



# PELLÉAS

ORCHESTRE DE CHAMBRE



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## The dream of an orchestra

Exciting and open-minded, the musicians of the Orchestre de chambre Pelléas decided at the very outset to create their own, very special, world of music.

Together with **Benjamin Levy**, conductor and musician among musicians, they dreamed of forming a chamber orchestra with its own distinctive modus operandi and outlook, where they could breathe deeply the **air of freedom, joy and fraternity offered by chamber music but performed by a full-scale orchestra.**

A **democratic and independent ensemble**, jointly managed by a committee of musicians whose sole motivation is the joy of performing, at the same time maintaining the highest demands of excellence. An ensemble turned towards new discoveries and bringing renewed life to the French repertoire of the XIXth and XXth centuries, which are often forgotten. Finally, a historically informed ensemble, which has chosen to apply on modern-day instruments the discoveries made on period instruments.

Today, more than ever, the musicians, conductor, the support team, as well as the many, many musical partners encountered throughout the twelve years of Pelléas's existence, are living their dream, a sort of **orchestral utopia** where the **quality of human relationships, the desire to enjoy and share** the precious moments of a concert, their sensitivity to each other, are still the most valued and fragile objectives to be attained.

The orchestra performed in the last seasons on the main stages in France and Europe : The Amsterdam Concertgebouw, The Essen Philharmonie, Théâtre du Châtelet, Opéra-Comique, Cité de la Musique - Philharmonie de Paris, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Théâtre de l'Athénée, MC2-Grenoble, and at Festivals de Besançon, Auvers-sur-Oise, Radio-France Montpellier, Grachtenfestival-Amsterdam, Feldkirch and La Folle Journée de Nantes.

Its concerts are frequently broadcasted by France Musique and Radio Suisse Romande. Their Beethoven recording with violinist Lorenzo Gatto published by Zig-Zag Territoire received an unanimous welcome.

Among upcoming projects, Orchestre de Chambre Pelleas plans for 2018-2019 a new session of 'La Frabrique de l'orchestre' and a concert version of **Debussy's Pelleas et Mélisande** with Sabine Devieilhe. In september 2019, they will perform for first time at George Enescu International Festival in Bucarest.



## PROGRAMMES 2019-2020

### COCK-A-DOODLE-DOO!

Benjamin Lévy and the musicians of the Orchestre de chambre Pelléas have concocted a very French fête straight from the Paris of the Belle Epoque and the Roaring Twenties.

Russian-born virtuoso Alexandra Soumm is acknowledged today as one of the most brilliant violinists of her generation. She brings her own particular generosity and passion to Ravel's virtuoso Tzigane and Darius Milhaud's exhilarating Cinéma-Fantaisie for violin and orchestra. The latter, written in 1919 for a Charlie Chaplin silent film, was the basis for Milhaud's ballet The Ox on the Roof.

The Orchestre de chambre Pelléas' transparent colours provide a perfect medium for the very French spirit of this music: Bizet's melodic charm, Debussy's poetic melancholy and Chabrier's bubbling humour.

#### PROGRAMME

DEBUSSY	Sarabande
RAVEL	Tzigane
MILHAUD	Cinéma-Fantaisie – Le boeuf sur le toit for violin and orchestra
CHABRIER	Bourrée Fantasque
BIZZET	Symphony in C
or <b>POULENC</b>	<b>Sinfonietta</b>

**with Alexandra Soumm, violin**

Duration: 90 minutes with interval  
45 musicians + 1 conductor + 1 soloist (violin)



**Alexandra Soumm** French violinist Alexandra Soumm is a multi-faceted artist who is equally at home in concerto and chamber repertoire. She performed with many prestigious orchestras in the world and develops relationships with many leading orchestras in France.

She was a member of BBC Radio 3's New Generation Artist roster 2010-12, during which time she worked with most of the BBC ensembles.

Alexandra Soumm has recorded two CDs : First concertos by Bruch and Paganini in 2008, And the complete sonatas for violin and piano by Edvard Grieg (with David Kadouch) in 2010.

Along with two friends, Alexandra founded non-profit organization Esperanz'Arts in 2012, a collaborative of more than 60 artists performing in schools, homeless shelters, prisons and hospitals. She was named Godmother of the newly established El Sistema France in 2013.

[alexandrasoumm.com](http://alexandrasoumm.com)

## JENNIFER LARMORE, AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

All aboard to party our way across the Atlantic with the fabulous Jennifer Larmore, our very own mezzo-soprano American in Paris.

Despite the tragic events which unfolded throughout the world during the first half of the 20th century, a current of joyful and astoundingly lively music developed against the background of the horrors of two world wars. Across the Atlantic George Gershwin, and the musicals of Leonard Bernstein, Victor Herbert and Irving Berlin echoed the music of their European contemporaries Kurt Weill, Jacques Ibert and Albert Roussel, as well as the charmingly Parisian operettas of Henri Christiné and Maurice Yvain

### PROGRAMME

CHRISTINÉ	Phi-Phi - Ouverture
BERNSTEIN	I feel Pretty tiré de West Side Story
WEILL	Youkali - musique de scène pour Marie Galante
YVAIN	Ta Bouche - Ouverture
WEILL	O Foolish Heart tiré de One Touch of Venus
IBERT	Divertissement pour Un chapeau de paille d'Italie de Labiche
LOEWE	I could have danced all night tiré de My Fair Lady
GERSHWIN	Summertime tiré de Porgy and Bess
SIMONS	3 extraits tirés de Toi c'est Moi
ROUSSEL	Suite Fantaisie tirée du Testament de la Tante Caroline
BERLIN	What'll I do
CHRISTINÉ	Dédé - Overture
HERBERT	Art is Calling for me tiré de The Enchantress
OFFENBACH	« Ah quel dîner... » tiré de La Périchole

Duration: 1h30 with interval

39 musicians + 1 conductor + 1 mezzo-soprano



Jennifer Larmore began her career at Opera de Nice in 1986 and sings since then at virtually every major opera house in the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, Paris Opera, Tokyo, Berlin Deutsche Oper, and London Covent Garden. under the batons of maestros Muti, Bernstein, Masur, Maazel, Osawa, Barenboim etc.

Jennifer Larmore has recorded more than 100 discs and has been awarded the Richard Tucker Prize as well as a Gramophone award of the best baroque opera recording in *Giulio Cesare* published by Harmonia Mundi. She is a seven times nominee at the Grammy awards and has been invited to sing at the closing ceremony of the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta (USA).

Jennifer Larmore was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture in February 2002.

« The larger than life presence of Jennifer Larmore » The New York Times

## STÉPHANE DE GROODT FAIT SON CARNAVAL

The Orchestre de chambre Pelléas invited humorist and comedian Stéphane de Groodt to give a new twist to the famous Carnival of the Animals. His zany talent and crazy text have shaken up Monsieur Saint-Saëns' menagerie quite a bit, with cocks and hens, tortoises, elephant and kangaroo all running wild....

This entire programme is devoted to light entertainment, from Reynaldo Hahn's Suite Hongroise to the Divertissement Jacques Ibert wrote to accompany Eugène Labiche's comedy The Italian Straw Hat. Our version of Poulenc's double piano concerto, starring the dazzling sister-duo Lidija and Sanja Bizjak, is perfectly in keeping with Poulenc's own proud description of his work as 'pure entertainment!'

### PROGRAMME

HAHN Suite Hongroise for violin, piano, strings and percussion  
POULENC Concerto in D minor for two pianos and orchestra  
IBERT Divertissement pour Un chapeau de paille d'Italie de Labiche  
SAINT-SAËNS Carnival of the Animals  
**with Pablo Schatzman, violin**  
**Lidija and Sanja Bizjak, piano**  
**Stéphane de Groodt, narrator**

Duration : 1h20 with interval

44 musicians (soloists : 2 pianos and 1 violin) + 1 chef + 1 récitant



Born in 1966 in Brussels, **Stéphane de Groodt** begins his career as a professional racing driver before starting his acting career. At the same time he develops from his childhood a passion for humour and showplaying. In 2006 he created the series *File dans ta chambre*, broadcast on channels France 2, RTBF and Canal+ Belgique.

Since September 2012, he presents a weekly chronicle on the program *Le Supplément* broadcast on Canal+ where he talked about his meeting with famous characters in a humoristic tone with a mixture of wordplay and puns.

His absurd and very literary humor make him often think about other famous humorists such as Raymond Devos and Pierre Desproges. His talent has been highlighted by French Minister of Culture, Aurélie Filipetti, with the Award Raymond Devos.

In May 2015 Stéphane de Groodt was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Minister of Culture Fleur Pellerin.



## BENJAMIN LEVY, CONDUCTOR

Very active on both symphonic and operatic stages in Europe, Benjamin Levy has been named in 2016 musical director of the Orchestre de Cannes - Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur.

Benjamin Levy recently conducted the Rotterdams Philharmonisch, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Nederlandse Reisopera (Bizet, The Pearl fishers in 2015), Stansilavsky theatre - Moscow (Pelléas and Mélisande by Debussy, Olivier Py) Moscow Philharmonic, Umeå Opera (Sweden), Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne, Radio Filharmonisch Orkest, Radio Kamer Filharmonie, Gelders Orkest, Residentie Orkest - The Hague and Noord Nederlands Orkest. Benjamin begins a new collaboration with the Icelandic Opera (Don Giovanni & Eugene Oneguine in 2016).

In France, Benjamin Lévy conducted many orchestras such as Orchestre National de Montpellier, Orchestre National d'Ile-de-France, Orchestre National de Lorraine, Opéra National de Lyon, Orchestre Poitou-Charentes, Opéra de Rouen, Opéra National du Rhin, Opéra de Limoges, Théâtre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Opéra de Saint-Etienne, Orchestre National de Lyon, Orchestre Colonne, Orchestre Symphonique et Lyrique de Nancy or the Orchestre Lamoureux.

Among recent engagements, we can notice Nederlandse Reisopera new production (Flying Dutchman in 2018), the opéra de Tours, the orchestre Lamoureux, the Amsterdam Opera and many other projects with his Orchestre de chambre Pelléas alongside leading artists as Jennifer Larmore or Sabine Devieilhe.

In 2005, he was awarded the "Musical Revelation Prize" by the French Union of Music Critics and in 2008, he received the "ADAMI - Young Conductor Award".

Founder of the Orchestre de Chambre Pelléas, he performed with this open-minded and democratic ensemble many concerts in France and Europe.

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[www.orchestrepelleas.com](http://www.orchestrepelleas.com)

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**LISTEN / WATCH**

<http://bit.ly/PelléasVidéos>



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