

CLASSICA

Marc Boucher, general and artistic director

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Québec

Canada

HANDEL'S *Messiah*

With

Ensemble Caprice

Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec

Conductor: **Matthias Maute**

SOLOISTS

Myriam Leblanc, soprano

Florence Bourget, mezzo-soprano

Antonio Figueroa, tenor

Marc Boucher, baritone

**From November 21
to December 19, 2021**

Sorel-Tracy

Saint-Camille

Saint-Lambert

Saint-Constant

Montreal

Quebec City

Cowansville

Boucherville

ENSEMBLE
CAPRICE 30

Ensemble vocal
Arts-Québec 40ans

FESTIVAL CLASSICA

Handel's Messiah

SOREL-TRACY

Sunday, November 21, 2021, 3 p.m.
Église Enfant-Jésus
7075 Route Marie-Victorin

PRESENTED BY



and the Fonds de
dotation Jacques
Marchand

SAINT-CAMILLE

Thursday, December 9, 2021, 7:30 p.m.
Le Camillois
157 Miquelon Street

PRESENTED BY



SAINT-LAMBERT

Friday, December 10, 2021, 7:30 p.m.
Paroisse catholique de Saint-Lambert
41 Lorne Avenue

PRESENTED BY



SAINT-CONSTANT

Saturday, December 11, 2021, 7:30 p.m.
Paroisse Saint-Constant
242 Saint-Pierre Street

PRESENTED BY



MONTREAL

Sunday, December 12, 2021, 2 p.m.
Maison symphonique
1600 Saint-Urbain Street



QUEBEC CITY

Friday, December 17, 2021, 7:30 p.m.
Palais Montcalm
995 Place D'Youville



COWANSVILLE

Saturday, December 18, 2021, 1 p.m.
Église de Sainte-Thérèse-de-l'Enfant-Jésus
209 Sainte-Thérèse Street

Benefit concert
in support of



PRESENTED BY



BOUCHERVILLE

Sunday, December 19, 2021, 3 p.m.
Église Sainte-Famille
560 Marie-Victorin Boulevard

PRESENTED BY



Festival Classica, Ensemble Caprice and Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec are delighted to present Handel's *Messiah* in the fall of 2021, continuing an adventure that began in 2017 with the presentation of this cherished masterwork of the holiday season.

Under the direction of conductor Matthias Maute, this magnificent performance will transport you to the 18th century! Relive this timeless work, which is being performed in several cities across Quebec.

Soloists: Myriam Leblanc, soprano, Florence Bourget, mezzo-soprano, Antonio Figueroa, tenor and Marc Boucher, baritone.

Enjoy the concert!

Marc Boucher
General and artistic director
Festival Classica

Matthias Maute
Artistic director
Ensemble Caprice
Choir director
Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec

Program

75 minutes (without intermission)

Part I

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Overture, orchestra | |
| Recitative, tenor | Comfort ye, my people |
| Aria, tenor | Every valley shall be exalted |
| Chorus | And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed |
| Recitative, bass | Thus saith the Lord |
| Aria, alto | But who may abide the day of His coming? |
| Chorus | And he shall purify the sons of Levi |
| Recitative, alto | Behold, a virgin shall conceive |
| Aria, alto and chorus | O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion |
| Chorus | For unto us a child is born |
| Pifa | Pastoral Symphony |
| Recitative, soprano | There were shepherds abiding in the field |
| Chorus | Glory to God in the highest |
| Aria, soprano | Rejoice, greatly, O daughter of Zion |
| Recitative, alto | Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened |
| Aria, alto and soprano | He shall feed His flock like a shepherd |
| Chorus | His yoke is easy, His burthen is light |

Part II

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Chorus | Surely, He hath borne |
| Chorus | All we like sheep have gone astray |
| Chorus | Hallelujah! |

Part III

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aria, soprano | I know that my redeemer liveth |
| Recitative, bass | Behold, I tell you a mystery |
| Aria, bass | The trumpet shall sound |
| Chorus | Worthy is the Lamb that was slain |

Program

100 minutes (with intermission - Montreal and Quebec City concerts)

Part I

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Overture, orchestra | |
| Recitative, tenor | Comfort ye, my people |
| Aria, tenor | Every valley shall be exalted |
| Chorus | And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed |
| Recitative, bass | Thus saith the Lord |
| Aria, alto | But who may abide the day of His coming? |
| Chorus | And he shall purify the sons of Levi |
| Recitative, alto | Behold, a virgin shall conceive |
| Aria, alto and chorus | O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion |
| Recitative, bass | For behold, darkness shall cover the earth |
| Aria, bass | The people that walked |
| Chorus | For unto us a child is born |
| Pifa | Pastoral Symphony |
| Recitative, soprano | There were shepherds abiding in the field |
| Chorus | Glory to God in the highest |

Intermission

15 minutes

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Aria, soprano | Rejoice, greatly, O daughter of Zion |
| Recitative, alto | Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened |
| Aria, alto and soprano | He shall feed His flock like a shepherd |
| Chorus | His yoke is easy, His burthen is light |

Part II

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Chorus | Surely, He hath borne |
| Chorus | All we like sheep have gone astray |
| Recitative, tenor | All they that see Him Laugh Him to scorn |
| Chorus | He trusted in God |
| Chorus | The Lord gave the word |
| Duo, alto and soprano | How beautiful are the feet |
| Recitative, tenor | He that dwelleth in heaven |
| Aria, tenor | Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron |
| Chorus | Hallelujah! |

Part III

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Aria, soprano | I know that my redeemer liveth |
| Recitative, bass | Behold, I tell you a mystery |
| Aria, bass | The trumpet shall sound |
| Chorus | Worthy is the Lamb that was slain |

CONDUCTOR

Matthias Maute Conductor



Two-time Juno Award winner Matthias Maute has garnered an international reputation as a conductor, composer and flutist. In 2016 he was appointed artistic director of the Bach

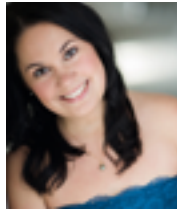
Society of Minnesota. At home, his Montreal-based orchestra, Ensemble Caprice, was hailed by the *New York Times* as “an ensemble that encourages the listener to rehear the world.”

In 2019, Matthias was appointed artistic director of the professional choir Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec, with which he has already toured in Quebec and Canada.

Matthias Maute has recorded some 20 albums on the Analekta, Vanguard Classics, Bella Musica, Dorian, Bridge and ATMA Classique labels. He is regularly invited to perform at the most prestigious international festivals. Mathias Maute is co-director of the Montreal Baroque Festival and artistic director of the Mécénat Musica Concerts noncerto series.

SOLOISTS

Myriam Leblanc Soprano



A graduate of McGill University, Myriam Leblanc obtained a master's degree in Choral Conducting from Université de Sherbrooke and gained immediate attention. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including First Prize and the People's Choice Award at the Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières Competition, Jeune Ambassadrice Lyrique (Prix Québec-Bavière), Audience Choice Award at the Canadian Opera Company's Centre Stage Competition, Third Prize at the Ottawa Choral Society New Discoveries contest, an Excellence grant awarded annually by the Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal, and First Prize at the Mathieu-Duguay Early Music Competition at the Lamèque International Baroque Music Festival in 2017.

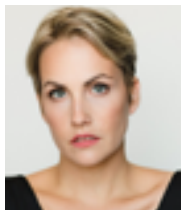
Myriam Leblanc is a versatile artist who works in the classical sphere as well as in bel canto and the Baroque repertoire. She is recognized for her warm, supple voice and pure timbre. “A voice of rare beauty,” according to *La Presse* critic Caroline Rodgers. She demonstrates great mastery in both technical and musical expressiveness.

Recent performances as a soloist include Milica in Sokolović's *Svadba* with the Opéra de Montréal, Micaela in Bizet's *Carmen* with the Opéra de Québec and Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto* with the Opéra de Montréal.

She also appeared as a soloist in Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 2, “Lobgesang” with the Orchestre Métropolitain, Bach's *Magnificat* with Les Violons du Roy, and Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with Ensemble Caprice.

Florence Bourget

Mezzo-soprano



Born in Lévis, Quebec, mezzo-soprano Florence Bourget received her master's degree with honours from the Université de Montréal and is a recent graduate of the

Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal. She made her debut in 2018 as a young artist in the role of Wellgunde in Wagner's *Das Rheingold*. Other highlights include a performance of Mrs. Grose in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* with the Agora Orchestra, for which she was acclaimed as having "remarkable vocal fullness and roundness." - *Le Devoir* (9/02/2019).

In 2020 she performed on the stage of Wilfrid-Pelletier as Angel 2 in George Benjamin's powerful and demanding *Written on Skin*. In addition to opera, she has performed in concert with the I Musici de Montréal Chamber Orchestra, Festival Classica, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, the Orchestre symphonique de Laval and other major organizations. Recently, she participated in an ATMA Classique recording of the complete melodies of Jules Massenet. She has also appeared on screen in a title role in *L'hiver attend beaucoup de moi* by Laurence Jobidon, an operatic creation that was written, composed and directed by an all-female roster of Quebec artists. It was presented by the Opéra de Montréal and in a tribute concert to the late composer Silvio Palmieri, with the Ensemble Contemporain de Montréal.

She most recently appeared in the role of Sesto in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* with the Arion Baroque Orchestra, presented by Festival Classica.

Antonio Figueroa

Tenor



Montreal native Antonio Figueroa began his career at the Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal. He has won several awards, including the International Vocal Arts Institute's

Silverman Prize for his performance of Belmonte (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*). His highly acclaimed debut in the role of Nadir (*Les Pêcheurs de perles*) at the Opéra d'Avignon opened the doors of Europe to him: he has performed at the Opéra Comique, the Philharmonique de Paris, the Capitole de Toulouse, in Liège, in Lausanne and at the Theater an der Wien, while simultaneously developing his career across the Atlantic, at the Pacific Opera as well as with the Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa operas companies.

He sang the role of Tamino in Peter Brook's production of *Die Zauberflöte* at Paris' Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, which then toured the world. His vast repertoire extends from Baroque music (Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Magnificat* and *St John Passion*, Rameau's *Castor et Pollux*, Lully's *Armide*) to contemporary creations (*The Tempest* by Thomas Adès, *Prima Donna* by Rufus Wainwright), with a distinct penchant for Mozart (*Mitridate*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Così fan Tutte*), French opera (*Lakmé*, *Hamlet*, *Les Mousquetaires au couvent*) and bel canto (*Il L'Elisir d'amore*, *Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Don Pasquale*, *La fille du régiment*). He has several recordings to his credit, including Fauré's *Complete Songs*, *Prima Donna* on the Deutsche Grammophon label, and Lully's *Armide* with Les Talens Lyriques and Christophe Rousset). He graduated from the Université de Montréal, returning in 2020 to pursue his doctoral studies.

Marc Boucher

Baritone



Canadian baritone Marc Boucher has had an active career performing in operas, symphony concerts, and recitals for nearly 20 years.

He has sung operatic roles in New York and Mexico, including Zurga in Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*, Pelléas in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* with the Opéra de Montréal, Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen*, in Dublin, Cithéron in Rameau's *Platée* at the Megaron in Athens, the Duke of Santa Fe in Théodore Dubois' *Aben Hamet*, Golaud in *Pelléas et Mélisande* at the Festival d'Opéra de Québec, and Publio in Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* at the Atelier lyrique of Tourcoing.

Following the release of the complete songs of Francis Poulenc in autumn 2013 under the ATMA label, he embarked on the complete songs of Gabriel Fauré. Marc Boucher is currently working on another major undertaking: the complete songs of Jules Massenet.

In January 2007, he received the Conseil québécois de la musique's Opus Award in the Recording of the Year — Classical, Romantic and Post-Romantic Music category, and, in 2009, won the Opus Award for International Achievement. His recording of the complete melodies of Gabriel Fauré won the 2018 Opus Award for Recording of the Year — Classical, Romantic, Post-Romantic and Impressionist Music category. The baritone was the recipient of a second Opus Award in 2018, for the show *Venus & Adonis* with Clavecin en concert.

Since 2011, Marc Boucher has served as the general and artistic director of Festival Classica, in Saint-Lambert, Quebec, Canada.

FESTIVAL CLASSICA

A word from the general and artistic director

Since its creation in 2011, Festival Classica has grown steadily. In just 10 years, it has carved out a prominent place for itself among major classical music events. Today, it ranks as one of the most successful emerging cultural organizations, due to both its scope and the quality of its programming and its leadership.

Over the years, Festival Classica has presented more than 420 concerts attended by more than 367,000 festivalgoers. It has hired close to 1,000 musical artists, upwards of 1,900 orchestral musicians and over 270 professional painters. In addition, the event has featured more than 2,500 choristers and showcased some 3,700 emerging artists! Festival Classica is acclaimed in Canada, the United States, Europe and even as far away as Australia, thanks to exciting productions and radio broadcasts produced here and reprised internationally.

The 2022 edition under the theme *From Monteverdi to McCartney*

In 2022, Festival Classica will present its 11th edition, under the theme *From Monteverdi to McCartney*. Italian composer Claudio Monteverdi was a pivotal figure in the transition from Renaissance to Baroque music, and everybody knows what an indelible mark Sir Paul left on the history of pop music!

Come together in the heart of music!

Marc Boucher

festivalclassica.com

ENSEMBLE CAPRICE

Matthias Maute, Artistic director

Founded by flutist Matthias Maute, Ensemble Caprice has, over the course of several decades, become a mainstay of the classical music world. The Juno Award-winning ensemble is recognized for its creative and innovative programs and its dynamic and compelling interpretations.

The New York Times dedicated a lengthy article to Ensemble Caprice, positioning it as a progressive force in the music world. The ensemble has toured four continents, in several countries in Europe, South America, Asia (China, Taiwan) and Africa.

In addition to its international tours, the group presents a season of concerts in Montreal.

Ensemble Caprice's recording activities are equally prolific, with some 20 albums to its credit. Caprice has also gained an international reputation in over 170 countries thanks to its videos on the Mécénat Musica classical music channel.

ensemblecaprice.com

ENSEMBLE VOCAL ARTS-QUÉBEC

Matthias Maute, Choir director

Winner of the 2020 Opus Award for Event of the Year, the Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec is a professional choir dedicated to furthering the rich tradition of choral singing in Quebec. After nearly 40 years under its founder, Yves Courville, the choir appointed Matthias Maute as its new artistic director.

Since his appointment, the Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec has performed extensively in Quebec and Canada, with notable appearances at the Montreal Baroque Festival and the Music and Beyond Festival in Ottawa.

Conductor Matthias Maute, winner of a Juno Award for his recording with choir entitled Gloria! Vivaldi's Angels, has forged an enviable reputation thanks to the excellence of his work as artistic director of Ensemble Caprice, the Bach Society of Minnesota in the United States, the Concerts noncerto series, and as co-artistic director of the Montreal Baroque Festival.

In 2019, the Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec proudly celebrated 40 years of excellence.

artsquebec.org

Ensemble Caprice

First violins

Lucie Ringuette
Emily Redhead
Simon Alexandre*

Second violins

Natalie Cadotte
Émilie Brûlé

Violas

Pemi Paull
Isabelle Douailly-Backman*

Cellos

Susie Napper
Jean-Christophe Lizotte

Double bass

Reuven Rothman*

Flute

Sophie Larivière

Trumpets

Alexis Basque
Francis Pigeon
Félix Gauthier

Oboes

Joel Verkaik*
Amanda Kitik*

Bassoon

Michel Bettez*

Timpani

Philip Hornsey

Harpsichord

Dorothea Ventura

*Concerts of December 12 and 17

Ensemble vocal Arts-Québec

Sopranos

Odéi Bilodeau*
Julie Ekker
Véronique Gauthier*
Janelle Lucyk
Lea Weilbrenner

Altos

Catherine B. Lavoie***
Ghislaine Deschambault
Marie-Josée Goyette**
Josée Lalonde*
Claudine Ledoux

Tenors

Mathieu Abel*
Jean-Sébastien Allaire
Phil Dutton
Olivier Gagnon
Julien Girard*

Basses

David Cronkite*
Simon Chaussé
Victor Chisholm
François-Nicolas Guertin
Renaud Paradis*

*Concert of December 12

**Concerts of December 12 and 17

***Will not be performing in the December 17 concert

**Ensemble,
on fait
vivre l'info**

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PRESSE**

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lecteurs, La Presse continue
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