

SPEEDMEETINGS SUBSCRIPTION FORM (French or English)

COMPANY : Ensemble Des Equilibres

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Describe your company in a few words :

Des Équilibres is a French chamber music ensemble that varies in size. It includes orchestral musicians, conservatoire teachers, and nationally renowned soloists and chamber musicians. Founded in 2006 by its artistic director, the violinist Agnès Pyka, it now offers a variety of programmes in various formations, performing a large repertoire of rare music dating from the eighteenth century to the present day in France and elsewhere in Europe. This desire to explore less familiar musical avenues led them to devote their first recording to the two string quartets by Hungarian-born Swiss composer Sandor Veress. Recorded on the Hungaroton label in 2011, the CD (on which the second quartet was a world premiere) won high acclaim from the international music press. They have just recorded Bartok's 44 duos for two violins, performed with Jan Talich, on the Indésens label.

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

"Still Point"

Creation by Ray Lema for Himself and Des Equilibres Quartet

At the initiative of the Marseille City Council, a meeting between the ensemble Des Equilibres and Ray Lema seemed to be obvious from the start. Encouraged by their differences, the artists wished to take this project far, to combine chamber music and jazz and even African sounds. Ray Lema's composition for the ensemble Des Equilibres in their formation as a string quartet and himself promises to be unprecedented and push the boundaries.

"This 'rest-point' or 'Still Point' as T.S.Eliot refers to it, has a particular resonance for a musician originating from central Africa as I do. It perfectly expresses the trance-like state found in our traditional music. Placed outside of time and space, it is the present moment, the fragile pivotal point, never-ending in order to conserve an apparent immobility in the naked simplicity, fruit of the very sophisticated rhythmic knowledge possessed by the ancient masters.

Like a tightrope walker at the horizontal crossing of rhythmic African wheels and the vertical western harmonies, the compositions that I hear created for my meeting with the ensemble Des Equilibres, directed by Agnès Pyka with her string quartet, will be searching for this particular point where souls, emptied by constant intellectual chatter, find themselves in the presence of the music, nothing but the music..."

Ray Lema