

## SPEEDMEETINGS SUBSCRIPTION FORM

COMPANY : ENSEMBLE MASQUES

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Describe your company in a few words :

The international slate of early-music specialists known as **Masques** is acclaimed for their expressiveness, the eloquence of their interpretations, and the dynamic musical involvement of each member. From the outset, Masques received instant international attention, winning the Grand Prize in the Dorian/Early Music America Competition in 2000, and being selected finalist at the York Early Music Competition in 2001. The name of the ensemble is inspired by the masques of Elizabethan England — mystical performances that fused poetry, music, dance and drama. The six members of Masques, who hail from Canada, France, Australia, Finland and Belgium, work as a chamber ensemble without conductor. Their uncommon chemistry combines razor sharp ensemble with a spontaneity and freedom that brings to life the inherent theatricality of 17th and 18th century repertoire.

Recent tours have taken Masques across France, Canada, and to the US and Mexico where appearances have included The Frick Collection, The University of Chicago, the San Diego Early Music Society, Milwaukee's *Early Music Now*, and The National Gallery. In Europe they have appeared in Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Germany, and in the UK at London's Wigmore Hall. Masques has just released a new CD devoted to the instrumental music of Romanus WEICHLIN. Released on the French label ALPHA, it has been awarded a "DIAPASON d'OR" as well

as a “CHOC” of the Classica magazine. Other critically acclaimed releases on the ZIG ZAG Territoires label, the ATMA and Analekta labels include Johann Rosenmüller – *Sonatas in 2, 3, 4 and 5 parts; Mensa Sonora – Biber and his Contemporaries; Bach: Concerti and Sonatas* and *Rameau Complètes Pièces de clavecin en Concerts*

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

I. **THE WORLD BEFORE BACH** (6 musicians)

Johann Sebastian Bach is perhaps the most towering figure in music history. Ever since Felix Mendelssohn revived his works, Bach has never ceased to be with us. From his Passions to The Art of Fugue to his famous “Air”, Bach is so widely admired and beloved that it is hard to imagine ever having been without him. But there was a world before Bach, and in it lived a league of composers on whose legacy he stands. In this program, Ensemble Masques looks beneath the foundations of the great J.S. to uncover the astonishing atmosphere of the World Before -- a musical landscape of breathtaking richness, beauty and invention.

II. **BACH : OVERTURE-SUITES** early version, 1 musician per part (9 players)

Bach orchestral suites as we could have heard them in the famous ZIMMERMANN coffee house of Leipzig. The suite no. 2 in B minor is showing in the surviving manuscript parts, that it existed first in A Minor, a tone lower than the extant version in B Minor. The latter is scored for solo flute and strings, but the flute is precluded in the A-Minor version because it falls out of the range of the instrument. Masques presents this suite in this earlier version in A minor with the extraordinary oboe player Jasu Moisiu.

III. **TELEMANN : OVERTURE-SUITES**, program created for the 250 anniversary of the death of Telemann in 2017. 1 musician per part (6 to 9 players).

This program includes the famous suite Don Quixote as well as the Polish Concerto. Humour, virtuosity and inspired music making through this colorful program.

- IV. **BUXTEHUDE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES** : Program created for the 500 years anniversary of the Reformation. Presented in collaboration with the vocal ensemble Vox Luminis (6 musicians and 10 singers).
  
- V. **Other projects available** – French and English répertoire.