

De Caelis 2019-2020
Direction Laurence Brisset

20 years!

To celebrate its twentieth anniversary, the ensemble De Caelis has chosen to explore the two facets of the French word "spirituel": that pertaining to the soul and that meaning 'witty' or 'amusing'. Their new season will be sparkling and joyful. Besides being energetic, historical and experimental it will also lift its sights towards the heavens ... One doesn't turn twenty every day!

New avenues open up and the ensemble continues to venture where least expected. Its unusual programmes ally past and present in a single breath of vitality and bold creativity.

The Middle Ages abounded in humour and the grotesque, inventing, discovering, transgressing and moulding ideas, words and notes with verve. We encountered this same vitality in Regis Campo and his two pieces written for this year of festivities.

These programmes are highly accessible and, in order to savour them to the full, we offer keys to listening, encounters, workshops, conferences and, above all, projects inviting the public to participate in the very heart of the creative process. Sharing, meeting and exchanging will be the order of the day.



Cultural Action

Opportunities for amateur singers

The ensemble promises you a year of discovery and unprecedented musical pleasures. To make this little-known repertoire more easily accessible, we use the SmartVox system, an application conceived by the composer Jonathan Bell, with the aid of IRCAM.

Like an on-line game, SmartVox allows one to take part in a work without necessarily being able to read music. With simply a cell-phone and earbuds, the performer is guided and has only to reproduce what he hears. The voices are simultaneously orchestrated by a computer, thus creating a "polyphony network", accessible to all.

This brilliant system allies cutting edge technology with artistic experience, opening up a whole range of possibilities and permitting the user to approach the creative process by taking part in it. It is also a fun way of encouraging the young people to use cell phones in a creative manner and to enter a musical and poetical world that, without such a well-chosen bait, they might have rejected.

THE CHATTERERS

Words and Motets past and present.

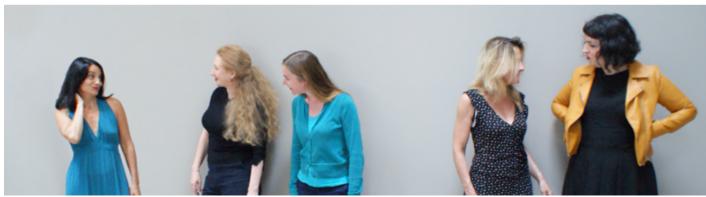
Anonymous works from the 18th century, Clément Janequin, John Cage, Georges Aperghis, Jacques Rebotier, Régis Campo and texts by Gherassim Luca

Scenography Eric Louviot

For 5 a capella voices and narrator

Curious, truculent and droll, this programme designed for the ensemble's 20th birthday takes words for its raw materials. The ensemble plays with words and notes, giving pride of place to humour and theatricality. Motet, motetus, comes from the French word for 'word': mot. The form plays skilfully with musical discourse and the art of dialectics, at times exaggerating, at others hiccupping, mocking or praising, with each motet rivalling the others for invention. Here, medieval motets are juxtaposed with more recent pieces from the Renaissance and the 20th century that share their spirit, their penchant for word and note play and experimentation.

Two works composed for the occasion by Régis Campo provide a truly contemporary framework for this adventure. Music and poetry intermingle and give loquacious tongues ample leisure to exercise their art.



PRAY FOR PEACE

Gregorian chants and anonymous polyphonic works from the 14th century, improvisation For 6 a capella voices

This programme gives expression to female figures - those of the Medieval West and of the modern-day East, in music of ecstasy and rapture. Pray for Peace is inspired by the angels, those messengers from the invisible world who people the Christian, Jewish and Muslim firmaments alike. The word angelus comes from the Greek aggelos and corresponds to the word mal'ak in both Hebrew and Arabic which means messenger. In this programme, Gregorian chant and anonymous 14th century polyphonic works dialogue with the exceptional voice of Sara Hamidi, whose improvisations evoke other skies, uniting east and west in a prayer for peace. Women's voices have often been silenced in this world. This is still the case in many countries, as will testify this young Iranian singer, who has braved the ban on women performing in public and chosen exile rather than silence.

"Pray for peace" is the first line of a poem by Charles d'Orléans (1394-1365).





ARS NOVA

The new art of music, 1320 -2020

Motets by Philippe de Vitry and Guillaume de Machaut, Three Voices for three unaccompanied voices by Morton Feldman

For 5 a capella voices

Each of these three great composers disrupts the established codes of their period and, with great energy, opens up new horizons whose astonishingly invigorating air De Caelis invites you to breathe.

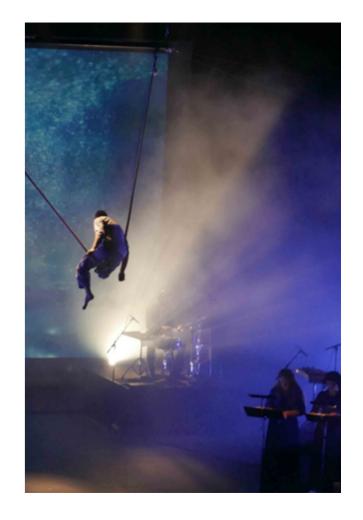
The title of this programme was inspired by the Ars Nova treatise, written in 1320 and attributed to Philippe de Vitry, in which countless musical innovations that permanently changed the course of music history are described. The works of Philippe de Vitry and Guillaume de Machaut are illustrious examples of this. Morton Feldman is an emblematic composer of the 20th century. His oeuvre is transgressive, surprising and, of course, innovative. Three Voices, composed in 1982, is characterised by its unifying use of modes and subtle play of rhythmic juxtapositions. The work weaves an intimate, peaceful and sparkling discourse. The dialogue between these two periods is particularly rich and interesting. It reveals a common taste for experimentation, for venturing into new territory in pursuit of the unknown.

CONSTELLATIONS

Steve Reich, Pérotin, Stockhausen, Pink Floyd, Bell. For voices, keyboards, percussion, electronics and smartphones.

A constellation is an ensemble of stars joined by imaginary links. Our stars are musical. De Caelis and Links have come together here to build a bridge between the music of *Ars Antiqua* and that of today. This bridge blithely spans the centuries, revealing on its way the fact that the work of Pérotin, a composer who dazzled the Western world of the 13th century, clearly proves a fertile ground for Steve Reich in Proverb and Pendulum. We dream of the stars with the marvellous *Tierkeis* by Stockhausen, take off with Pink Floyd's *On the Run*, and float away with Jonathan Bell's *Le Temps des Nuages*, a setting of a text by Michel Onfray using SmartVox participation.

There will be a concert performance and a semi-staged version. The latter features a colourful and spectacular aerial ballet by the circus performer Julien Cramillet who takes flight and dallies with dizzy heights against a background of hypnotic videos of constantly evolving chemical reactions by the artist Hicham Berrada.



CONTACT

The De Caelis Ensemble enjoys the support of the DRAC Normandie, and the Normandy Region and receives the aid of ADAMI, SPEDIDAM, the Musique Nouvelle en Liberté and the Institut Français. It was awarded the Prix Liliane Bettencourt for choral singing (2016). The Ensemble's sponsor are the Fondation Bettencourt Schueller and Mécénat Musical Société Générale. De Caelis is a member of

Profedim, the Federation of Specialized Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles (FEVIS) and the Futurs composés network

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DE CAELIS

www.decaelis.fr +33 (0)6 03 08 50 37

Laurence Brisset, artistic director direction@decaelis.fr

Aurélie Gorce, managing director direction@decaelis.fr

Céline Landais, production/distribution production@decaelis.fr

80, rue d'Athis 61100 Flers - France

















