

SPEEDMEETINGS SUBSCRIPTION FORM

COMPANY : Ensemble Discantus / Centre de musique médiévale de Paris

Brigitte LESNE (in french and spanish, available until 15:00) Anne PIFFARD (English), Alain GENUYS (French)

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Describe your company in a few words :

Discantus is women vocal ensemble that brings alive the vocal repertoire, primarily sacred, of the Middle Ages from the first Western musical notation of the 9th century up to the 15th century.

Founded in 1989 under the direction of Brigitte Lesne, it brings together passionate singers from diverse backgrounds capable of adopting a vocal style appropriate to the medieval repertoire, uniting unique individual timbres to form a coherent ensemble sound. Since the 2000's, Discantus' handbells became like the "signature" of the ensemble.

Invited to the most prestigious festivals, Discantus performs regularly in France, in Western, Central and Eastern Europe (Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland) and as far as Fes in Morocco, Beyrouth in Lebanon, New York, Perth, and also in Colombia.

The 13th recording, "the Argument of Beauty" (sacred polyphonies by Gilles Binchois, at æon recordings) was rewarded as 2010 best recordings of the year by *Le Monde* newspaper. In 2014, « Music for a King » - also by æon – alternates 11th century repertoire with two pieces commissioned to young composers using texts of Boethius. Discantus keeps enlarging its repertoire with two new programs incorporating typical medieval stringed instruments (harp, hurdy-gurdy, psaltery, fiddle) played by the singers themselves: "A path to the field of stars, pilgrim's songs" and "Santa Maria, At the court of Alfonso el Sabio".

The **Centre de musique médiévale de Paris** is the Producer of the ensembles Alla francesca Discantus Alta. It was created as a place of transmission of knowledge on the interpretation and the performance of Middle Ages music. Regular workshops and punctual training courses are proposed all year round for both professional training and for the practice of the amateurs.

Since the 2008, the Centre for Medieval music assures the programming of concerts-meetings at Cluny Museum, National Museum of the Middle Ages in Paris.

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

Santa Maria ! / Music at the court of Alfonso X, Spanish 13th century

This programme will honour the well-known collection of **Santa Maria cantigas**. We will also hear devotional songs by Guiraut Riquier and Folquet de Lunel (who stayed at the court of Alphonso “the Wise”), gregorian chant and sacred polyphonies from **Las Huelgas** manuscript.

Discantus / Brigitte Lesne / 7 female voices and handbells, psaltery-harp, fiddle, hurdy-gurdy, percussion
CD release April 2016 - Creation 2015

video from the creation : <<http://www.march.es/videos/?p0=6842&l=1>>
<<http://discantus.fr/fr/menu-programmes/a-la-cour-d-alfonso-x>>

A Path to the Field of Stars / Pilgrim's song, St James and the Virgin

Centered on **codex Calixtinus** and the pilgrimage of **Compostela**, this concert will also take us to **monastery of Montserrat**. It will be punctuated by traditionnal pilgrim's songs, from Renaissance to nowadays...

Discantus / Brigitte Lesne / 6 female voices and handbells, psaltery-harp, percussion
Creation 2015 – CD released October 2015

<<http://discantus.fr/fr/menu-programmes/un-chemin-d-etoiles>>

L'Argument de beauté *Causa pulchritudinis*

Splendor of **sacred polyphonies** by **Gilles Binchois** (1400-1460) alternating with English anonymous carols. and 15th centuy plainchant.

Discantus 9 a cappella female voices directed by Brigitte Lesne / wind trio **Alta** may also join
CD published in 2010 by Æon (best CD of the year by *Le Monde*)

<<http://discantus.fr/fr/menu-programmes/l-argument-de-beaute>>

Music for a King 11th and 21st centuries

The Troparion of Winchester is one of the must beautiful testimony of nascent polyphony. Gregorian chant and 'organized' two-parts chant celebrate Easter time and the crowning of Edward “the confessor” in 1043. As a counterpoint, two creations, works by young composers Pierre Chépélov and Joel Rust (UK) on texts of Boethius.

Discantus / 6 female voices a cappella and handbells
CD released March 2014, by æon

<<http://discantus.fr/fr/menu-programmes/music-for-a-king>>

8th centenary of the Dominicans

Dominican plainchant and 13th century polyphonies according to Jérôme de Moravie alternate with songs to the Virgin from the «Rosarius» manuscript, compiled by a Dominican brother of Poissy at the beginning of the 14th century.

Discantus / 6 female voices a cappella and handbells
Creation 2016 - Toulouse, July 21st

<<http://discantus.fr/fr/menu-programmes/dominicains-8e-centenaire>>

And also ...

Jubilo cum carmine: Splendor of the royal chapels - 15th century

In this imaginary concert offert by a delegation of Czech nobles at Brussels in 1466, the vocal ensemble meets “high” and “low” instruments to evoke the splendor of European sacred music. Between Middle Ages and Renaissance, Franco Flemish polyphonies respond to the *canciones sacrae* of Bohemia.

Discantus / Brigitte Lesne / 9 female voices and set of bells and **Alla francesca & Alta** / recorders, fiddle, lutes, harp, shawms, slide trumpet, percussion...

<<http://musiques-medievales.fr/fr/menu-programmes/jubilo-cum-carmine>>