



Festival

Dans les

Jardins

de

William Christie

Les Arts Florissants'
festival
in the Vendée

19-26 August 2017

Les Arts Florissants
WILLIAM CHRISTIE

William Christie • Paul Agnew



Special edition :

the Jardin des Voix settles in Thiré

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Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

Continuity and rejuvenation

It is a new page in the history of our festival which is being written today because of a major event : **the installation in Thiré of the *Jardin des Voix*, the Arts Florissants' academy for young singers.** Since its creation, this academy has become **a veritable hothouse for the development of the very best talent.** The number of great performers it has revealed and who now pursue first rate careers on the greatest international stages is a testimony to the excellence of this reservoir where one can find the future stars of the opera world.

In Thiré, the *Jardin des Voix* has found its setting and its place. At one and the same time a source of inspiration and a place of learning for young singers, these gardens will also be for the public a place to discover the great voices of tomorrow. It will indeed be on the reflecting pool ("le Miroir d'eau"), the iconic stage of the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*, that **the eighth edition of the *Jardin des Voix* will present the fruit of its labour for the very first time, before leaving for an international tour.** Following on from the famous laureates of the past such as Marc Mauillon, Sonya Yoncheva, Christophe Dumaux, Katherine Watson, Emmanuelle De Negri and Lea Desandre, the future greats will be discovered here in Thiré.

Since its creation, the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* stands out as **a unique event of its kind,** where the highest artistic demands combined with the exceptional beauty of the premises guarantees the public an unforgettable experience, in a proximity with the artists which few sites can permit.

This new edition will follow on from the previous ones. The festival focus will be on youth and discovery, and will propose **a programme of concerts and events which mix the pleasures of music and of gardens** in the idyllic settings of the different festival venues. Evening concerts on the reflecting pool, candlelit concerts in the church, musical promenades in the different garden spaces, pedagogical workshops, guided tours : all and everyone, children and adults, novices and confirmed music lovers are invited to this constellation of emblematic encounters.

A new adventure begins here: but this festival is also the continuation of the story that Les Arts Florissants has never ceased to write for nearly forty years. A story of encounters and exchanges, to which the public as well as the artists make their contribution in an essential way.

Welcome to this renewed version of the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*.

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

Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

Programme

EVENING CONCERTS

"An English Garden" • Jardin des Voix

19 & 20 August • 8:30 pm • Reflecting pool ("Le Miroir d'eau")

A selection of airs by the great masters of English music from Gibbons, Dowland, Lawes, Purcell as far as William Boyce, Thomas Arne and George Frideric Handel.

Musical direction: **William Christie**

Orchestra: **Les Arts Florissants**

With the laureates of the 8th edition of the Jardin des Voix: Natalie Pérez (soprano), Natasha Schnur (soprano), Eva Zaïcik (mezzo-soprano), James Way (tenor), Josep-Ramon Olivé (baritone), Padraic Rowan (bass-baritone)

Tickets: 25 € full price , 17 € reduced price • followed by the "Méditations à l'aube de la nuit"

/ 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price (without the "Méditations")

An evening with Les Arts Florissants orchestra

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

Pieces by Rameau and Handel.

Musical direction: **William Christie**

Orchestra: **Les Arts Florissants**

With **Emmanuelle De Negri** (soprano)

Tickets: 25 € full price , 17 € reduced price • followed by the "Méditations à l'aube de la nuit"

/ 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price (without the "Méditations")



Candlelit concert • Vivaldi, *Nisi Dominus*

20 August • 8:30 pm • Thiré Church

Nisi Dominus and *Stabat Mater* : two masterpieces of sacred music by Vivaldi, with young musicians from the Juilliard School in New York.

Tickets: 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price • followed by the "Méditations à l'aube de la nuit"

Candlelit concert • sacred Monteverdi madrigals

21 & 23 August • 8:30 pm • Thiré Church

The result of his work on the complete cycle of Monteverdi madrigals, Paul Agnew offers a selection from the books three and four, using versions where the composer substituted sacred texts by Coppini to Tasso and Guarini's poetry.

Musical direction, tenor: **Paul Agnew**

With: Miriam Allan (soprano), Maud Gnidzaz (soprano), Mélodie Ruvio (mezzo-soprano), Sean Clayton (tenor), Alan Ewing (bass)

Tickets: 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price • followed by the "Méditations à l'aube de la nuit"

Candlelit concert • Lorenzani Vespers

24 & 25 August • 8:30 pm • Thiré Church

Musical direction, tenor: **Paul Agnew**

Chorus of Les Arts Florissants

Tickets: 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price • followed by the "Méditations à l'aube de la nuit"

Candlelit concert • Carte blanche to Thomas Dunford

26 August • 8:30 pm • Thiré Church

A regular member of Les Arts Florissants' continuo and an acclaimed recitalist, Thomas Dunford invites two singers of the present and the past editions of the Jardin des Voix to interpret the magnificent *Leçons de ténèbres* by Couperin.

With: Thomas Dunford (lute, theorbo), Lea Desandre (mezzo-soprano), NN

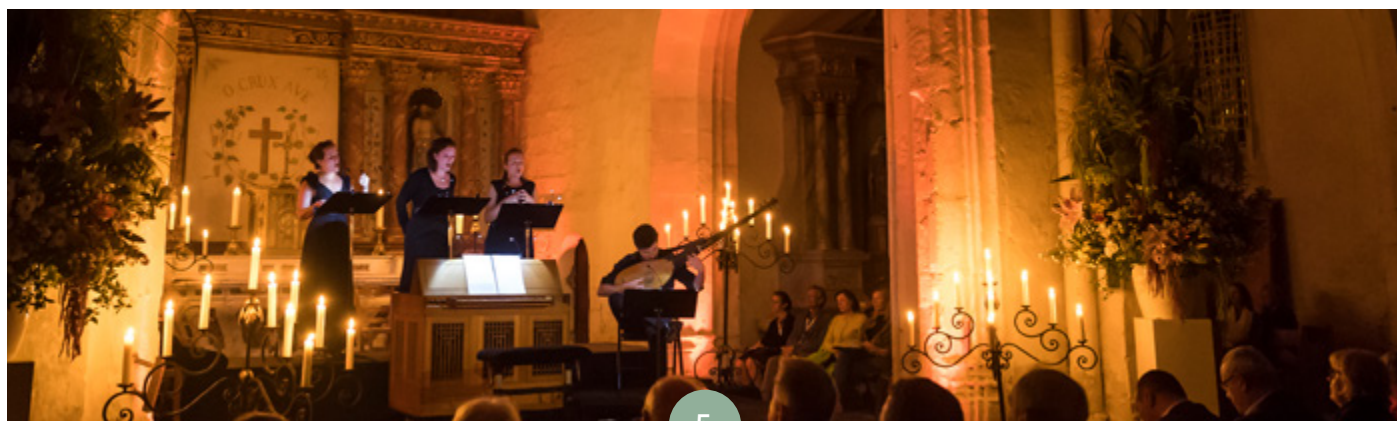
Tickets: 20 € full price, 12 € reduced price • followed by the "Méditations à l'aube de la nuit"

Méditations à l'aube de la nuit

19-26 August • Thiré Church

At the end of each day there will be a 20-minute candlelit meditative concert of sacred music in Thiré church.

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



AFTERNOONS IN THE GARDEN

19 to 26 August (except for 22 August)

3:30 pm - 7:15 pm

About La Fontaine

Public encounters and "promenades musicales" with Erik Orsenna

Imagined with the complicity of academician and novelist Erik Orsenna, Jean de La Fontaine's figure and work will underlie this festival's programme. Various "promenades musicales" will be dedicated to him, gathering composers of his time around themes at the core of his artistic realm such as animals, water and nature, but also witty eroticism. This programme will also echo the release of Erik Orsenna's latest book, *La Fontaine: une école buissonnière* that the author will present during encounters with the public, and the radio broadcasting of the programme "Un été avec La Fontaine par Erik Orsenna" ("A summer with La Fontaine by Erik Orsenna") during August on France Inter.

Promenades musicales • 4:30 pm - 7 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.

[> See the complete programme online](#)



Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

New : the Jardin des Voix settles in Thiré

The 2017 edition of the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* will be marked by a significant event : the installation in Thiré of the Jardin des Voix, Les Arts Florissants' Academy for young singers. Created in 2002, this academy up until now took place in Caen. For the first time it will be at the festival that the public will have exclusive access to the young singers chosen from across the world by William Christie and Paul Agnew to ensure the continuity of baroque music and of the « Arts Flo » style

A unique nursery for the stars of tomorrow

“What is important for us, is teaching young singers and instrumentalists how to communicate their music to each and every member of the audience in the sincerest way possible.”

Paul Agnew

Directed by William Christie and Paul Agnew, Le Jardin des Voix welcomes young classical singers who are just starting out in their careers. 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. These laureates go on to have international careers in the world's most prestigious concert halls, as well as becoming regular partners of Les Arts Florissants.

50 new talents since 2002 from 16 different countries

Among the outstanding finalists:



Lea Desandre, mezzo-soprano / France • 7th edition (2015)

[Consult her biography on her website](#)

Emmanuelle De Negri, soprano / France • 4th edition (2009)

[Consult her biography on her website](#)



Katherine Watson, soprano / United Kingdom • 4th edition (2009)

[Consult her biography on her website](#)

Sonya Yoncheva, soprano / Bulgaria • 3rd edition (2007)

[Consult her biography on her website](#)



Christophe Dumaux, countertenor / France • 1st edition (2002)

[Consult his biography on his website](#)

Marc Mauillon, baritone / France • 1st edition (2002)

[Consult his biography on his website](#)



[> Learn more on the Jardin des Voix](#)

The Jardin des Voix 8th edition

For the first time the six laureates of the Jardin des Voix will be welcomed in total immersion in the heart of the village of Thiré in an artistic residential space which has been created by Les Arts Florissants : the "Quartier des artistes". They will perform at the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*, in the company of the musicians of Les Arts Florissants and of the Julliard School. A chance for the public to discover the future stars of the opera stage.

The laureates



Natalie Pérez, soprano / France
[Read her complete biography](#)

Natasha Schnur, soprano / Germany
[Read her complete biography](#)



Eva Zaïcik, mezzo-soprano / France
[Read her complete biography](#)

James Way, tenor / United Kingdom
[Read his complete biography](#)



Josep-Ramon Olivé, baritone / Spain
[Read his complete biography](#)

Padraic Rowan, bass-baritone / Ireland
[Read his complete biography](#)



The concerts

"Our eighth edition of the Jardin des Voix will be dedicated to music written in England. Coming across the great masters of English music, from Locke, Byrd and Dowland to Weldon and Purcell, not to forget England's most famous adopted son, George Frederic Handel, as well as John Ward and Thomas Arne, our singers will disguise their efforts, their technique and their sophistication to seem as natural, charming and fresh as an English garden."

William Christie & Paul Agnew

19-26 August at the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* :

- 19 & 20 August: semi-staged concert **"An English Garden"**
- 19-26 August (except for the 22): "promenades musicales" (short extracts)

2017 – 2018: international tour of the Jardin des Voix

International tour beginning in Nantes and going on to Paris, Moscow, London and Madrid.

Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

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 16th century manor 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.



Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

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.

Nearly 8.000 visitors in 2016

More than 100 concerts, workshops and discussions

A melting 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, including:

40 musicians and singers from Les Arts Florissants

4 singers from the Jardin des Voix academy

2 members of the Arts Flo Juniors program

1 narrator, 1 author and 4 garden specialists

9 musicians from the Juilliard School in New York



[> The festival in videos](#)



Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

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.

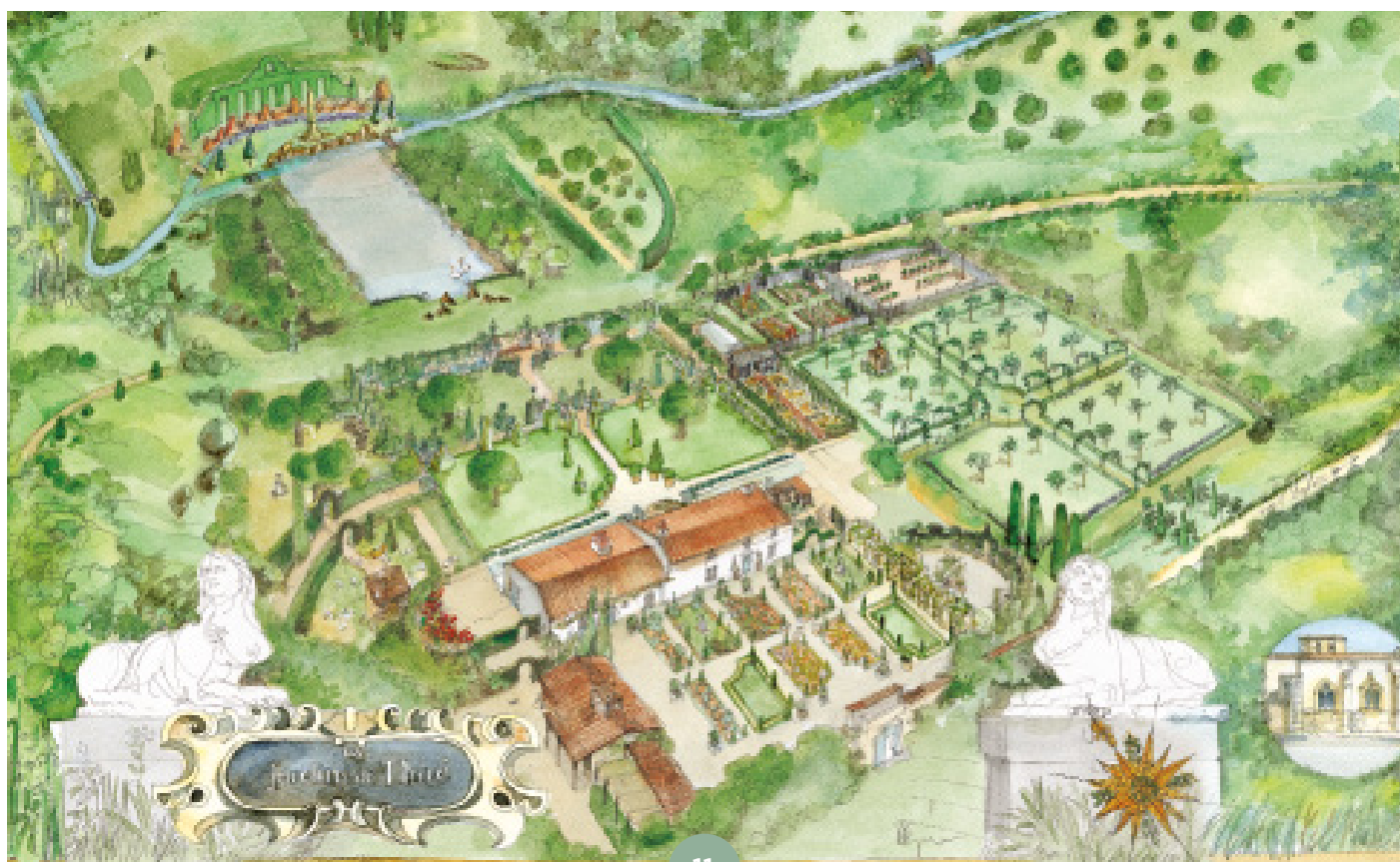
Over the past 30 years, William Christie has created an eclectic series of remarkable outdoor rooms and spaces, each conceived in relation to the main building, which have been hailed by specialists and garden enthusiasts alike for their inventive interpretation of the past. In permanent re-creation, this place conveys **an eclectic range of references, from 17th-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 18th century.

Opening times in 2017

- During the “Rendez-vous aux jardins” : 2, 3 & 4 June
- 1st-10 July and 1st-30 September, from 1pm to 7pm
- During the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*: 19-26 August (free access for the concert tickets owners)



Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

The perpetuation of William Christie's oeuvre

Implemented by the endowment fund “Les Jardins de Musique de William Christie en Vendée” and Les Arts Florissants, the perpetuation of William Christie's oeuvre is based on two founding principles: an artistic and cultural project of international dimensions centred around the rediscovery of music and the art of gardens, and the development of an historic site which is unique and original.

Passing on Les Arts Florissants' passion, culture and savoir-faire to the next and to future generations

Les Arts Florissants' role in the defense and promotion of Baroque musical heritage is recognized the world over, and the Ensemble is now looking to pass on its savoir-faire and ensure its long-term future.

A “Centre Culturel de Rencontre” in Thiré in the south of Vendée

It is in the perspective of perpetuity that a cultural and artistic site is being developed in Thiré in the south of Vendée – in the exact place where almost forty years ago, Les Arts Florissants was born. The project of a permanent site run by “Les Jardins de Musique de William Christie en Vendée” and by Les Arts Florissants has led to the acquisition of the certification “**Centre Culturel de Rencontre**” in 2017. A veritable cultural complex dedicated to baroque music is being created at this time, around an artistic “campus” open onto the village and to the world: the “**Quartier des artistes**”. It has a double vocation: to be a place of work for artists and young landscape gardeners in residence, and to become a place to meet with the public. The work in progress should be finished by 2018.

Towards a Foundation Les Arts Florissants – William Christie

Over the next few years, in several stages, Les Arts Florissants and “Les Jardins de Musique de William Christie en Vendée” will consolidate their activities in the form of a single foundation that will be legally recognized as being “of public utility” (d'utilité publique), and whose role will be to promote and safeguard the artistic heritage of Les Arts Florissants – with respect not only to music but to the world of the Baroque in a wider sense – appealing to audiences as diverse as possible both in France and abroad. The project is currently studied by the French Ministry of the Interior.



Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

Key dates

- 2017** • First edition of the Festival de Printemps / Spring Festival; The Jardin des Voix settles in Thiré
- 2016** • Obtention of the label "Centre culturel de rencontre"
- 2015** • Les Arts Florissants take up residence at the Philharmonie de Paris;
Launch of the Maryvonne Pinault Prize for a Temporary Garden, aimed at young landscape designers
- 2013** • Paul Agnew becomes deputy musical director of Les Arts Florissants;
Start of building work on the future "Quartier des Artistes" in Thiré
- 2012** • First edition of the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*;
Founding of the endowment fund "Les Jardins de Musique de William Christie en Vendée"
- 2007** • Beginning of the partnership with the Juilliard School in New York
- 2006** • The house and garden at Thiré are listed on the French Supplementary Inventory of Historic Monuments
- 2004** • Label "Jardin Remarquable"
- 2002** • Creation of Le Jardin des Voix, an international academy for young singers
- 1985** • William Christie acquires a property at Thiré, in the Vendée
- 1979** • William Christie founds Les Arts Florissants



[> Learn more on the label «Centre Culturel de Rencontre »](#)

Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

Education

Workshops to get new publics to know baroque music

"Art isn't just entertainment; it's a way of educating ourselves so as to live life more fully and become more accomplished 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.
- **Workshops preceeding the festival** : the Les Arts Florissants' artists will accompany several classes in the south of Vendée as part of a course of study stretching over many months and covering several baroque themes. Furthermore, each year in June, the artists will meet young children and adolescents from Thiré and Saint Hermine at workshops with the schools or the club network to introduce them to music or baroque dance.



Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

Supporting young artists

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. These laureates go on to have international careers in the world's most prestigious concert halls, as well as becoming regular partners of Les Arts Florissants.

50 new talents since 2002 from 16 different countries

Partnership with the Juilliard School in New York

A renowned New York institution, The Juilliard School is located in the heart of Manhattan's cultural capital, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. Since its founding in 1905, Juilliard has set the standard in the United States for education in the performing arts. Each year since Juilliard Historical Performance's inception, William Christie and a group of musicians from Les Arts Florissants have been received for extended residencies at the school, which include coachings, master classes, and public concerts. The New York Times has twice included these concerts in its "Ten best of the season" list.

By opening a department of early music with Les Arts Florissants, the Juilliard School has helped to give a new impetus to American musical life. The presence of Les Arts Florissants at the Juilliard School has been an exemplary creative exercise that is now helping to promote the development of specialized exchanges between the United States and France in the domain of baroque music. For the fifth consecutive year, the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* will welcome the most promising students from the early music department at the Juilliard School.

Between 8 and 10 Juilliard students present at the Festival each summer

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



www.juilliard.edu

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.

30 students welcomed since the founding of the program

The Maryvonne Pinault temporary garden prize

Founded in 2015, this annual prize invites young landscape designers to create a temporary garden suitable for hosting a concert as part of the promenades musicales during the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*. In 2017, the jury will give free rein to two young landscape designers: Marguerite Ribstein and Grégory Cazeaux. The ephemeral garden that they will create will constitute a new setting for one of the "promenades musicales" offered during the festival.

[> Learn more on the vocational training programmes](#)

Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

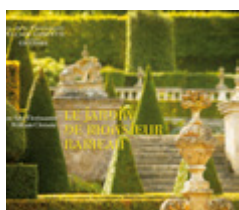
CD and DVD releases

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 rereleases of many of the ensemble’s historic recordings.

more than 100 recordings on CD

more than 20 DVDs

The Jardin des Voix discography



Le Jardin de Monsieur Rameau

CD • Les Editions Arts Florissants (Jardin des Voix 2013)

Le choix de France Musique

Le Jardin des Voix

CD • Virgin Classics (Jardin des Voix 2005)

Baroque Académie

DVD • Bel Air (Jardin des Voix 2007)



Latest Les Arts Florissants releases



Madrigali e Selva Morale • William Christie

4 CD box set • harmonia mundi (spring 2017)

Diapason d'or • Le choix de France Musique

Venezia • Paul Agnew

CD • harmonia mundi (spring 2017)

Le choix de France Musique • ffff Télérama



Les mille et un voyages de Claudio Monteverdi • Paul Agnew

CD-book • Little Village / harmonia mundi (spring 2017)

La Harpe Reine: Music for Marie-Antoinette • William Christie

CD • harmonia mundi (fall 2016)

Le choix de France Musique



Future releases

Orfeo • Monteverdi • Paul Agnew

DVD • harmonia mundi (fall 2017-18)

Un Jardin à l'Italienne • William Christie

CD • harmonia mundi

(Jardin des Voix 2015 • fall 2017-18)

Le choix de France Musique

Monteverdi madrigals • Paul Agnew

3 CD box set • harmonia mundi (fall 2017-18)

> Les Arts Florissants
at harmonia mundi

Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

Online resources • downloads

Online videos

[YouTube playlist on the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*](#)



Downloadable elements

[> Consult our press professional access](#)

Login : LAF-presse

Password : LAF-presse_2017

Biographies

Les Arts Florissants : [Français](#) - [Anglais](#)

William Christie : [Français](#) - [Anglais](#)

Paul Agnew : [Français](#) - [Anglais](#)

Photos of the festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

[William Christie's gardens](#)

[Concerts](#)

[Promenades musicales](#)

[Arts Flo Juniors](#)

[Jardin des Voix](#)

[Education](#)

Plans

[Map of the gardens](#) (© Alain Boulouyre)

[Map of the Quartier des artistes](#) (© Alain Bouldouyre)

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Stimulate the soul of the Vendée thanks to a rich and varied cultural programming

The Département promotes the identity of the Vendée through multiple cultural initiatives, the animation of its sites, support given to architectural heritage, event organisation such as summer festivals at the Château de Terre – Neuve, the Abbaye de Maillezais and the Logis de la Chabotterie and of course in Thiré; without forgetting the numerous concerts and theatre performances which take place over the whole of the Vendée.



The Conseil Départemental de la Vendée pursues an ambitious programme of cultural action which is organised around two priorities:

- the organisation of major cultural events allowing inhabitants wherever they are to have access to quality performances
- the promotion of our architectural heritage so that the inhabitants of Vendée learn about their history and assume their cultural identity.

With the Historial, le Logis de la Charbotterie, le stud farm of the Vendée, the Château de Tiffauges, the three abbeys of south Vendée, The Département has for almost twenty years looked after and run seven heritage sites by initiating a constant supply of permanent activity and continually renewed museographies.



In 2016, 433.000 visitors (an increase of 6% in comparison with 2015) were able to appreciate the quality of what is on offer at these magnificently preserved top tourist sites.

However the quality of the Département's cultural policy also requires the development and elaboration of its initiatives, the reputation of which now is firmly established.



With the programming of the Théâtre de la Terre Neuve which is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary this year, the festivals of Voûtes Célestes and the abbeys of Maillezais and of Nieul-sur-l'Austrie and baroque music at the Chabotterie, the Département of the Vendée organises, supports and accompanies events which give the Département a strong cultural framework and promote its image in France and abroad.

Last year, around 200.000 spectators attended the Vendéspace or the performance venues of the Département at the cultural events put on by the Conseil départemental.



A strong symbol of this cultural identity, the festival *Dans les jardins de William Christie* which gives a wonderful opportunity every year to the public to discover the most beautiful music of the baroque repertory, with the interpretation by young talented artists and the best professional musicians, under the guidance of an internationally renowned conductor.

Anchored today in the Département's cultural season, the festival *Dans les jardins de William Christie* always playing to a full house has attracted last year over 8.000 spectators who attended more than a hundred "promenades musicales" or concerts.

Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

Organization of and support

The festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* is produced by:

The Conseil départemental de la Vendée

Les Arts Florissants, in association with Les Jardins de Musique de William Christie en Vendée, certified "Centre Culturel de Rencontres"



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The Ensemble has been in residence at the Philharmonie de Paris since 2015.

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Les Pépinières Ripaud de Cheffois
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- **For the Maison de la Fontaine** : Helen & William Little, Mr Theodore Rogers & Mrs Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Mr Elward Bresett, The Versailles Foundation Inc., The Danny Kaye and Sylvia Fine Kaye foundation, the Marotte society
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Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* 2017

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 8 June 2017

By the **Internet** : www.evenements.vendee.fr

or www.vendee.fr

by **telephone** : +33 (0)2 28 857 857

Informations on www.arts-florissants.com

