Amazônia - Metamorphosis*

H. Villa-Lobos: *Floresta do Amazonas - Suite*

Conductor, Symphonic Orchestra (3*.3*. 3*.2* / 4.4.4.1 / timp+4 / Hp / Celesta/ Guitare / Pno / Cordes), Soprano, Photographer



"The effect of the precise interplay of music and images is so strong that one could be forgiven for thinking that the composer Heitor Villa-Lobos and the photographer Sebastião Salgado must have agreed on this personally." **Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung**

"The opening with the German premiere of 'Floresta do Amazonas' by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos under the rousing direction of Brazilian conductor Simone Menezes was an experience in a class of its own." **Feuilleton Frankfurt**

"The concert with the black and white photos aims to raise awareness for the rainforest - and it absolutely succeeded!" **Hessenschau**

"BEAUTY PUNCH! A total osmosis reigns from start to end, full of colors but never flashy, Simone Menezes conducting - what a discovery this artist is!"
Concert Classic

"Striking beauty, gentle evocation and romantic lushness, provided indelible memories, [...] vivid, tight performances from Menezes."
The Guardian

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