

7<sup>es</sup> Rencontres musicales en Vendée



Dans les  
**Jardins**  
de **William  
Christie**

Thiré  
August 25 to September 1,  
2018

*Les Arts Florissants*  
WILLIAM CHRISTIE

*William Christie • Paul Agnew*



**VENDÉE**  
LE DÉPARTEMENT

PRESS KIT

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## A CELEBRATION OF THE MIND AND THE SENSES



In a year of new beginnings, marked by the launch of the **Fondation Les Arts Florissants – William Christie**, we wanted the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* to reflect this spirit of renewal and adventure by returning to the very origins of the baroque repertoire. And what could fit the bill better than the very first opera to begin with and the ancestor of the Musical to finish?

This summer the superb music of **Monteverdi's *Orfeo*** and the colourful panache of **John Gay's *Beggar's Opera*** will resonate in the gardens at Thiré. By choosing to perform these two contrasting pieces on the Reflecting Pool (the "Miroir d'eau") where the Festival's main stage is located, we wish to offer our public all the freshness and modernity of a repertoire surprisingly varied and inventive. Paul Agnew's new staged version of the idyllic Ancient Greek pastoral will find a charming counterpoint to Gay's mischievous comedy conducted by William Christie and staged by Robert Carsen. No doubt the natural setting of William Christie's gardens will provide a ideal backdrop that will add a whole new dimension to these two masterpieces.

A program of concerts at the village church in Thiré will complete the musical selection, offering moments of individual contemplation in addition to a host of new promenades musicales in the gardens.

Combining the highest musical excellence and the exceptional beauty of its location, the Festival will offer audiences an unforgettable experience that allows them rare proximity to the artists and musicians. Everyone – young and old, novices and seasoned music lovers – is invited to this exciting week-long series of concerts and events, a celebration of the mind and the senses that, we hope, will be unforgettable!

**William Christie**, Musical Director Founder of Les Arts Florissants  
and **Paul Agnew**, Deputy Musical Director of Les Arts Florissants

## EVENING CONCERTS

### **L'ORFEO • CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI**

**August 25 & 26 • 8:30 PM • Reflecting pool ("Le Miroir d'eau")**

*"A show admirable for its sumptuousness and its accuracy"* Christian Wasselin, *Opéra Magazine*

#### **SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE ON DEMAND**

Considered to be the first opera in the history of music, Monteverdi's *Orfeo* tells the story of Orpheus and Eurydice from the pleasures of Arcadia to the sorrows of the Underworld. This production – unveiled in 2017 at the Théâtre de Caen and the Philharmonie de Paris, which went on to enjoy resounding success in London and Madrid – marks Paul Agnew's début on the Festival's emblematic stage. The costumes and décors inspired by the paintings of Nicolas Poussin will find their perfect setting in these idyllic surroundings.

Musical and stage direction: **Paul Agnew**

Orchestra: **Les Arts Florissants**

With : Cyril Auvity (Orfeo), Hannah Morrison (Euridice, La Musica), Paul Agnew (Apollo, Eco), Miriam Allan (Proserpina, Ninfa), Lea Desandre\* (Messaggiera, Speranza), Carlo Vistoli\* (Spirito infernale, Pastore), Sean Clayton\* (Pastore), James Way\* (Pastore), Lisandro Abadie (Plutone, Spirito infernale, Pastore), Cyril Costanzo\* (Caronte, Spirito infernale)

**Tickets: 25 € full price, 17 € reduced price (followed by "Méditation") / 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price (without "Méditation")**



[> Watch a video extract \(link\)](#)

*\* Former laureates of the Jardin des Voix, Les Arts Florissants' academy for young singers*



# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

## CANDLELIT CONCERT • COUPERIN'S *LEÇONS DE TÉNÈBRES*

**August 26 • 8:30 PM • Thiré Church**

A true connoisseur of this masterpiece of sacred music, William Christie will conduct young musicians from New York's Juilliard School at this concert.

Musical direction: **William Christie**

With the musicians of the Juilliard School in New York

**Tickets: 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price (followed by "Méditation")**

[> Watch a short reportage on the Juilliard School in Thiré \(link\)](#)

## CANDLELIT CONCERT • GESUALDO'S *RESPONSORIES*

**August 27 & 29 • 8:30 PM • Thiré Church**

After performing the entirety of Monteverdi's madrigals, Paul Agnew is once again conducting his faithful madrigal singers in an a cappella performance of a work by another composer, Carlo Gesualdo (1566–1613). Less well-known than his contemporary and compatriot, Gesualdo is nonetheless the author of some supremely beautiful sacred music, in particular his *Tenebrae Responsory for Maundy Thursday*, which Agnew has chosen for this concert.

Musical direction and tenor: **Paul Agnew**

With: Miriam Allan, Maud Gnidzaz, Mélodie Ruvio, Sean Clayton, Edward Grint

**Tickets: 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price (followed by "Méditation")**

## CANDLELIT CONCERT • BACH'S *WEIMAR CANTATAS*

**August 30 & 31 • 8:30 PM • Thiré Church**

Written at the ducal court in Weimar, these Bach cantatas mark a new stage in Paul Agnew's exploration of the works of this legendary composer.

Musical direction and tenor: **Paul Agnew**

**Tickets: 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price (followed by "Méditation")**

## MÉDITATIONS À L'AUBE DE LA NUIT

**August 25 - September 1<sup>st</sup> • Thiré Church**

After each evening concert, all are welcome to finish their long day at the festival in a moment of calm and contemplation at the village church in Thiré, where a short program of sacred music will be performed.

**Tickets to the Méditations cannot be bought separately from the concert that precedes them.**



# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

## **THE BEGGAR'S OPERA • JOHN GAY**

**August 31 & September 1<sup>st</sup> • 8:30 PM • Reflecting pool ("Le Miroir d'eau")**

*"In a remarkable teamwork, the dazzling troupe of British actors-singers-dancers and young instrumentalists of Les Arts Flo' (including its conductor) win the jackpot."*

Emmanuelle Giuliani, *La Croix*

### **SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE ON DEMAND**

Written by John Gay in 1728, *The Beggar's Opera* is generally considered to be the very first Musical almost 300 years before this genre became fashionable. By creating a story out of pre-existing songs, John Gay gathered some of the most famous tunes of his time, both classical and popular, and integrated them into a strongly satirical tale which takes place amongst the thieves, pimps and prostitutes of old London Town. For this new production, first performed earlier this year at the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord in Paris before going on an international tour, William Christie and Robert Carsen have concocted a perfect blend of the Baroque in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Both funny and irreverent they have created a very contemporary *Beggar's Opera* with a team of singers and dancers of astounding vitality.

Musical conception and direction, harpsichord: **William Christie**

Stage direction: **Robert Carsen** (stage adaptation : Christophe Gayral)

Orchestra: **Les Arts Florissants**

With: Robert Burt (Mr. Peachum), Beverley Klein (Mrs. Peachum /Diana Trapes), Kate Batter (Polly Peachum), Benjamin Purkiss (Macheath), Kraig Thornber (Lockit), Olivia Brereton (Lucy Lockit), Emma Kate Nelson (Jenny Diver), Sean Lopeman (Filch /Manuel), Gavin Wilkinson (Matt), Taite-Elliot Drew (Jack), Wayne Fitzsimmons (Robin), Dominic Owen (Harry), Natasha Leaver (Molly), Emily Dunn (Betty), Louise Dalton (Suky), Jocelyn Prah (Dolly)

Production C.I.C.T. - Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord • Coproduction Les Arts Florissants avec le soutien de CA-CIB ; Angers Nantes Opéra ; Opéra de Rennes ; Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg ; Opéra Royal / Château de Versailles Spectacles ; Grand Théâtre de Genève ; Théâtre de Caen ; Edinburgh International Festival ; Festival di Spoleto ; Centre Lyrique Clermont-Auvergne ; Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège ; Opéra de Reims / La Comédie de Reims CDN ; Teatro Coccia / Novara ; Teatro Verdi / Pisa ; Attiki cultural Society / Athènes ; Cercle des Partenaires des Bouffes du Nord ; Avec le généreux soutien de la Fondation KT Wong.

**Tickets : 25 € full price, 17 € reduced price (followed by "Méditation") / 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price (without "Méditation")**



[> Watch full video on France TV \(link\)](#)

## AFTERNOONS IN THE GARDEN

25 August to 1<sup>st</sup> September (except for 28 August) • 3:30 PM - 7:15 PM

### PROMENADES MUSICALES • 4:30 PM - 7:15 PM

Every afternoon, singers and musicians present short concerts in different parts of the garden.

**Tickets: 8 € full price, 5 € reduced price, free for the under 3**

### FAMILY WORKSHOPS • 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM

Participative workshops for families, animated by artists from the Festival with links to the evening concerts.

### TOURS OF THE GARDENS & THEMATIC LECTURES • 3:45 PM

Tours of the gardens in French or in English and thematic lectures given in one or two voices by enthusiasts of the gardens, garden specialists, art historians and authors.

### GARDEN NURSERY AND CAFÉ

In need of a short break in-between two concerts, tours or workshops? The nursery (situated inside the gardens) and the "Garden Café" (at Maison de la Fontaine, in the Quartier des Artistes in the village center) welcome you all day long with beverages and snacks.

*Reduced admission: under 26-year-old, those on unemployment benefit, visitors with disabilities (PSH) and holders of the Pass Culture Vendée.*

> [See the complete program online \(link\)](#)



## EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS

### Workshops to get new publics to know Baroque music

*"Art isn't just entertainment; it nourishes us so as to help us live life more fully and become enriched human beings..."*

Paul Agnew

Passionate about baroque music, Les Arts Florissants are keen to pass on that flame to audiences both old and new. Armed with 40 years' experience of performance and stagecraft, the ensemble offers an annual program of educational and outreach activities for all audiences, with a particular emphasis on winning over future generations of concert goers. Audience participation is key to Les Arts Florissants' outreach activities, and it is through trying it out themselves that all who take part - children and adults, amateur musicians and newcomers - are encouraged to appropriate the baroque repertoire for themselves.

### Various workshops are offered before and during the Festival:

- **Family workshops:** 45 minutes of listening, participating, interpreting and learning with stage director and singer Sophie Daneman along with other artists of the festival, on a musical aspect specific to baroque music.
- **School programs in Sud-Vendée:** Les Arts Florissants offer discovery and workshop programs to school groups of all ages. Reflecting the Ensemble's current concert repertoire, these programs allow children to understand everything that goes into staging of a baroque concert or opera, from the conducting to the stage direction to the scenery and costumes. This year, Sophie Daneman and the singers and musicians of Les Arts Florissants are offering a series of fun and participatory workshops to eight primary-school classes in Sud-Vendée. From February to June, pupils will plunge into the world of Johann Sebastian Bach, not only through biography and history but also through Baroque music in general and via a series of enjoyable practical exercises.





## A UNIQUE FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

The Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* came into being in 2012 because of the common desire of both the Conseil départemental de la Vendée and of William Christie. Its aim: to create an absolutely unique event which would unite music and gardens and at the same time promote the magnificent site at Thiré so that it would become better known to a wide public.

*"For a long time, I have nurtured the idea of creating a garden that might become a place for music."*

William Christie

### WILLIAM CHRISTIE'S PASSIONATE PROJECT IN THE VENDÉE

For the past 30 years, in tandem with his international musical career, William Christie has been pursuing his other passion: the creation in Thiré of an ambitious garden around a late 16<sup>th</sup> century house that he rescued from ruin. The delightful and eclectic result has been hailed by critics and experts, and in 2006 was listed on the French supplementary inventory of historic monuments. In 2017, a new phase is being initiated with the granting of the certification "**Centre Culturel de Rencontre**" to the project being run in Thiré by Les Arts Florissants and the endowment Fund Les Jardins de William Christie en Vendée.

### GARDENS AND MUSIC: THE FESTIVAL'S UNIQUE IDENTITY

The particularity of the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* is that it brings together the two chief passions of Les Arts Florissants' founder: music and gardens. A unique approach which draws its coherence from the singular spirit which William Christie has been able to breathe into baroque interpretation and which can also be found in his personal and intimate readings of the art of the garden. The programming of concerts in the open air throughout the day in different festival venues allows the public to have an experience of baroque music in an idyllic setting with no equivalent and vice-versa.



# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

## BRINGING TOGETHER THE PUBLIC AND THE ARTISTS

The Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* also enables another unique experience: that of bringing together the public and the artists in a setting which favours dialogue. Aside from the concerts, numerous workshops, lectures and guided tours are also privileged moments for everyone to come into contact with artists and enthusiasts united around Les Arts Florissants' project.

**More than 8 000 visitors in 2017**

**More than 100 concerts, workshops and discussions**

## A MELTIC POT FOR ARTISTIC EXCHANGES

As well as the musicians and singers of Les Arts Florissants, singers from the Jardin des Voix, participants in the Arts Flo Juniors program and students from the prestigious Juilliard School in New York will all be taking part in this year's event. These young artists will have the opportunity to seek new inspiration in Thiré and to learn from the unparalleled experience of William Christie and the musicians of Les Arts Florissants.

**Over 60 artists in 2017, including:**

**40** musicians and singers from Les Arts Florissants

**9** singers from the Jardin des Voix academy

**2** members of the Arts Flo Juniors program

**1** writer and **4** garden specialists

**9** musicians from the Juilliard School in New York

[> The Festival in videos \(link\)](#)



# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

## CALENDAR (1/2)

### 25 AUGUST 2018

- **3:30 pm:** Opening of the gardens
- **3:45 pm - 4:30 pm:** family workshops / tours of the jardins / thematic lectures (William Christie's gardens)
- **4:30 pm - 7:15 pm:** Promenades musicales (William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* • Paul Agnew (Miroir d'eau, reflecting pool - William Christie's gardens)
- **After the evening concert:** Méditation à l'aube de la nuit (Thiré Church)

### 26 AUGUST 2018

- **3:30 pm:** Opening of the gardens
- **3:45 pm - 4:30 pm:** family workshops / tours of the jardins / thematic lectures (William Christie's gardens)
- **4:30 pm - 7:15 pm:** Promenades musicales (William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* • Paul Agnew (Miroir d'eau, reflecting pool - William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** Couperin's *Leçons de Ténèbres* • William Christie (Thiré Church)
- **After the evening concert:** Méditation à l'aube de la nuit (Thiré Church)

### 27 AUGUST 2018

- **3:30 pm:** Opening of the gardens
- **3:45 pm - 4:30 pm:** family workshops / tours of the jardins / thematic lectures (William Christie's gardens)
- **4:30 pm - 7:15 pm:** Promenades musicales (William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** Gesualdo's *Repons* • Paul Agnew (Thiré Church)
- **After the evening concert:** Méditation à l'aube de la nuit (Thiré Church)

28 AUGUST 2018 : SHUTTING DOWN, NO PERFORMANCE ON THAT DAY

### 29 AUGUST 2018

- **3:30 pm:** Opening of the gardens
- **3:45 pm - 4:30 pm:** family workshops / tours of the jardins / thematic lectures (William Christie's gardens)
- **4:30 pm - 7:15 pm:** Promenades musicales (William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** Gesualdo's *Repons* • Paul Agnew (Thiré Church)
- **After the evening concert:** Méditation à l'aube de la nuit (Thiré Church)

# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

## CALENDAR (2/2)

### 30 AUGUST 2018

- **3:30 pm:** Opening of the gardens
- **3:45 pm - 4:30 pm:** family workshops / tours of the jardins / thematic lectures (William Christie's gardens)
- **4:30 pm - 7:15 pm:** Promenades musicales (William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** Bach's *Weimar Cantatas* • Paul Agnew (Thiré Church)
- **After the evening concert:** Méditation à l'aube de la nuit (Thiré Church)

### 31 AUGUST 2018

- **3:30 pm:** Opening of the gardens
- **3:45 pm - 4:30 pm:** family workshops / tours of the jardins / thematic lectures (William Christie's gardens)
- **4:30 pm - 7:15 pm:** Promenades musicales (William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** *The Beggar's Opera* • William Christie (Miroir d'eau, reflecting pool - William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** Bach's *Weimar Cantatas* • Paul Agnew (Thiré Church)
- **After the evening concert:** Méditation à l'aube de la nuit (Thiré Church)

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018

- **3:30 pm:** Opening of the gardens
- **3:45 pm - 4:30 pm:** family workshops / tours of the jardins / thematic lectures (William Christie's gardens)
- **4:30 pm - 7:15 pm:** Promenades musicales (William Christie's gardens)
- **8:30 pm:** *The Beggar's Opera* • William Christie (Miroir d'eau, reflecting pool - William Christie's gardens)
- **After the evening concert:** Méditation à l'aube de la nuit (Thiré Church)

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## WILLIAM CHRISTIE'S GARDENS

In 1985, William Christie fell in love with the “Bâtiment” in Thiré, an old stone house from the turn of the 17th century, which he decided to rescue from its sad state of ruin. The scrupulous restoration was accompanied by the creation of an ambitious garden, which was labelled a “Jardin remarquable” in 2004 and was listed on the French Supplementary List of Historic Monuments in 2006.

Over the past 30 years, William Christie has created an eclectic series of remarkable outdoor rooms and spaces, each conceived in relation to the main building, which have been hailed by specialists and garden enthusiasts alike for their inventive interpretation of the past. In permanent re-creation, this place conveys an eclectic range of references, from 17<sup>th</sup>-century France to Mannerist Italy to Arts and Crafts England.

### VARIOUS GARDENS INTO ONE

At the Jardin du Bâtiment, visitors will discover the Cour d'Honneur, the terrasses, the boschetto with its collection of cypresses and umbrella pines, the cloister with its box-hedge quadrants, the American garden and also the red garden. Further away from the house are the kitchen garden, the orchard and the reflecting pool which, at its far end, includes a rococo water garden in homage to the grottos and nymphaeas of baroque Italy. William Christie's gardens are cadenced by box, yew and hornbeam, trimmed into hedges, terraces and topiary, or, in the verdant theater, into fantastic chinoiseries inspired by the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### OPENING TIMES IN 2018

- 5-8 May, as part of the Neurodon (2pm-7pm)
- 1<sup>st</sup>-3 June, as part of the "Rendez-vous aux jardins" (2pm-6:30pm)
- 1<sup>st</sup>-10 July (2pm-6:30pm)
- 25 August - 1<sup>st</sup> September during the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*
- 7-30 September (2pm-6:30pm)



## THE FONDATION LES ARTS FLORISSANTS - WILLIAM CHRISTIE

**The Fondation Les Arts Florissants - William Christie was officially enacted by government decree on November 24, 2017 with “public utility” status under French law. Its mission is to perpetuate the work of Les Arts Florissants in the fields of baroque music and the art of gardens artistically, pedagogically and with respect to heritage.**

The creation of the Fondation Les Arts Florissants - William Christie is the culmination of several years' endeavor to establish a permanent institution to perpetuate the life's work of William Christie and Les Arts Florissants in the fields of Baroque music and the art of gardens. **The Foundation is unique in the French cultural landscape, uniting as it does an international musical ensemble with a heritage site (William Christie's Thiré estate, in the Vendée, which became a “Centre Culturel de Rencontre” in 2017).** It is also the only organization of its type to enjoy the status of a foundation under French law. This new legal entity will take over all the activities of Les Arts Florissants, not only artistically and pedagogically, but also with respect to the preservation and management of the Foundation's material and immaterial heritage — the buildings and gardens in Thiré as well as the recordings and publications of Les Arts Florissants. The granting of “public utility” foundation status by the government is, moreover, an active vote of confidence on the part of the French state. Far more than a simple change in administrative status, the Foundation is a new adventure to ensure the long-term, coherent continuation of William Christie and Les Arts Florissants' work.

### SELECTIVE CHRONOLOGY

- 2018** • William Christie is named world ambassador for French culture by Le Bureau Export
- 2017** • Creation of the Fondation Les Arts Florissants - William Christie
  - Les Arts Florissants' project in the Vendée is granted the status of “Centre culturel de Rencontre” (“cultural encounter center”)
  - First edition of the *Festival de Printemps - Les Arts Florissants* (Spring Festival) in the churches of South-Vendée
- 2015** • Beginning of Les Arts Florissant' residence at the Philharmonie de Paris
- 2013** • Paul Agnew is named Associate Musical Director of of Les Arts Florissants
  - Beginning of the rehabilitation works in the “Quartier des Artistes” in Thiré
- 2012** • First edition of the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*
- 2008** • William Christie is elected to France's Académie des Beaux-Arts
- 2007** • Beginning of the partnership with the Juilliard School in New York
- 2002** • First edition of Le Jardin des Voix, international academy for young singers
- 1985** • William Christie buys a property in Thiré (Vendée, France), consisting of a house (Le Bâtiment) and 4 hectares of land
- 1979** • Creation of the ensemble Les Arts Florissants

> New release in June 2018 : special issue of *Connaissance des Arts* (an English version of the magazine will be on sale at the Festival)

## « CENTRE CULTUREL DE RENCONTRE »



### A PERMANENT ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL CENTER IN VENDÉE-PAYS DE LA LOIRE

In 2017, following a decision by the French Ministry of Culture, Les Arts Florissants and Les Jardins de Musique de William Christie were granted the status of “**Centre culturel de Rencontre**” (“cultural encounter center”), which is awarded to projects that associate artistic creation, heritage and outreach.

Recognizing Les Arts Florissants’ role in the rediscovery and bringing back to life of the Baroque music repertoire, as well as William Christie’s commitment to the art of gardens, this status consecrates the project to create an international cultural center in Thiré, in the Vendée-Pays de la Loire region of western France, where Les Arts Florissants have been organizing a large number of artistic, cultural and outreach initiatives for several years now.

The particularity of the Centre Culturel de Rencontre lies in its dual objectives: on the one hand keeping alive a heritage site (the Logis du Bâtiment, William Christie’s gardens and the Quartier des Artistes), on the other developing and promulgating Les Arts Florissants’ activities in the realms of Baroque music and the art of gardens.

#### **THE THIRÉ ESTATE: THE LOGIS DU BÂTIMENT AND ITS GARDENS**

In 1985, William Christie acquired a late 16th-century house (known as the Logis du Bâtiment) and 4 hectares of land in Thiré, in the Vendée region of western France. Since then, in tandem with his international musical career, he has been pursuing his other passion: the creation of an ambitious garden imagined as a place for music, around the house which he rescued from ruin. The delightful and eclectic result – a homage to the apogee of the art of gardens in 16th-century Italy and 17<sup>th</sup>-century France – has been hailed by critics and experts, and in 2006 was listed on the French supplementary inventory of historic monuments. This unique site, which is undergoing constant transformation, is the setting every summer for the baroque-music festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*.

#### **THE QUARTIER DES ARTISTES (the Artists’ Quarter)**

In the heart of the village of Thiré, Les Arts Florissants have established a permanent and international cultural and artistic center. Known as the Quartier des Artistes, and located a short walk from William Christie’s house and gardens, it offers residencies to musicians, musicologists and young landscape designers, as well as a program of concerts, workshops, discussions and public rehearsals. The winners of the Maryvonne Pinault Ephemeral Garden Prize (for young landscape designers) have been invited there for creative residencies since 2015, and the biennial academy for young singers, the Jardin des Voix, took up residence there in 2017.

## THE ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES OF TOMORROW

**All the Les Arts Florissants education programmes dedicated to young artists are represented during the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*.**

#### **LE JARDIN DES VOIX**

Directed by William Christie and Paul Agnew, Le Jardin des Voix welcomes young classical singers who are just starting out in their careers. Founded in 2002, this biennial academy has become an exceptional nursery for international talent. After three weeks’ intensive training, the finalists perform a concert that afterwards tours the globe. Laureates of Le Jardin des Voix go on to have international careers in the world’s most

# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

prestigious concert halls, as well as becoming regular partners of Les Arts Florissants. As of 2017, the Jardin des Voix has found a permanent home in Thiré, in the heart of the Quartier des Artistes and the international cultural center.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JULLIARD SCHOOL IN NEW YORK**

Since 2007, William Christie and Les Arts Florissants have been involved in an exceptional partnership with the most prestigious music conservatory in the U.S., the Juilliard School in New York. The ensemble spends part of each year in residence there, and Juilliard students are also invited to take part in the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*, which gives them the chance to work alongside experienced musicians in an exceptional setting.

Joseph W. Polisi, President  
Ara Guzelimian, Provost and Dean  
Robert Mealy, Director of Historical Performance  
Benjamin D. Sosland, Assistant Dean for the Kovner Fellowships; Historical Performance



## **ARTS FLO JUNIORS**

Launched in 2008, Arts Flo Juniors is an annual program aimed at students reaching the end of their time at the conservatory and offering them their first professional experience. They join the choir and the orchestra of Les Arts Florissants for the duration of a production, and are mentored by members of the ensemble.

## **LE JARDIN ÉPHÉMÈRE (THE TEMPORARY GARDEN PRIZE)**

For William Christie and Les Arts Florissants, supporting the next generation of artists is not only a question of music but also of gardens. Each year, the Maryvonne Pinault Prize invites young landscape designers to explore their creativity by making a temporary garden at William Christie's estate in Thiré. During the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*, the temporary garden becomes a concert venue, hosting some of the many promenades musicales.

## **L'ART DES JARDINS**

Les Arts Florissants also wish to share the pleasure and the skill of artistic gardening. Visits of the gardens open to both adults and young audiences, educational activities linked to gardening, welcoming of young gardeners and landscapers trainees, partnerships with the Maisons Familiales Rurales... Ideas are numerous and never cease to grow.

## **REACHING OUT TO ALL AUDIENCES**

The ensemble offers an annual program of educational and outreach activities for all audiences, with a particular emphasis on winning over future generations of concert goers. Three main types of intervention are proposed: a school outreach program (workshops, class presentations) in the Île-de-France and the Vendée; the opportunity to discover live baroque music for teenagers who had never previously attended classical concerts through the Baroque LIVE program; and workshops and participatory concerts tailored to families.

## **PUBLISHING AND MULTIMÉDIA**

Since their founding, Les Arts Florissants have built up a unique editorial and discographic collection that constitutes a true living memory of baroque music. Les Arts Florissants' publications and recordings are a rich repository that allows everyone to enjoy this rediscovered repertoire, through various formats: scores, CD and DVD recordings (with the collection « Les Arts Florissants » by harmonia mundi), but also an impressive catalogue of online media available for free on [www.arts-florissants.com](http://www.arts-florissants.com)



# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

## CD AND DVD RELEASES

Since their founding, Les Arts Florissants have spent many hours in the recording studio. Their most recent venture is the collection “Les Arts Florissants”, begun in 2015 by harmonia mundi, to which around three titles are added each year. The collection also features re-issues of many of the ensemble’s historic recordings.

more than 100 recordings on CD

more than 20 DVDs

### MONTEVERDI RECENT RELEASES



*Madrigali e Selva Morale* • William Christie  
4 CD box set • harmonia mundi  
*Diapason d'or* • *Le choix de France Musique*

*Orfeo* • Monteverdi • Paul Agnew  
DVD • harmonia mundi



*Madrigaux de Monteverdi* • Paul Agnew  
3 CD box set • harmonia mundi



*Les mille et un voyages de Claudio Monteverdi* • Paul Agnew  
Livre-disque • Little Village / harmonia mundi



*Un Jardin à l'Italienne* • William Christie  
CD • harmonia mundi • Jardin des Voix 2015  
*Le choix de France Musique*



### RECENT RELEASES LINKED TO THE CANDLELIT CONCERTS



*Mass in B Minor* • Johann Sebastian Bach  
William Christie • live in Paris  
CD • harmonia mundi

*Madrigali* • Carlo Gesualdo • William Christie • CD • harmonia mundi (republication summer 2018)

### FUTURE RELEASES & REPUBLICATIONS

*Les Maîtres du motet* • Brossard & Bouteiller • Paul Agnew  
CD • harmonia mundi (new release October 2018)

*La harpe de Marie-Antoinette* • a musical tale  
CD-book • harmonia mundi (new release - youth - November 2018)

*Le Jardin de Monsieur Rameau* • William Christie  
CD • harmonia mundi (republication summer 2018)

*Music for Queen Caroline* • Handel • William Christie  
CD • harmonia mundi (republication summer 2018)

*Cantates* • Nicolas Clerambault • William Christie  
CD • harmonia mundi (republication summer 2018)

*Miserere & Te Deum* • De Lalande • William Christie  
2 CD • harmonia mundi (republication summer 2018 for the 2 titles)

*Petits motets* • Lully • William Christie  
CD • harmonia mundi (republication summer 2018)

[> Les Arts Florissants  
at harmonia mundi](#)

<http://www.harmoniamundi.com/#!/artists/807>

## LE DÉPARTEMENT DE LA VENDÉE

### FAIRE VIVRE L'ÂME DE LA VENDÉE GRÂCE À UNE PROGRAMMATION CULTURELLE RICHE ET DIVERSIFIÉE

Le Département valorise l'identité vendéenne à travers de multiples initiatives culturelles, l'animation de ses sites, le soutien au patrimoine, l'organisation d'événements, comme : les festivals d'été au Château de Terre-Neuve, à l'Abbaye de Maillezais, au Logis de la Chabotterie ou encore à Thiré, sans oublier les nombreux concerts et rendez-vous autour du théâtre proposés sur l'ensemble du territoire vendéen.



Le Département de la Vendée poursuit ainsi une action culturelle ambitieuse qui s'articule autour de deux priorités :

- l'organisation d'événements culturels d'envergure pour permettre aux habitants, où qu'ils soient, d'accéder à des spectacles de qualité,
- la mise en valeur de notre patrimoine afin que les Vendéens s'approprient leur histoire et leur identité.



À travers l'Historial, le Logis de la Chabotterie, le Haras de la Vendée, le Château de Tiffauges, les trois Abbayes du Sud Vendée, le Département anime, depuis 20 ans, 7 sites patrimoniaux en proposant une offre d'animation permanente et des muséographies sans cesse renouvelées.

En 2017, 435 000 visiteurs ont pu apprécier la qualité de l'offre culturelle proposée par ces hauts lieux touristiques préservés.

Mais l'exigence culturelle du Département passe également par le développement et l'amplification d'initiatives dont la renommée n'est déjà plus à démontrer.



Avec la programmation du festival de théâtre de Terre-Neuve, des festivals *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* à Thiré, des Voûtes Célestes et des Voix de Noël aux abbayes de Maillezais et de Nieul-sur-l'Autise et de musique baroque à la Chabotterie, la Vendée organise et accompagne des événements qui la font rayonner en France mais également à l'étranger.

Près de 20 000 spectateurs ont assisté l'an dernier, à ces différents rendez-vous culturels proposés par le Département de la Vendée.



Symbole de cette forte identité culturelle, le festival *Dans les jardins de William Christie* offre chaque année une formidable opportunité pour le public de découvrir les plus belles œuvres du répertoire baroque, à travers l'interprétation de jeunes artistes talentueux et des meilleurs musiciens professionnels, sous la houlette d'un chef d'orchestre de renommée mondiale.

# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

THE FESTIVAL *DANS LES JARDINS DE WILLIAM CHRISTIE* IS PRODUCED BY

Le Département de la Vendée • Les Arts Florissants



Les Arts Florissants are supported by



THE FESTIVAL WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF:

## Grands Mécènes du Festival

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## Amis du Festival

Fleury Michon  
Mme Maryvonne Pinault (Prix du Jardin éphémère)  
Les Pépinières Ripaud de Cheffois

## Partners

The Juilliard School of Music in New York (The participation of Juilliard students is made possible by the generous support of the Sidney J. Weinberg Foundation)  
Le Comité Départemental du Tourisme de Vendée  
La Commune de Thiré  
La Communauté de Communes Sud-Vendée Littoral

Les Arts Florissants also wish to thank all the supporters and partners of their numerous projects, and especially of the Quartier des Artistes

[> See the list of the supporters](#)

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# 2018 Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### GETTING TO THIRÉ

**By plane:** From Nantes Atlantique Airport it's a drive of 1 hour 10 minutes to Thiré.

There are daily flights to Nantes from London Gatwick and London City Airport and from Paris Charles de Gaulle and Paris Orly.

**By train:**

From Nantes TGV railroad station (2 hours 15 minutes from Paris on the high-speed train) it's a drive of 1 hour 10 minutes to Thiré.

**By road:**

Thiré is located approximately 60 miles from Nantes.

Avis and Hertz car rentals are available at both

Nantes Atlantique Airport and Nantes TGV railroad station.

### RESERVATIONS

**Box office:** opening **on 18 June 2018 at 10 AM**

By the **Internet:** [www.evenements.vendee.fr](http://www.evenements.vendee.fr)

or [www.vendee.fr](http://www.vendee.fr)

By **telephone:** +33 (0)2 28 85 85 70

More information on: [www.arts-florissants.com](http://www.arts-florissants.com)

