


A close-up portrait of a man with a dark beard and mustache, looking slightly to the left. He is wearing a dark, textured jacket. To his left, the neck and scroll of a viola da gamba are visible, featuring a dark wood finish and a scroll with a carved face. The background is dark and out of focus.

FRANÇOIS JOUBERT-CAILLET

viola da gamba

A photograph of François Joubert-Caillet, a man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a dark red sweater. He is smiling and looking down at a viola da gamba he is holding. The instrument is a long-necked, fretless string instrument with a pear-shaped body and a scroll-shaped head. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

François Joubert-Caillet is now a leading figure on the viola da gamba, following in the footsteps of the pioneers of early music by bringing to light forgotten beauties, but also by breaking down the boundaries between different types of music with cross-disciplinary projects (traditional, contemporary, computer-assisted music, improvisation, contemporary dance, etc.).

After studying the recorder, piano and double bass, he went on to study the viola da gamba with Paolo Pandolfo at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, and improvisation with Rudolf Lütz. He won **1st Prize and the Audience Prize at the Bruges International Chamber Music Competition**, and has performed with various ensembles and recorded for the **Ricercar**, Harmonia Mundi, Ambronay, K617, ZigZag Territoires, Arcana, Winter&Winter, Aparté, Glossa, Sony and Naïve labels.

Since 2009, he has taken **L'Achéron** to some of Europe's greatest concert halls, and has made a number of recordings, including the complete recording of his *Pièces de Viole* by **Marin Marais**, *Le Nymphé di Rheno* in duet with **Wieland Kuijken** or the *Pièces de Viole de Sainte-Colombe le fils* published by Ricercar-Outhere, which have been awarded **Diapasons d'Or**, **Chocs de Classica** and **Echo Klassik**.


He was appointed **Professor of viola da gamba** at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, succeeding August Wenzinger, **Jordi Savall** and **Paolo Pandolfo**.

François Joubert-Caillet also founded **Albus Fair Editions**, an independent, fair-trade and eco-friendly publishing house in 2021. He has published a first opus of his own works for viola da gamba and electronic music, **Isola**.

His most recent publication is the complete recording box of **Marin Marais Pièces de Viole** (20 CDs).

THE FIRST BREATH

Voice of the Orient Churches

A man in a dark shirt is seated on the left, playing a viola da gamba. A woman in a dark, long-sleeved dress is seated on the right at a podium, singing into a microphone with her arms outstretched. The background is a light-colored wall with a pattern of small, dark, heart-like shapes.

This programme invites you on a spiritual journey to the origins of Christianity. Crossing the centuries, from the 3rd to the 17th, Syriac, Maronite, Byzantine and Catholic chants dialogue with the viola da gamba, alternating between Baroque pieces and moments of improvisation that weave an organic link between East and West. This meeting highlights the continuity of the spiritual impulse since its Aramaic roots, the very language of Christ. The power of this ancient voice blends with the intimate elegance of the viola da gamba, creating an unexpected union of hope, mercy and contemplation: every note becomes a prayer, every silence, a meditation. More than a concert, this sound experience offers a return to our roots, where the breath of the Spirit unites, across the ages, East and West in a single sacred harmony. An invitation to rediscover the foundations of our shared spiritual heritage.



Work session



*Elbphilharmonie concert
Best of*



Ghada Shbeir, voice

Ghada Shbeir, a Lebanese singer and musicologist renowned for her interpretations of traditional Arabic songs, particularly Arab-Andalusian muwashshahât, as well as for her work in preserving and passing on the heritage of Oriental music.

She teaches Oriental music at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), where she is head of the Department of Oriental Music. She is also in charge of the university's Oriental choir, helping to train new generations of singers specialising in the classical Arabic repertoire and muwashshahât.

Throughout her career, she has given numerous concerts in various countries and performed at prestigious international festivals and cultural events. She has also led several conferences and workshops dedicated to muwashshahât, maqâms and the techniques of oriental singing.

Her artistic work has been recognised with several awards, including the prestigious BBC World Music Award for her album Moushahat. Furthermore, she has published two specialist books, one on muwashshahât and the other on maqâms, thereby contributing to the documentation and transmission of these fundamental elements of Arabic music.

