

ORCHESTRA OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY // PROJECTS 2026-27

9 - 15 August 2026

ACIS & GALATEA

with Benjamin Perry Wenzelberg, conductor // Soloists tbc incl. Matthew Rose, bass

A top line-up of international soloists, young singers from the Britten Pears Summer School, a rising-star conductor and the specialists of the Orchestra of the 18th Century give a fresh and energetic impulse to Handel's attractive pastorate, here in the Mozart arrangement.

Orchestration: 23 instrumentalists

1 - 7 October 2026

CHOPIN & MENDELSSOHN

with Yuliana Avdeeva, piano

Chopin specialist and star pianist Yulianna Avdeeva and the Orchestra of the 18th Century are a proven and winning combination, with album releases and a very successful recent tour to Japan to their name. This program presents one of Chopin's more unusual and exciting works, together with his Piano Concerto no.2 and the wonderful Italian symphony of Mendelssohn. Period instruments and recent insights into performance practice give a new colour to this ever-popular repertoire.

F. Mendelssohn: Hebrides (Overture), Op. 26
F. Chopin: Piano Concerto No. 2 in F minor, Op. 21
F. Chopin: Andante spianato et grande polonaise brillante in E-flat major, Op. 22
F. Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 in A major ('Italian'), Op. Posth. 90, MWV N 16

Orchestration: 30-35 instrumentalists

25 - 31 October 2026

FRENCH CHAOS: THE BIRTH OF THE SYMPHONY

with Emmanuel Resche-Caserta, violin & musical leader // Deborah Cachet, soprano

Rameau is some of the repertoire most identified with the orchestra from the past. Now they take a deep dive into this wonderful repertoire with French violinist and repertoire specialist Emmanuel Resche-Caserta, one of the new generation following in the path of William Christie. In this 3-year collaboration, Resche and the orchestra will present well-researched and exciting programs centered around well-known and also little-heard repertoire.

J. F. Rebel: Le Chaos et les Éléments
M. R. Delalande: Suite from Les Éléments
J. P. Rameau: Ouverture de Naïs
L. N. Clérambault: Cantata Le soleil Vainqueur des Nuages

Orchestration: 21 instrumentalists

7 - 15 December 2026

MESSIAH

with Klaas Stok, conductor // NDR choir // Soloists tbc

A classic work and Christmas favorite, here in the lesser-performed Mozart version, with the great German NDR choir led by their chief conductor Klaas Stok and with a top line-up of soloists.

W. A. Mozart after G. F. Handel: Der Messias, KV 572

Orchestration: 38 instrumentalists, 24 singers

30 January - 14 February 2027 as well as summer 2027 upon request

COMBATTIMENTO

with Richard Egarr, conductor // Ian Bostridge, tenor // Anna Prohaska, soprano //
Choreography Sommer Ulrickson

International star singers together with a crack instrumental ensemble perform a choreographed version of Il combattimento, a work just as exciting now as it was four centuries ago. Based on one of the most famous poems of its time, this story could not be more topical. Not only the cruelty of war, but also the futility and waste of war against the positive virtue of love is at the heart of this grand narrative. It is made visual by two narrating singers and two dancers. Works by Barbara Strozzi as well as more works by Monteverdi introduce the characters in the build-up to the 'battle' of Il combattimento as climax.

C. Monteverdi: Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda

Other pieces by Monteverdi, Gesualdo and Barbara Strozzi

Orchestration: 8 instrumentalists

7 - 26 March 2027

HAYDN WITH FLEMISH RADIO CHOIR

with Bart van Reyn, conductor // Flemish Radio Choir

Following in the footsteps of the much more famous Stabat Mater from Pergolesi, this dramatic and moving work depicts in full musical colour the last breaths of a suffering son and the raw human pain of a bereaved mother. A perfect match with O18c and to be beautifully cast, this alternative Easter work, written for Good Friday in Esterhazy, uses a small line-up of instruments and singers to make a big emotional impact.

J. Haydn: Stabat Mater

J. Haydn: 'Trauer' symphony (led by concertmaster Alexander Janiczek)

Orchestration: 18 instrumentalists, 32 singers

14 - 18 April 2027

CPE BACH & HAYDN

with Jean-Guihen Queyras, cello // Alexander Janiczek, musical leader

C.P.E. Bach: Hamburg Symphonies

J Haydn: Cello Concerto TBC

3 - 9 May 2027

MOZART IN ITALY

with Jane Glover, conductor // Katharine Dain, soprano

W. A. Mozart:

From Mitridate, K.87: Overture, Aria "Al destin che mi minaccia", Aria "Nel grave tormento"

Symphony no.13 in F, K.112

From Lucio Silla, K135: Overture, Aria "Il tenero momento"

Symphony no.26 in E flat, K.184

"Exsultate, jubilate", K.165

Orchestration: 24 instrumentalists

Summer 2027 upon request

Beethoven: 200th anniversary of his death

with Olga Pashchenko, piano // Jakob Lehmann, conductor

In a polite society salon in March 1807 all these works of Beethoven were heard for the first time, premiered together before they parted ways. At the very same time, acts were being passed in parliaments in both the UK and US to abolish the transatlantic slave trade. This program presents a research-based presentation of a place and moment in musical time, classic Beethoven performed by a top combination of pianist and orchestra, and a hard-hitting confrontation of colliding social worlds represented by visual means.

L. v. Beethoven: Coriolan Overture, Op. 62

L. v. Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 4 in G major, Op. 58

L. v. Beethoven: Symphony No. 4 in B \flat major, Op. 60

Orchestration: 32 instrumentalists

Summer 2027 upon request

Lucie Horsch & 18c

with Lucie Horsch, recorder and musical leader

J. H. Roman: Flute Concerto in G Major BeRI 54

A. Corelli: Concerto grosso in D Major Op. 6 No. 4

A. Scarlatti: Recorder Concerto in F major

G. F. Händel: Flautino Concerto in B flat major

** Intermission **

F. Waley-Cohen: New commission

G. F. Händel: Concerto grosso in A minor Op. 6 No. 4, HWV 322

W. von Preussen: Flute Sonata in A minor

J. A. Hasse: Cantata per flauto in B flat Major

J. H. Roman: Suite Drottningholmsmusiken BeRI 2 (selection of movements)

With Lucie Horsch is also available on request a program of recorder concertos by Bach and Vivaldi, enriched with Marcello's expressive Adagio and additional orchestral pieces.

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