



Laurence Equilbey

Conductor

In complete osmosis with her musicians... Equilbey's precise gestures enhance the melodic intensity, amplified by sharp cueing and an obsessive pulse.

ResMusica



Conductor and musical director of Insula orchestra and accentus chorus, Laurence Equilbey is acknowledged for her demanding, yet open-minded approach to her art. Her exploration of the symphonic repertoire has seen her conducting the orchestras of Lyon, Bucharest, Hessischer Rundfunk, Goteborg, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Brussels Philharmonic, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Akademie für alte Musik Berlin, the philharmonic orchestras of Liège, Leipzig, Francfort, etc.

Laurence Equilbey has studied music in Paris, Vienna and London, and conducting with Eric Ericson, Denise Ham, Colin Metters and Jorma Panula.

She is an associate artist of the Paris Chamber Orchestra, a resident artist of the *Grand Théâtre de Provence* in Aix-en-Provence, an associate artist of the Opera de Rouen Haute Normandie (with accentus), a companion of the *Cité de la musique/Philharmonie de Paris* and Artistic Director and Director of Education at the Department for Young Singers at the Paris Conservatory.

In 2012, with support from the Conseil général des Hauts-de-Seine, she founded Insula orchestra, an ensemble devoted to the classical and pre-Romantic repertoire, using period instruments. From 2017, Laurence Equilbey will be responsible for programming a classical music series of about 30 concerts per season at the Auditorium of *La Seine Musicale*, featuring concerts of both the Insula orchestra and international guest ensembles. The new Paris arts centre, designed by Shigeru Ban on an island in the Seine at the south west side of Paris, will be launched in April 2017.

Laurence Equilbey's extensive recorded work on the naïve label has received wide critical acclaim. In September 2015, she released her first CD for Deutsche Grammophon of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, with acclaimed countertenor Franco Fagioli and sopranos Malin Hartelius and Emmanuelle de Negri. She will release this year the recently uncovered score of Gounod *Saint Francois d'Assise*, and will further record for the Warner label some lieder by Schubert orchestrated by Liszt, Brahms, Strauss, Berlioz etc. for the Warner label.

Laurence Equilbey is also an accomplished opera conductor. Past operatic engagements comprise Mozart's *Lucio Silla* (Theater an der Wien), Reynaldo Hahn's *Ciboulette* (Opéra Comique), Britten's *Albert Herring* (Opéra de Rouen Haute-Normandie and Opéra Comique), Weber's *Der Freischütz* (Opéra de Toulon), *Sous apparence* (Opéra de Paris) and Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* (Cite de la Musique), *Die Zauberflöte* (Avignon Opera). In 2018, she will be conducting a newly commissioned production of *La Nonne Sanglante* at the Opera Comique to celebrate Gounod's 200th birthday.

Highlights of Laurence Equilbey's upcoming concerts include the 200th anniversary concert of Niels Gade with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and Choir (Feb. 2017, recorded for audio release and filmed for the Danish TV), the opening gala concert of La Seine Musicale featuring Sandrine Piau (April 2017), Haydn's *Creation* in an astonishing version staged by the catalan group Fura Dels Baus (March, May & June 2017), Beethoven's *Egmont* (Sept. 2017), tour in Poland & Germany (Nov. and Dec. 2017), Brahms' *German Requiem* by Thomas Hampson and the Gulbenkian Orchestra (Jan. 2018), to name just a few projects.

<http://laurenceequilbey.com/en/>

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Laurence Equilbey - Highlight of upcoming engagements

- Montpellier, 31 January-3 February 2017 (Dvorak Stabat Mater)
- Copenhagen, 23 February 2017 (Gade Comala)
- Basel, 26 April 2017 (Schubert orchestrated Lieder)
- Vienna, 15 & 16 May 2017 (Haydn Creation)
- Paris, Seine Musicale, 24 & 25 June 2017 (Mozart Great Mass)
- Paris, Seine Musicale, 22 & 23 September 2017 (Beethoven Egmont)
- Warsaw 23 November 2017 (Mozart / Schubert)
- Madrid, January 2018 (Mozart / Beethoven)
- Lisbon, 1&2 February 2018 (Brahms)
- Londres, 8 March 2018 (Farrenc/Beethoven)

Laurence Equilbey - Recent reviews

“Der Kammerchor Accentus und das Insula Orchestra singen und spielen auf hohem Niveau . . .
CD review *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Thomas Seedorf, *Opernwelt (Berlin)*, Dec 2015

“The French conductor Laurence Equilbey presided over the forces of the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales with admirable discipline and flair [...] This was consummate Handelian artistry.”
Concert Review, *The Messiah with BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales*, Rian Evans, *The Guardian (London)*, Dec 2015

“Laurence Equilbey disponiert souverän, ohne jede historisch informierte Tempobolzerei. So kann das Insula Orchestra mit wunderbarer Innenspannung die Stringenz der Wiener Originalversion entfalten.
CD review *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Andreas Falentin, *Concerti (Hamburg)*, Nov 2015

“Unquestionably one of the top version of this infinitely moving work.”
CD review *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Brian Robins, *Early Music Today (London)*, Nov 2015

“The performances, recorded live at the Theatre de Poissy earlier this year, have bags of energy and crackle with immediacy, Equilbey and her French period-instrument Insula Orchestra displaying instinctive flair for 18th-century style.. (4* review)”
CD review *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Graham Roger, *Sinfini (London)*, Sep 2015

“Most satisfying of all was the Mozart, given a performance that at once confirmed the impression given by Equilbey’s CD of the Requiem that she is that rare beast, a born Mozartian. Absence of mannerism, beautifully judged tempos and balance in both chorus and orchestra, allied to fine playing and choral singing and a fine line-up of soloists all went to contributing as satisfying a performance of the work as one is likely to encounter.”
Concert Review, *Barbican Centre*, Brian Robins, *Early Music Review - Sept 2015*

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