AMERICAN FRIENDS OF

les arts florissants
The **American Friends of Les Arts Florissants**, a 501(c)3 charitable corporation, was established in 2012 to strengthen the ties between Les Arts Florissants and American audiences, musicians and singers.
By raising funds in the United States, the American Friends of Les Arts Florissants supports the full range of activities of Les Arts Florissants, including international and U.S. tours, concerts, recitals, recordings, events such as the Dans les Jardins de William Christie festival held annually in the Vendée region of France, and the development of a permanent artistic venue in the Vendée. The American Friends also help to provide training and education through various initiatives— including the annual Jardin des Voix program for young singers and the partnership with The Juilliard School in New York — to preserve and disseminate European music of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Based in France, the internationally acclaimed Baroque vocal and instrumental ensemble Les Arts Florissants was founded in 1979 by Franco-American conductor William Christie. Under Christie’s extraordinary leadership and unparalleled artistic vision, Les Arts Florissants has played a pioneering role in rediscovering and reenergizing France’s Baroque repertoire, developing new French and American talent, and bringing exciting and fresh musical performances to a wide range of audiences on both sides of the Atlantic.

Photo Credits
Top: Julien Gazeau
Above: Oscar Ortega
Front Cover Top/Bottom: Titon et L'Aurore / The Fairy Queen, Julien Gazeau

From left to right:
William Christie
Musical Co-director and Founder of Les Arts Florissants
Paul Agnew
Musical Co-director
Highlights 2023–24 Season

Performances: 88 performances in 18 cities in France, and international tours in 40 cities in Canada and United States, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Romania, Germany, Korea, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

Programs: More than 30 different programs (concerts, semi-staged performances, and full productions) including Purcell’s *The Fairy Queen* in a new production by choreographer and stage director Mourad Merzouki, Charpentier’s *Médée* at the Opéra national de Paris and at the Teatro Real in Madrid, Handel’s *Anoedante*, Bach’s *St John Passion*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Campra’s Requiem, Carissimi’s oratorio *Jephte*, Gluck’s *Orphée et Eurydice*, Baroque music for Christmas, German arias and symphonies, and duos with William Christie and violinist Théotime Langlois de Swarte.

Since January 2015, Les Arts Florissants has been a Resident Ensemble at the Philharmonie de Paris allowing the orchestra to rehearse and perform in the prestigious venue.

On April 19–21, 2024, the Ensemble will present its Spring Festival, taking place in numerous churches, in South Vendée, France. The 13th season of the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* will be held from August 24–31, 2024 with concerts and performances in William Christie’s gardens.

Facts about Les Arts Florissants

Dedicated to performance on period instruments, the Ensemble is largely responsible for the resurgence of interest in 17th century French repertoire as well as in European music of the 17th and 18th centuries, and its research team regularly unearths and publishes lesser known 17th and 18th century French scores.

More than 120 recordings and 23 DVDs are available.

Les Arts Florissants is led by a duo of experts: celebrated harpsichordist, conductor, musicologist and teacher William Christie is Co-director and Founder, and renowned tenor and conductor Paul Agnew is Co-director.

William Christie’s Thiré estate and gardens, the Thiré Quartier des Artistes and related projects in the Vendée region were recognized in 2017 as a Centre Culturel de Rencontre (Cultural Center) The Fondation Les Arts Florissants–William Christie unites all of Les Arts Florissants and its activities into a vibrant resource for future generations.

The Ensemble has pioneered, researched, presented and expanded the audience for French Baroque music through more than 2,900 concerts, recitals and fully staged opera performances over 44 years. 176 of these have taken place in the United States, including nearly 100 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Lincoln Center.

The Ensemble takes its name from the short opera by Marc-Antoine Charpentier *Les Arts Florissants* (*The Flourishing Arts*).

A key ambassador for French culture, Les Arts Florissants is one of the most renowned and respected early music groups around the world.

Performances range from chamber music to full orchestra and opera featuring more than 70 musicians, singers, soloists and dancers.

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This list includes all support received between December 20, 2022 and December 31, 2023
Les Arts Florissants needs the additional support of generous donors like you to pursue its artistic and educational mission and strengthen its ties to the United States.

Becoming an American Friend is an investment in the future. It allows you to take a significant role in the organization’s activities and become part of a unique musical adventure. As an American Friend, you contribute to a vital cultural heritage, providing Americans — and performing arts lovers the world over — the opportunity to discover and enjoy the world-class performances of Les Arts Florissants and exquisite Baroque music. You support young talents and watch them grow into tomorrow’s rising stars, and ensure that the Ensemble continues to flourish, as its name suggests.

Where your donation goes

Your donations will fund Les Arts Florissants’ mission and outreach, along with its education programs, including:

• Ongoing touring across North America and throughout the world, and creation of new concert programs and opera productions.

• Les Arts Florissants’ unique collaboration with The Juilliard School, which builds bridges between Europe and the United States.

• Development of a new generation of singers through Le Jardin des Voix, a coveted training program for young professional singers. Since 2002, it has provided 69 singers from 16 countries with their first major performing experience.

• Assistance to Les Arts Flos Juniors, a program that enables students from conservatories in the U.S., Europe, and Asia to join selected performances with the Orchestra or Chorus each season.

• The festival Dans les Jardins de William Christie and development of the permanent artistic venue in the Vendée, which was granted the title of Centre Culturel de Rencontre. Since 2012, the summer music festival brings together Les Arts Florissants, students from The Juilliard School, Arts Flo Juniors and Le Jardin des Voix in the lush greenery of William Christie’s gardens, a French “Monument Historique.”

Photo Credits Above & Back Cover: William Beaucardet
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For further information, please call Pascal Nadon at 646-234-7088 or email pascal@pascalnadon.com

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Please return this form by mail to the address below or email it to pascal@pascalnadon.com

American Friends of Les Arts Florissants  
c/o Françoise Girard  
4 East 88th Street, Apt 7B  
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* Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law
The Maestro’s Circle

The Maestro’s Circle was launched for Les Arts Florissants’ 40th Anniversary in 2019. Circle members pledge three years of support with annual donations of at least $5,000 (a total of at least $15,000 over three years which includes special events support). These gifts help Les Arts Florissants maintain artistic excellence over a multi-year horizon.

In appreciation, Maestro’s Circle members receive the benefits outlined below.

1. Acknowledgement in all American Friends public materials.

2. Priority invitations to American Friends special events and activities.

3. Invitation to a dinner each year with William Christie and/or Paul Agnew.

4. Customized service in ticketing and in planning visits to the Festival.


6. Invitation to a “Rehearsal and Reception” annually.

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