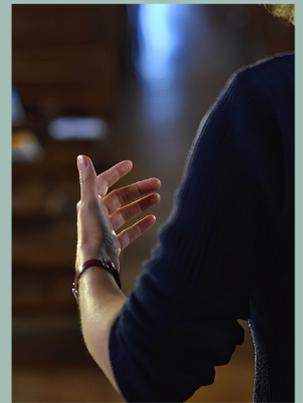




The emergence of the power of the Catholic Church in Italy at the beginning of the 17th century favoured the commissioning of a multitude of pieces for religious services. There was no chapel or religious establishment that did not have the services of the greatest composers of the time and its own musicians.

Alongside the gigantic masterpieces written for princely or papal chapels (such as Gabrieli's polychoral works or, of course, Monteverdi's Vespers of the Virgin), compositions of more modest dimensions were eagerly sought after by the clergy and nobility in search of spirituality and fervour.



The greatest composers thus passionately devoted themselves to the art of the reduced model, which nevertheless allowed them almost total expressive freedom: Monteverdi with his one- or two-voice motets, both luminous and sensual, so close to opera music, Frescobaldi in his madrigals with their intense theatricality, or Cazzati and Grandi in their sublime and virtuoso antiphons to the Virgin.

It is this ultimate closeness between composer and listener that the Céladon ensemble invites you to discover, in an atmosphere that is both intimate and mysterious, crowned by Tarquino Merula's sublime and haunting lullaby. A concert full of chiaroscuro, an immersion in the mysticism and ecstasy of faith.

This programme was created for the 15th anniversary of the Céladon ensemble, which is being repeated in the Rhône-Alpes region.

Ensemble Céladon | Paulin Bündgen

Clara Coutouly, soprano
Paulin Bündgen, countertenor
Nolwenn Le Guern, viola da gamba
Florent Marie, theorbo
Caroline Huynh Van Xuan, positive organ

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ENSEMBLE CÉLADON

Borrowing its name from the hero of Honoré d'Urfé's *Astrée*, the ensemble Céladon explores the heritage of early music with charm and fantasy, seeking to reinvent the form of its concerts at each of its events.

Led by the singer Paulin Bündgen, the Ensemble enjoys exploring the repertoire linked to his countertenor tone and seeks to escape from the beaten track between medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music.

Since its formation in 1999, the Céladon Ensemble has created concert programmes with a strong and original identity, such as *Deo Gratias Anglia*, *Devozioni Veneziane*, *Les Douze figures de Marie*, *A la Muse Céleste* and *Nuits Occitanes*. To date, the ensemble has made 10 recordings.

The Ensemble is as interested in recreating forgotten works as it is in staging shows: *Sea Change*, the result of work with the singer-songwriter Kyrie Kristmanson, premiered in Venice and then programmed at the *Café de la Danse* and at the *Théâtre de la Renaissance* in Oullins; *No Time in Eternity*, born of a meeting with the composer Michael Nyman and hosted by the *Musiques en Scène Biennial* in Lyon, the *Théâtre de la Croix-Rousse* and the *LUX Scène nationale* in Valence.

Continuing its musical bridges, the Céladon ensemble created *IEΠOΣ | HIEROS*, a mirror between conducts from the *Notre Dame School* and compositions by Jean-Philippe Goude.

The ensemble Céladon performs in many French and European festivals such as *Ambronay*, *Les Rencontres Musicales de Vézelay*, *Voix et Routes Romanes*, *Music in the Dales* (UK), *Les Nuits de Septembre* (BE), *Fondazione Pietà de' Turchini* (IT), *Julita* (SE), *Musica da Povoia de Varzim* (PT), *Tage Alter Musik Regensburg* (DE).



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