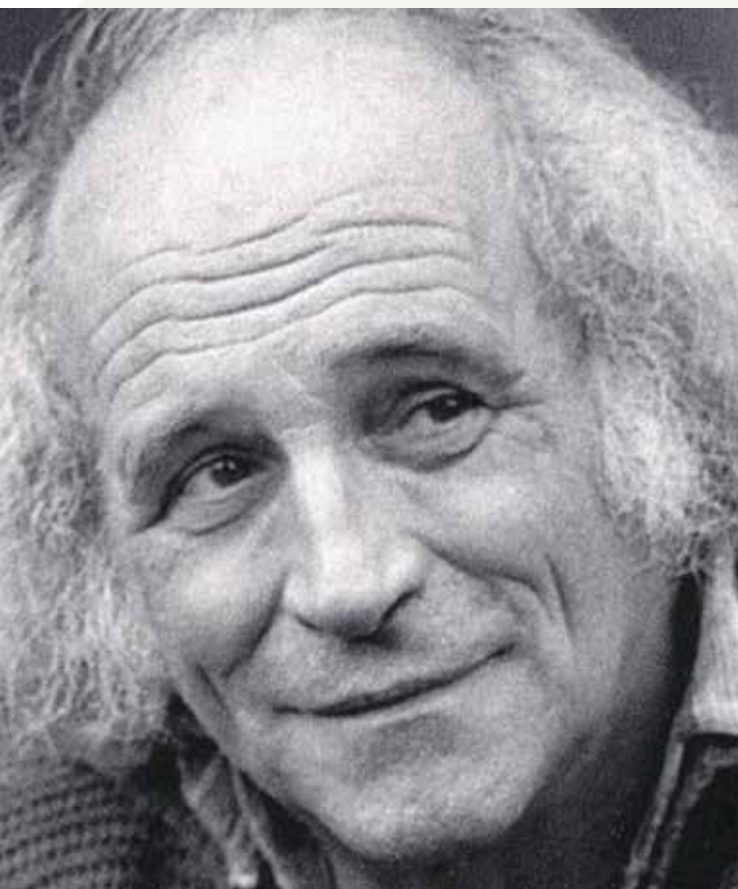


« LETTRES OUVERTES »

Anne Sylvestre and Léo Ferré *a cappella*



“ Along similar lines to our Brel and Barbara *a cappella* programme, « Lettres ouvertes » brings together two of French chanson's greats: Anne Sylvestre and Léo Ferré.

They combined political engagement with a feeling for words, and they share a lyricism and melodic inventiveness which find echoes in the choral repertoire. The power of their works resonates for listeners still today. Their art embodies revolt and protest, but with an original and poetic significance which is full of humanity and hope.

Anne Sylvestre wrote nearly 300 songs, excoriating the injustices of her times with sensitivity. Her sharp and frequently subversive writing, humanist and feminist, never loses its tenderness and pertinence. Her touching songs are deeply personal, telling stories and revealing things about our own innermost selves... their variety is staggering.

Taking after the 'rebel' or 'cursed' poets, deliberately mingling poetry with slang, Léo Ferré became the bard of Liberty. His prodigiously powerful texts celebrate and curse life with the same intensity.

Aedes will mingle its 28 voices to make those of these two huge personalities ring out in a variety of transcriptions.

Programme

Léo Ferré *La chambre* (a poem by René Baer)

Léo Ferré *Les poètes*

Anne Sylvestre *Les gens qui doutent*

Anne Sylvestre *Mon mystère*

Léo Ferré *L'homme*

Anne Sylvestre *Bergère*

Anne Sylvestre *Le centre du motif*

Anne Sylvestre *Rien qu'une fois faire des vagues*

Léo Ferré *Ni dieu ni maître*

Anne Sylvestre *Mon Mari est parti*

Léo Ferré *Tu n'en reviendras pas*
(a poem by Louis Aragon)

Anne Sylvestre *Juste une femme*

Léo Ferré *Avec le temps*

Anne Sylvestre *La chambre d'or*

Léo Ferré *Je te donne*

Anne Sylvestre *Les années qui cognent*

Léo Ferré *Comme à Ostende*
(lyrics by Jean-Roger Caussimon)

Léo Ferré *Art poétique* (poem by Paul Verlaine)

1h10 with no interval

Aedes

Mathieu Romano
conductor



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Technical information

Total number of people on tour: 20

Artistic staff

17 singers
1 conductor

Technical staff

1 lighting manager
1 production manager

Estimated planning

The day of the concert

1 rehearsal + show technique (lighting)
1 concert

Mathieu Romano



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A versatile conductor continually searching for new experiences, as at home in the orchestra pit as on the concert platform, Mathieu Romano exploits his profound understanding of the voice – both solo and choral – and the orchestra to tackle every genre, from baroque and symphonic to contemporary music.

He studied for his Masters in orchestral conducting at the Paris Conservatoire with François-Xavier Roth, Susanna Mälkki and Zsolt Nagy. He subsequently worked as assistant conductor with David Zinman, Dennis Russell Davies, François-Xavier Roth, Paul Agnew and Marc Minkowski.

He works with many ensembles such as Les Siècles, the RIAS Kammerchor, the National Youth Orchestra of France, the NFM Choir, Orchestre des Pays de la Loire, the Latvian Radio Choir, the Caen Orchestra and the Radio France Choir. He conducts opera projects, notably at Opéra Comique (with Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Maîtrise Populaire de l'Opéra Comique and Les Frivolités Parisiennes) and contemporary projects with the Ensemble Itinéraire.

In 2022 he was appointed Artistic Director of the new Pôle Régional d'Art Vocal of the Hauts-de-France region and musical director of the Choir of the Lille Opera.

The world's most distinguished concert seasons have seen him direct his Aedes ensemble. Listeners and critics alike have heaped praise on his many and varied recordings of a cappella music.

Amongst his other projects as an advocate of accessibility and musical education, he directed one of the South-West DEMOS orchestras (orchestras devoted to access to music for all) from 2017 to 2020. He has launched training projects for amateur musicians, children and promising young musicians as part of the Aedes ensemble's residency at Saint-Riquier Abbey.

His musical achievements have earned him the title of *Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et Lettres*.

Aedes

Founded by Mathieu Romano in 2005, Aedes is the fruit of a collective adventure, its members motivated by the same passion for choral music to devote themselves to its service by their fidelity to the ensemble.

The ensemble's explores music from the Baroque period via unaccompanied 20th and 21st century music right up to contemporary works. It is well known for the originality of its staged or semi-staged programmes, for its collaborations with artists from other backgrounds (dance, drama and the visual arts) and for the jaunts it takes into other musical genres such as French chanson and flamenco. For the 2024-2025 season, Aedes invites martial artist and Nō actor Master Masato Matsuura to join them in creating a new programme which brings together two different thousand year-old traditions through singing, drama, arms and dance.

The ensemble's powerful stage presence has earned it invitations to perform in France's most distinguished opera houses : it has performed at the Philharmonie de Paris, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the Opéra Comique, the Paris Opera, the Théâtre du Châtelet, and the Palais de Chaillot. Festival engagements include Aix-en-Provence, La Chaise-Dieu, Besançon, Radio France Montpellier, and the Rencontres Musicales de Vézelay. Abroad, it has been invited to perform at the Vienna Konzerthaus and Musikverein, in Amsterdam, Krakow and Grenada's International Music and Dance Festival.

At the core of the Aedes' repertoire are 20th works and premieres of contemporary music. Its rich and varied recordings of sacred and secular a cappella music from this period have won praise from listeners and critics alike.

Its performances of vocal and instrumental masterpieces see the ensemble working with other distinguished groups such as Les Siècles, the Ensemble Intercontemporain, the Orchestre de Paris, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, and the Latvian Radio Choir.

Faithfully committed to the generous spirit at the heart of this adventure, Mathieu Romano's singers devote themselves to sharing choral music everywhere, with everybody.

Based in the Somme *département*, Aedes is recognized as a "pôle culturel ressource", setting up ambitious training projects and promoting choral singing throughout the Hauts-de-France region.

Its program of cultural activities includes concerts in health and care establishments, as well as training courses in singing and choral conducting for young professionals and amateurs alike. It supports the development of vocal practice in schools and contributes to the training of an academic choir for teachers, in partnership with the Académie d'Amiens.

The 2025-2026 season will mark the 20th anniversary of Aedes. It will feature a host of projects emblematic of the ensemble's expertise, including the release of Francis Poulenc's complete *a cappella* works in autumn 2025.



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