

{GROUNDS}

A baroque big band

Improvisation is one of the pillars of baroque music. Whether it be for the standards of the time, these airs, songs or popular madrigals so renowned throughout Europe that they were played everywhere, or the repetitive and ostinato bass – known as grounds in England – musicians let their imagination run freely by improvising or ornamenting with virtuosity and genius.



Baroque practice of improvisation is nowadays rarely heard in concerts : L'Achéron plans to create a baroque big band, a team of musicians representative of the early XVIIth century, coming together to improvise on these classics and grounds for which so many composers wrote works that are famous today.

These well known airs will be sung by Chantal Santon-Jeffery while the instrumentalists develop their themes into infinity, acting as a basis for an impromptu voyage. Even respecting the stylistic codes of the times, parallels with jazz are evident: the musicians have a chorus, they dialogue, exchange, provoke each other, creating, flowing and changing colours, creating a spontaneous rhetoric. The notion of concert takes on another meaning : each performance is unique and the present ever more ephemeral....

13 musicians

Improvisations upon Lamento della Ninfa, Zefiro Torna, Si dolce e' tormento (Claudio Monteverdi), Folle è ben que si crede (Tarquinio Merula) Ancor que col partire (Cipriano Rore), la Bergamasca, La Monica, Passemazzo Antico & moderno, etc...

- Release in 2020 -

L'Achéron

Chantal Santon-Jeffery, soprano

Marie Rouquié, violin

Sarah van Oudenhove, violone

Lambert Colson, cornetto & recorder

Johanne Maitre & Mélanie Flahaut, recorders & doucians

Rémi Lécorché, trombone

Miguel Henry & Romain Falik, lutes

Yoann Moulin & Philippe Grisvard, keyboards

Peré Olivé, percussions

François Joubert-Caillet, viols & direction



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