

SPEEDMEETINGS SUBSCRIPTION FORM

COMPANY : **Choeur de chambre Mélisme(s), Gildas Pungier**

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Describe your company in a few words :

« Ambassador » is the key to understanding the work of Gildas Pungier and his Mélisme(s) Chamber Choir which he formed in 2003. It is all about transmitting energy and music vibrations, from the individual to the group, from the singers to the audience and finding a way to their hearts. It is also about telling stories, from a big *Requiem* with orchestra to the more intimate works of Schubert or Brahms, from the *Chansons écossaises* by Paul Ladmirault to *Les sept paroles du Christ en croix* by César Franck.

Mélisme(s) currently favours three main lines : German romantic music, French music of the late 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, including Breton composers (Ladmirault, Ropartz, Le Flem), and works for chorus and wind ensemble (« Harmoniemusik ») with the ensemble A Venti.

The Chamber Choir has often worked in association with Jean-Christophe Spinosi's ensemble Matheus, notably at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, the Halle aux Grains in Toulouse and the Luxemburg Philharmonic. It has also been invited to the Sablé-sur-Sarthe, Lanvellec, Utrecht and La Chaise-Dieu festivals.

Based in Brittany, the ensemble is frequently invited around the region, especially to the Rennes Opera, and aims to reintroduce Breton composers to their birthplace as well as to French and European stages. The arrival of Marthe Vassallo, a well-known traditional Breton singer, as an associated artist to the ensemble comes as a confirmation of this commitment to the music in its home region. More recently, actor and stage director Jean-Michel Fournereau joined Mélisme(s) as an associated artist, initiating a new field of experimentation where music meets story telling and the theatre arts.

Again, Mélisme(s) acts as an ambassador through being involved in local teaching projects in schools and conservatoires, with children's choruses, amateur choirs as well as prison inmates.

Discography, seasons, photos and videos on **www.melismes.fr**.

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

1 - Haydn – « The Creation »

3 soloists, 12 chorus singers, wind octet on early instruments (Ensemble A Venti, dir Jean-Marc Phippe), double-bass and positive organ.

In 1789, Die Schöpfung (The Creation) brings fame to J. Haydn. By proclaiming that man was created in God's image, his german oratorio keeps Hildegard von Bingen's vision alive over the ages.

Around 1800, oboist Georg Druschetzky makes Haydn's opus famous by transcribing it for « Harmoniemusik », a very popular genre at that time. Based on Druschetzky's transcription for 8 wind instruments and double bassoon or double bass, this new version (*) gets the original vocal parts (solos and choir), as well as parts not transcribed by Druschetzky, back into the score, cutting back doubles between instruments and voices and strengthening some instrumental parts in order to amplify the presence of the wind ensemble. The accompanied recitatives have been entirely transcribed and a few numbers, which had been shortened in the version for wind ensemble, completed.

This daring programme, while carrying humanity's everlasting mystical questioning, crosses the limits of the baroque era with this re-creation of Haydn's masterpiece, in which the voices of Mélisme(s) breath new life alongside A Venti's winds.

> Video and details on <http://goo.gl/c8y4gS>.

2 – Schubert « Voyages divers : une schubertiade du XXle siècle »

Speaker, 8 singers and piano

Strange destiny for Franz Schubert, a modest teacher's son in the Viennese suburbs who showed this early talent for music which led him to this amazing career : his obvious charisma and his many friends cannot hide his sometimes painful solitude, exactly as his uncontested success in Lied and chamber music could not make him forget his failure in Opera.

In this programme, Mélisme(s) aims at creating a convivial musical moment based on what Schubert used to do in his time, gathering his friends, poets and musicians around him. Those warm moments will lead us to the deep sensitivity of this traveller searching for himself, through texts written and read by associate artist Jean-Michel Fournereau and pieces for choir and piano.

> Videos and details on <http://goo.gl/8ZS5Uj>.

3 - « Viens avec moi charmante brune »

**« Come with me lovely brunette », popular songs by Breton composers and Beethoven
8 to 12 singers, violin, cello, piano.**

Among French composers, Mélismes(s) has a special focus on Breton composers. This programme, named after a song by Jean-Guy-Ropartz, is devoted to popular songs from Brittany and other Celtic countries. The arrangers and composers are Paul Le Flem, Ropartz, Bourgault-Ducoudray, Paul Ladmirault and... Beethoven who, at the request of a London publisher, wrote arrangements on popular song from Ireland, Wales and Scotland.

Associate artist Marthe Vassallo, who is one of the great voices in Breton traditional music as well as a classical singer, is the point of contact between the original songs, which she sings in the traditional way, and their arranged version sung by the other soloists or by the choir.

> *Video and details on* **<http://goo.gl/pe2j3s>**.