

BIOGRAPHY – ENSEMBLE AEDES

Long version

Founded in 2005 by Mathieu Romano, the Ensemble Aedes is devoted to performing both familiar and lesser-known choral music from the last five centuries, including premieres of new works.

With forces varying from 17 to 40 professional singers, the Ensemble Aedes has a large number of a cappella cycles in its repertoire, as well as oratorios and operas and a wide variety of programmes with organ, piano or instrumental ensemble. Aedes works regularly with such distinguished ensembles as Les Siècles (François-Xavier Roth), Les Musiciens du Louvre (Marc Minkowski), the Orchestre de Paris, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and the Latvian Radio Choir (Sigvards Klava).

In residence at the Théâtre Impérial de Compiègne and at the Vézelay Cité de la Voix, the Ensemble Aedes has performed in many other prestigious venues, such as the Philharmonie de Paris, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Royal Opera in Versailles and the Bordeaux Opera.

Aedes has taken part in the Chaise-Dieu, Besançon, Radio France Montpellier and Granada Festivals and performed in a large number of national concert halls and opera houses. Aedes' performance in Bizet's Carmen at the 2017 Aix-en-Provence Festival won high praise, and in 2019 the Paris Opera engaged Aedes for an 18-performance run of Stravinsky's Les Noces.

20th century music and premieres of new works are of great importance to the Ensemble. In 2008 the Ensemble Aedes premiered a work commissioned from the composer Philippe Hersant. In 2011 it premiered an oratorio by Thierry Machuel at the Clairvaux Festival. In 2012 it teamed up with the Orchestre Dijon Bourgogne, Aedes for the French premiere of Brice Pauset's Furcht und Zittern (Fear and Trembling). Aedes' repertoire includes works by Philippe Fénelon, Jonathan Harvey, Aurélien Dumont and Philip Lawson.

Aedes' first recording, Ludis verbalis, with Eloquentia/Harmonia Mundi, was devoted to secular music from the 20th century. It came out in June 2011 and was awarded the Diapason Discovery Prize as well as a German Record Critics' Award.

The second volume appeared in November 2012, followed in September 2013 by Instants limites (Aeon/Harmonia Mundi), devoted to Philippe Hersant. Both won the Diapason d'Or prize. April 2015 saw the release of a double volume of 20th century sacred music Ludis verbalis III and IV (NoMadMusic).

In December 2018 Evidence Classics brought out an album of 17 a cappella songs by Jacques Brel and Barbara, specially rearranged for the Ensemble Aedes.

The Ensemble Aedes' latest recording, of the Fauré Requiem and Poulenc's cantata Figure Humaine, was released on 1st March 2019.

In June 2016 the Ensemble Aedes was named Musical Revelation of the Season by the Association Professionnelle de la Critique Théâtre Musique et Danse.

Through its residencies in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté and Hauts-de-France regions, the Ensemble Aedes puts together an annual season of teaching and

cultural outreach projects in parallel with its performing programme and of equal importance. It is engaged in projects in schools, with conducting students and with singers and conductors of both amateur and young professional ensembles.

Committed to sharing music with audiences of every kind and in every place, the Ensemble Aedes also seeks to extend its performing reach to places such as hospitals and prisons where live music is less readily available.