



Bilbao, 4 March 2007

MICHEL CORBOZ

conductor

MICHEL CORBOZ received his initial training at the Conservatoire in Fribourg (Switzerland), where he studied solo singing and composition. He was attracted to conducting, and soon began to devote himself to that art. His knowledge for and love of the human voice led him to turn his attention to the vocal repertoire: a cappella choral pieces, cantatas and oratorios.

After several years working in the field of modern and Renaissance music and a longstanding acquaintance with Monteverdi, Vivaldi and Bach, Michel Corboz successfully broadened his repertoire to embrace Classical and Romantic oratorios.

In 1961 he founded the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne, a handpicked group of singers. Press acclaim for his award-winning recordings of Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine* and *L'Orfeo* in 1965 and 1966 marked the beginning of his international career.

Since 1969 he has been principal conductor of the Gulbenkian Chorus in Lisbon, with whom he explores the symphonic repertoire. These two ensembles are intimately linked with his professional career. It is with one or other of them that he has made most of his recordings, more than a hundred in all, which have received many accolades from the record academies of a number of different countries. From 1976 to 2004 he taught choral conducting at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique in Geneva.

Michel Corboz enjoys conducting pre-classical opera (Cavalli, Monteverdi, Charpentier), but it is above all the concert repertoire for chorus, soloists and orchestra that he performs and records. Among his most important recordings are Bach's *Passions* and *B minor Mass*, Mozart's *C minor Mass* and *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elias* and *Paulus*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*, and the *Requiems* of Brahms, Verdi, Fauré and Duruflé. His discography also includes works by the Swiss composers Frank Martin and Arthur Honegger.

Michel Corboz received the Critics' Prize on the occasion of his two most recent tours of Argentina, in 1995 and 1996. The French Republic has honoured him with the title of Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He was decorated with the Order of the Infante Don Henrique by the Portuguese President in 1999, and was awarded the Grand Prix de la Ville de Lausanne in 1990.

FOUNDED BY MICHEL CORBOZ IN 1961, the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne is made up of vocal and musical personalities who are perfectly in phase with its conductor's tastes and requirements. This flexibly sized ensemble consists of a core of young professionals which can be supplemented by other choral singers of a high standard, according to the nature of the work being performed. This characteristic enables the EVL to tackle an extremely wide repertoire that covers the history of music from the early Baroque (Monteverdi, Carissimi) to the twentieth century (Poulenc, Honegger etc.) and every possible combination from the small group of twelve singers to a full symphonic chorus.

Saumur,
22 January
2006



The EVL's discography (around fifty recordings, produced by Erato, Cascavelle or Aria Music) has earned it a worldwide reputation. Some thirty of these records have won awards, among them the Fauré *Requiem* which received a 'Choc du Monde de la Musique' in 2007.

In the course of its forty-five-year history, the EVL has visited a large number of countries (South Africa, Belgium, Canada, Spain, Germany, Poland, Japan, the Netherlands, Israel, France, Italy, Argentina, Greece, Tunisia, Portugal, the UK), to enthusiastic public acclaim. In recent seasons, it has made successful appearances at such festivals as Rheingau, La Chaise-Dieu, Noirlac, and Lessay, and at 'La Folle Journée' in Nantes, Lisbon, Bilbao and Tokyo. In 2003, 2005 and 2006, it returned to Japan for concert tours that ended each time on the legendary stage of Suntory Hall in Tokyo.

The EVL has been a regular guest with major orchestras in Switzerland (Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne) and France (Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Nouvel Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France). It also appears with its own orchestra, the Ensemble Instrumental de Lausanne, which varies in composition according to the repertoire being played, and may perform on either period or modern instruments.

The Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne receives support from the Ville de Lausanne, the Canton de Vaud, the Loterie Romande and the Fondation Leenaards.

THE ENSEMBLE VOCAL
de Lausanne



Nantes, 2 February 2007

Le Monde de la Musique (Paris), special number on music in Switzerland, May 2006

'Lausanne possesses another fabulous asset in the shape of the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne, founded in 1961 by Michel Corboz who is still its principal conductor today. The hundred or so recordings it has made for Erato and Cascavelle have established the reputation of an ensemble that has taken Bach's Passions and B minor Mass all over the world. Michel Corboz, who studied in Fribourg, also conducts the Gulbenkian Chorus. The Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne ... is the flagship of the many choirs that exist in the French-speaking cantons of Switzerland.'

Olivier Bellamy, *Le Monde de la Musique*, May 2006

Concert at the Rheingau Festival, Germany (August 2006)

'The Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne carried out its choral mission with flawless intonation and splendid vocal sonority.'

Richard Hörnicke, *Wiesbadener Kurier*, 12 August 2006

Brahms's German Requiem in Lausanne (October 2006)

'There was grandeur in this approach, at once dramatic and poetic. The combination of the OCL [Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne] and the EVL to express it was quite stupefying. The two groups seemed to form a single entity, so perfect was the fusion between them, their obvious and palpable complicity.'

Léo Bolliger, *24 Heures*, 11 October 2006

Mendelssohn's Te Deum at the Festival of La Chaise-Dieu (August 2005)

'For this miraculous balance between the voices is thanks to him [Michel Corboz]. As is the mastery of colours, the correlation of timbres, the skilful concordances between them, the fluidity and naturalness of rhythms and dynamics: in the unforgettable "Patrem immensæ majestatis" sung by a mezzo, the airy lightness of the soprano-tenor duet in the "Te ergo" and the ethereal vocalisation of every section of the choir on the word "Miserere", from the bronzed sonority of the basses to the immaculate high notes of a soprano soloist in the "Te Deum laudamus".'

Roland Duclos, *La Montagne* (Auvergne), 24 August 2005

Rheingau Festival 2002 (Germany)

'The immense qualities of the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne were already here quite stunning: one could admire an absolutely homogeneous choral sound in all its facets.'

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, 26 August 2002



IN ITS FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF EXISTENCE, the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne has built up a considerable catalogue of recordings. Dozens of titles are available on Erato (from 1965 onwards), Aria Music and Cascavelle. These recordings have very often been honoured by prestigious international prizes, beginning in 1967, the year of the celebrated version of the Monteverdi *Vespers* that made Michel Corboz and the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne world-famous (Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros).

This release marked the true beginning of the renewed popularity of Monteverdi in modern times, and heralded a prosperous period of exploration of the Baroque repertoire by the EVL (Monteverdi, Delalande, Giovanni Gabrieli, Carissimi, Charpentier, Marcello, Vivaldi).

J. S. Bach followed some years later (*Magnificat* and *Mass in B minor*, 1972), then came Haydn (*Theresienmesse*, 1977) and Schubert (1979).

In parallel with his busy recording activities with the Ensemble Vocal de Lausanne, Michel Corboz was also exploring the symphonic repertoire with the Chorus of the Gulbenkian Foundation of Lisbon (Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* in 1974; Mozart's *Requiem* in 1976; psalms by Mendelssohn in 1978; Verdi's *Requiem* in 1994, among others). He has also enjoyed occasional collaborations with the Orchestre Colonne, the Danish Radio Choir, the English Bach Festival Chorus, La Chapelle Royale, etc.

A complete discography of the EVL will be found in the following pages; these classics are regularly reissued. For Michel Corboz's recordings with other ensembles, such as the Chorus of the Gulbenkian Foundation of Lisbon, the reader is referred to the lists published in works devoted to Michel Corboz (*Michel Corboz, l'alchimie des voix*, La Bibliothèque des Arts, 2001, pp. 123-136, and *Michel Corboz ou la passion de la musique*, L'Aire Musicale, 1981, pp. 135-138).



'Choc du Monde de la Musique'
April 2007



Bilbao



- 1964** **Monteverdi**: *Messa a 4 voci da cappella*. **Ingegneri**: *Lamentationes Hieremiae, Tenebrae factae sunt*. Erato STE 50238
- 1965** **A. Scarlatti**: *Missa ad usum cappellae pontificiae. Six motets*. Erato STE 50287
- 1967** **Monteverdi**: *Vespro della Beata Vergine*. Erato STU 70325/27. Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros.
- 1967-69** **Monteverdi**: *Selva morale e spirituale*. Erato STU 70386/87. Grand Prix Arthur Honegger 1968 de l'Académie du disque français. Grand Prix du Disque de l'Académie Charles Cros. Prix mondial du disque, Montreux (Chillon d'argent). CD reissue: Erato 4509-98530-2.
- 1968** **Monteverdi**: *L'Orfeo*. Erato STU 70440/42. Reissue: OX 35-36-2 RE. Grand Prix de l'Académie du Disque Français. Deutscher Schallplattenpreis. Grand Prix des Discophiles. Edison Prize (Netherlands). Gold Disc (Japan).
- 1969** **Anthology of 16th-century composers**: «La chanson et la danse». With the Ensemble Ricercare (Zürich). Erato STU 70491
Delalande: *De Profundis. Regina Coeli*. Erato STU 70584
Goudimel: Mass «Le bien que j'ay». Erato STU 70678
- 1970** **Anthology of Venetian composers**: «I Dolci Frutti». Erato STU 70698. Prix des Discophiles.
- 1971** **G. Gabrielli**: *Sacrae Symphoniae*, vol. 2. With the Grand Chœur de l'Université de Lausanne and the Orchestre de Chambre de Lausanne. Erato STU 70675
- 1972** **J. S. Bach**: *Magnificat*, Cantata BWV 187. Erato STU 70710
J. S. Bach: *Mass in B minor*. Erato STU 70715/17
- 1974** **J. S. Bach**: *Missae breves*. Erato STU 70805/7. CD reissue: Erato 4509-97236-2. Grand Prix de la Radio-Télévision Belge.
G. Bassano: *Canzone and madrigals*. Soloists of the EVL, Michel Piguët, recorder, Anthony Bailes, lute. Erato STU 70832
Monteverdi: *The Great Madrigals*. Vol. 1: Erato STU 70848; vol. 2: Erato STU 70849. Grand Prix de l'Académie du Disque Lyrique. Grand Prix de la Radio-Télévision Belge.
- 1975** **Marcello**: *Seven Psalms*. Erato STU 70845/6
Vivaldi: *Sacred Music*, vol. 1. Erato STU 70910. Reissue: ECD 88070. Grand Prix des Disquaires de France 1976.
Monteverdi: *The Great Madrigals*, vol. 3-5. Erato STU 70907/9. Reissue: R30 E522-7
- 1977** **Vivaldi**: *Sacred Music*, vol.-2-4. Erato STU 71003/5
Vivaldi: *Sacred Music*, vol.-5. Erato STU 71018
J. Haydn: *Theresienmesse*. Erato STU 71058. Grand Prix de l'Académie du Disque Lyrique.
J. S. Bach: *Cantatas BWV 198 (Trauer Ode)*, 11, 58, 78. Erato STU 71099
- 1978** **J. S. Bach**: *Johannes-Passion*. Erato STU 71151. CD reissue: Erato 2292-45406-2. Grand Prix de l'Académie du Disque Français.
- 1979** **F. Schubert**: *Stabat Mater, Magnificat, Offertory*. Erato STU 71262. CD reissue: Erato 4509-96961-2



Fontevraud, 1 October 2006



discography (iii)

- Monteverdi:** *The Great Madrigals*, vol. 6-8. With the Drottningholm Baroque Ensemble. Erato ECD 88108
Prize *in honorem* of the Académie Charles Cros awarded to Michel Corboz for the totality of his recordings released in 1979.
- 1981 **J. S. Bach:** *Mass in B minor*. Erato STU 71314
- 1983 **J. S. Bach:** *Matthäus-Passion*. Erato ECD 880633. CD reissue: Erato 2292-45375-2
Monteverdi: *Vespro della Beata Vergine*. With the London Baroque Orchestra. Erato ECD 88024
- 1988 **Mendelssohn:** *Christus, Hör mein Bitten, Ave Maria, Verleih uns Frieden, Te Deum* (recorded 1987). Erato ECD 75489
- 1989 **Gounod:** *Missa Choralis*. Saint-Saëns: *Mass for choir and two organs*. Erato ECD 75540
Rossini: *Petite Messe Solennelle*. Erato ECD 75466. Reissue: Erato 2292-45321-2
- 1990 **Albert Alain:** *Mass for choir and two organs*. **Vierne:** *Mass for choir and two organs*. **Langlais:** *Mass for choir and two organs*. Erato 2292-45511-2
Haendel/Mozart: *Der Messias*. Erato 2297-45491-2
- 1991 **Mozart:** *Requiem*. Cascavelle VEL 1012
Mozart: *Mass in C minor*. Cascavelle VEL 1011
F. Martin: *In Terra Pax; Et la vie l'emporta*. Cascavelle VEL 1014
Honegger: *Judith*. Cascavelle VEL 1013
Honegger: *Le Roi David*. Cascavelle VEL 1017
- 1992 **Fauré:** *Requiem* and hymns. Aria-FNAC 592097
Monteverdi: *Messa da cappella*. **F. Martin:** *Mass for double choir*. Cascavelle VEL 1025
- 1993 **Charpentier:** *Vespers for the Jesuits*. With the ensemble Arpa Festante. Cascavelle VEL 1030
- 1994 **Felix Mendelssohn:** *Sacred music*. Aria-FNAC 592298
J. S. Bach: *Johannes-Passion*. Cascavelle VEL 1036
- 1995 **J. S. Bach:** *Motets*. Cascavelle VEL 1052
- 1996 **Brahms:** *Ein deutsches Requiem* (recorded at the Festival Michel Corboz, 1989). Aria-FNAC 961002
Carissimi: *Jephte-*; D. Scarlatti: *Stabat Mater*. Cascavelle VEL 1060
- 1998 **J. S. Bach:** *Mass in B minor* (recorded in 1996). Aria 970901
Mozart: *Requiem* (recorded in 1995). With the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève. Aria 971201
- 1999 **F. Martin:** *Golgotha* (recorded in 1994). With the Sinfonietta orchestra (Lausanne). Cascavelle VEL 3004
Brahms: *Motteten, Lieder und geistliche Gesänge* (recorded in 1997). Cascavelle VEL 1070
- 2006 **G. Fauré:** *Requiem (live at Tokyo City Opera, February 14, 2005)*. CD-SACD Avex AVCL-25046 (distributed in Japan only)
G. Fauré: *Requiem; motets for female voices; Fauré-Messager, Messe des pêcheurs*. With the Sinfonia Varsovia. Mirare 028, 2006 ('Choc du Monde de la Musique', April 2007).

Contact

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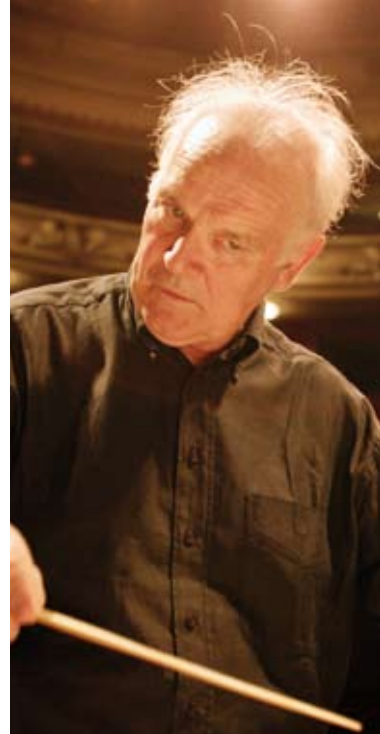
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English translation: Charles Johnston



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Sampler CD

Excerpts from concerts given in the Festival Michel Corboz, Fribourg

Conductor: Michel Corboz

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|---------------|--|-------|
| [1] | J. S. Bach , <i>Matthäus-Passion</i> , final chorus: 'Wir setzen uns mit Tränen nieder'
<i>Recorded Sunday 23 September 2001, St-Michel Church, Fribourg</i>
<i>With the Ensemble Instrumental de Lausanne (on period instruments)</i> | 5'37" |
| [2] | W. A. Mozart , <i>Requiem</i> , 'Lux aeterna'
<i>Recorded Sunday 14 September 2003, St-Michel Church, Fribourg</i>
<i>With Charlotte Müller-Perrier, soprano, and the Ensemble Instrumental de Lausanne</i> | 4'59" |
| [3] ~ [4] | F. Poulenc , <i>Stabat Mater</i> (1950), 'Quæ mœrebat et dolebat', 'Quis est homo'
<i>Recorded Sunday 19 September 1999</i>
<i>With the Sinfonietta de Lausanne orchestra</i> | 2'59" |
| [5] | C. Monteverdi , 'Sicut erat', conclusion of the <i>Magnificat</i> from the <i>Vespro</i> (1610)
<i>Recorded Sunday 28 September 2003, St-Michel Church, Fribourg</i>
<i>With the ensemble 'Les Cornets Noirs' (on period instruments)</i> | 2'05" |
| [6] | G. Fauré , <i>Requiem</i> , 'In paradisum'
<i>Recorded in 1997. With the Ensemble Instrumental de Lausanne</i> | 3'50" |

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