

SPEEDMEETINGS SUBSCRIPTION FORM

COMPANY : Les Folies françaises

First name : Patrick / Jérémy

Last name : Cohën-Akenine / Licourt

e-mail : pca@foliesfrancoises.com / jl@foliesfrancoises.com

Describe your company in a few words :

The ensemble *Les Folies françaises* plays the repertoire of the 17th and 18th centuries under the direction of violinist Patrick Cohën-Akenine, in the same spirit of freedom, plurality and creativity, which motivated the musicians of the "Grand Siècle". With the idea of recreating the original baroque French sound, Patrick Cohën-Akenine and the Folies françaises were at the heart of the project of the *Vingt-quatre violons du Roy*, conducted together with the Centre de Musique baroque de Versailles in 2008.

Depending on the repertoire, the size of the ensemble changes from 2 musicians (violin and harpsichord) to a complete orchestra.

2016 will be a very exciting year for the ensemble, who will perform together with world-class soloists in some very prestigious venues. Highlights of this season will be:

- Johann Sebastian Bach concerti for 2 and 3 harpsichords (gathering three laureates of the Bruges International harpsichord competition: Béatrice Martin, Jean Rondeau, Benjamin Alard) in Paris and Orléans in March
- a Scarlatti oratorio with Philippe Jaroussky, Valer Sabadus and Sonia Prina in April, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Berliner Konzerthaus, Brussels Bozar, Théâtre de Poissy and Opéra de Massy.
- Lully's *Armide* will be performed in the Musikfestspiele Potsdam Sanssouci

Transmission is also very important for the ensemble, whose members teach in prestigious French conservatories. Thus, *Les Folies françaises* are very invested in training young musicians and singers, and often conduct masterclasses and academies.

Another important focus of the ensemble is the exploration of the fruitful relationship between baroque repertoire and contemporary creation. *Les Folies françaises* have already worked with contemporary composers such as Kaija Saariaho or Thierry Pécou. And in 2017, they will work on Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with the Mexican composer Antonio Juan Marcos.

Which project would you like to present during your speedmeeting sessions:

1/ Vivaldi's 4 Seasons – with compositions of Antonio Juan Marcos (2017 creation)

« *The commission consists on creating a composition that puts into music the four sonnets that Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) used as a descriptive basis for his set of four violin concertos "The Four Seasons" (1725). The idea proposed by Mr Cohën-Akenine is to regularly play the new commissioned piece before the performances of "The Four Seasons", therefore creating a concert program that is half contemporary and half baroque, but that is thematically unified by the sonnets. The working title of the piece for now is "Paesaggi Corporei" (Corporeal Landscapes) and the instrumentation would be the same as the one that "Les Folies Françaises" uses for "The Four Seasons" with the addition of a soprano that will sing (and sometimes recite) the poems. The proposed instrumentation consists of 3 first violins, 3 second violins, 2 violas, 1 cello, 1 double basse + continuo (italian harpsichord and theorbe-also playing the archilute). The musicians use period instruments.*»

Antonio Juan Marcos

2/ Airs italiens, de Lully à Campra – with Mailys de Villoutreys (soprano)

At the 17th century, Italian culture had a strong influence on French cultural life. From theater to music, numerous links were created, and brought a lot of freshness into France's cultural landscape.

This program is built in two very distinctive parts, which will bring the audience successively to two different repertoires, from Lully's *Plainte italienne* to Campra's virtuoso arias *Al incanto d'un bel volto*, *Per piacer al mio ben*, etc.

It will be created in July 2016 at the Prague International Early music Festival.

3/ Bach, the European – 2018 tour

2018 will be the 20th anniversary of Beatrice Martin's 1st prize at the Bruges international harpsichord competition. *Les Folies françaises* will celebrate this date with Johann Sebastian Bach, showing the perfection that the Kantor managed to reach in every European style. The program includes 1 harpsichord concerto (BWV 1052) for which Béatrice Martin and the ensemble were granted a "Diapason d'Or" in 2011, the *Suite n°2 in B minor*, pieces of *The Musical Offering*, and the Brandenburg Concerto n°5 in D major.

www.foliesfrancoises.com

facebook : Page 'Les Folies françaises'

Twitter : @foliesfran

Youtube channel : Les Folies françaises