



■ PRAY FOR PEACE

Gregorian chants, sacred polyphonies of the XIVth century, Persian improvisations

am associates the sacred song of the western Middle Ages with the mystic poetry of the East, improvised, according to the learned tradition of the Radif, the Persian classic song, on texts of the big mystic poets of medieval Iran.

In 2009, Radif is registered as immaterial cultural heritage of the humanity by the UNESCO.

Programme for 6 singers

Duration : 1h20

■ CONTACT : Aurélie Gorce, manager - +33 (0)6 03 08 50 37
direction@decaelis.fr
www.decaelis.fr

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This program gives voice to the feminine figure of the medieval West and the East of today in a music of the ecstasy and the delight. Pray for peace is inspired by the angels, the mediators of the invisible, who populate the sky of the Christians, as that of the Jews and the Muslims. The word angelus comes from Greek aggelos, it corresponds to the mal'ak in Hebrew and in Arabic which means messenger.

This program consists of Gregorian pieces and anonymous polyphonies of the XIVth century having a dialogue with the exceptional voice of Sara Hamidi, improvising, like an invocation which comes from the other heavens, for the time of a peace prayer. The voice of the women was often killed in the world. It is even today in numerous countries, as should be a witness this young Iranian singer who breaks the prohibition made for the women occur in public and chooses the exile rather than the silence.

Sara Hamidi improvises according to the model of Radif, taught orally as the tradition requires it.

In Radif, it is about characteristic melodic motives for every mode. The interpreter has to know them by heart to use them as material of his improvisation.

Iran is the country of the archetypal poetry. The singer chooses the texts on which he will improvise. In this program, Sara Hamidi will sing the poetry of Khayyâm, Haafez and Rûmî.

This meeting, so much symbolic, highlights the affinities of two civilizations of the medieval world. Breath, melismas, sound arabesques, ornaments and modalities find themselves in both traditions. So they can answer, unite without becoming confused nevertheless ever.

Sarah Hamidi



Sara Hamidi was born in Isfahan. She studied Radif, directory of the Iranian classical music, with Maédeh Tabatabaei, pupil of M.R Shajarian, the current choir-master in Iran.

Noticed by her great talent and the stamp of her voice, she integrates very fast groups of musicians such as the Choir of Isfahan. Unfortunately the political and religious conditions of Iran forbid the women to sing publicly in soloist. Sara Hamidi, as quite different singer of her country, cannot thus occur there except a choir or except a vocal ensemble. She leaves Iran in 2012 to settle down in France where she can develop her art, collaborate with various ensembles and sing quite freely. Since her arrival, she participated in numerous private or public concerts, in the Institute of the Arab World, in the embassy of Afghanistan for a concert given on the occasion of the world day of the woman, in the BBC, in the RTBF, in the Netherlands, Sweden, Spain, Germany ...

Ensemble De Caelis



Five a cappella women's voices

Formed in 1998 by its artistic director Laurence Brisset, the De Caelis Ensemble specialises in the performance of unaccompanied vocal works of the Middle Ages. The Ensemble's passion for this little-known repertoire has resulted in a body of work that is based upon knowledge of original sources, of systems of notation and of the context of the works concerned.

The Ensemble likes to spur unlikely encounters between the masters of the past and those of today. It places early music in a living and creative process, shedding new light on our heritage.

Ground of experimentation and research into timbre, ornamentation and improvisation, De Caelis invites every season composers to discover the specificities of its directory. The Ensemble is committed to the creation and performance of contemporary works and presents them in programmes intended to create resonances between two periods of great creative innovation: the Middle Ages and the present day.

De Caelis explores spaces: the art of the singing a cappella offers a singular experience which takes shape as well in old places as in current rooms. The desire to transmit these past and present writings by the naked voice, at the same time fragile and powerful, remains the ambition of the Ensemble.

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), and that Foundation will be supporting the Ensemble in the years to come. The Ensemble's primary sponsor is 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.