



Philharmonie de Paris

OPENING OF NEW CONCERT HALL AS GOOD A REASON AS ANY FOR THE MUSIC GROUP TO RETURN TO THE FRENCH CAPITAL

The Philharmonie de Paris opens with gala concerts on 14th and 15th January 2015. The full programme for the new hall's first season was recently announced, with details available for events up until the end of June.

The Music Group's annual expeditions began in 2001 with a trip to Paris, and went on to include most of the great European music centres (Berlin, Vienna, Prague, Munich, Dresden & Leipzig, Budapest, Zurich among them). Thirteen years later, we've returned twice to Berlin, but have yet to re-visit Paris. Perhaps now it's time to change that, and the opening of a major new concert hall is as good a reason as any to go back to La Belle Paris.

The Philharmonie

The Philharmonie de Paris is situated in the Parc de la Villette, and completes the grand scheme of the Cité de la Musique. Its main hall seats 2400. The architect was Jean Nouvel, who came up with a free-flowing design which is essentially a re-interpretation of the Philharmonie in Berlin. Despite its capacity, no seat in the hall is further from the stage than 32 meters, which should result in a feeling of intimacy. Construction is still ongoing, so no actual photographs of the interior are available, but the artist's impressions certainly suggest that audiences will be in for something rather special.

Reasons to be cheerful

The Philharmonie de Paris will be home to l'Orchestre de Paris and the Ensemble intercontemporain. Associated ensembles are l'Orchestre de chambre de Paris, l'Orchestre national d'Île-de-France and Les Arts Florissants. Of course, like any major concert hall, the Philharmonie will open its doors to visiting orchestras as well.



Of course, musical Paris isn't just about this new concert hall. The recently renovated Salle Pleyel is associated with the new building, the legendary Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (where the premier of *The Rite of Spring* caused a riot to rival the fuss in the Abbey Theatre about *The Playboy of the Western World*) also has much to offer, while opera lovers can choose between Opéra de Paris's two venues, Opéra de Bastille and Palais Garnier, as well as the Théâtre du Châtelet.

So what's not to like musically about Paris? And then there's the city itself, one of the world's great cities – vibrant, lively, steeped in history and full of world-famous sights. The Music Group hasn't been there since 2001. Isn't it time we went back?

What's on?

The attached PDF (in French only, unfortunately) details the complete first-season programme for the Philharmonie de Paris, but it would be remiss not to give at least a taste of what's on in the new concert hall. (These are just some highlights, selected on a very personal basis to give a general flavour of what's on offer.)

3-5 APRIL. BACH WEEKEND AT EASTER : Mass in B minor, Matthew Passion, John Passion, Well-tempered Clavier, Cantatas. John Eliot Gardiner with the Monteverdi Choir, Andreas Staier. René Jacobs, RIAS Kammerchor, Akademie für alte Musik, Berlin.

MAY 2015

TUE 5 Stephen Kovacevich Piano Recital. Berg, Schubert, Beethoven.

WED/THU 6/7 David Fray, Orchestra de Paris, Jaap van Zweden. Mozart Piano Concerto 20. Mahler *Das klagende Lied*.

MON, TUE, FRI SUN 18, 19, 22, 24 Daniel Barenboim Schubert Piano Sonatas.

WED/THU 20/21 Matthias Goerne, Orchestre de Paris, Paavo Järvi. Debussy *La Mer*, Dalbavie Voice Concerto, Mussorgsky Pictures.

TUE 26 Budapest Festival Orchestra, Iván Fischer. Brahms Symphonies 3 & 4.

WED/THU 27/28 Renaud Capuçon, Orchestra de Paris, Paavo Järvi. Bruch Violin Concerto, Mahler Symphony 5.

THU 28 Radu Lupu, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Vladimir Jurowski. Martinu Double Concerto. Mozart Piano Concerto 24, Symphony 38 ('Prague')

JUNE 2015

FRI 5 Christian Gerhaher, Gerold Huber. Mahler: Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen, Songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn, Kindertotenlieder

SAT 6 Rossini La Petite Messe Solennelle.

SAT 6 Accentus, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Laurence Equilbey. Dvorak Stabat Mater

SUN 7 Soloists, Freiburger Barockorchester, René Jacobs. Mozart *Don Giovanni*.

SUN 7 Werner Güra, Christoph Berner. Schubert *Winterreise*.

MON 8 Stella Dufexis, Stephan Genz, RIAS Kammerchor, Müncher Kammerorchester, Alexander Liebreich. Dusapin Disputation. Duruflé Requiem.

MON 8 Murray Perahia Piano Recital (programme not announced)

TUE 16 Alina Ibragimova, London Symphony Orchestra, Bernard Haitink. Mozart Violin Concert 3. Mahler Symphony 1

WED/THU 17/18 Vadim Repin, Orchestre de Paris, Paavo Järvi. Shostakovich Violin Concerto 2. Beethoven 'Choral' Symphony

FRI 19 Daniil Trifonov, Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France, Myung-Whun Chung. Rachmaninov Piano Concerto 3. Brahms Symphony 2

SAT 20 Lots of choirs, Les Siècles, European Youth Orchestra, François-Xavier Roth. Berlioz Te Deum

Other venues

OPÉRA NATIONAL DE PARIS

AROUND EASTER Massenet *Le Cid* (Palais Garnier). Dvorak *Rusalka* (Bastille)

MAY/JUNE Mozart *Magic Flute*, Chausson *Le Roi Arthur* (Bastille). Gluck *Alceste* (Palais Garnier)

THÉÂTRE DES CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES

AROUND EASTER

- Bach Matthew & John Passions (1, 3 Apr). French Cello Celebration (2 Apr. Gautier Capuçon, Marc Coppey et al, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Arie van Beck).
- Nelson Goerner, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Thomas Zehetmair (7 Apr. Kodály Dances of Galanta. Liszt Piano Concerto 1. Bartók Music for Strings, Percussion and Célesta)

MAY

- Verdi *Macbeth* (4, 7, 11, 13, 16 May).
- Gidon Kremer, Daniil Trifonov. Weinberg (!) Sonatina. Schubert Violin Sonata D.574, Fantaisie D.934 (5 May).
- Rafał Blechacz, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Brahms Piano Concerto 1. Tchaikovsky Symphony 5 (6 May).
- Anna Netrebko, Orchestre National de France, Daniele Gatti. Berlioz *Béatrice et Bénédict* overture. Strauss Four Last Songs. Prokofiev *Romeo & Juliet* Suite (10 May)
- Julian Bliss, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Nathalie Stutzmann. Mozart Clarinet Concerto, Symphonies 35, 41 (12 May)
- Verdi Requiem (18 May)
- Russell Maliphant Company. Dance (19/20 May)
- Alexander Kniazev, Nikolai Lugansky. Shostakovich, Franck, Rachmaninov. Cello Sonatas (21 May)
- Anne-Catherine Gillet, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Jean-François Heisser. Manoury, Barber, Copland (22 May)
- Jonas Kaufmann, Munich Radio Orchestra, Jochen Rieder. Lehár, Stolz, Kálmán, Benatzky, Tauber, May (23 May)
- Ian Bostridge, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, Poisoned Pixy. Purcell. *Abdelazer ou la revanche du Maure* Suite. Vaughan Williams. Fantasy on a Theme of Thomas Tallis. Britten Nocturne. Haydn Symphonie 103 (26 May)
- Pierre Laurent-Aimard, Philharmonia Orchestra, Esa-Pekka Salonen. Messiaen *Turangalila Smpphony* (27 May)
- Magdalena Kožená, Mitsuko Uchida. Songs by Schumann, Mahler, Debussy, Messiaen (29 May)
- Emanuel Ax, Philadelphia Orchestra, Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Strauss *Rosenkavalier* Suite. Beethoven Piano Concerto 3. Brahms Symphony 3 (30 May)

JUNE

- Klaus Florisn Vogt, City of Birmingham SO, Andris Nelsons. Wagner Arias from Parsifal and Lohengrin. Dvorak Symphony 7 (1 June)
- Donizetti Maria Stuarda (18, 20, 23, 25, 27 June)
- Joseph Calleja, Orchestre National d'Île-de-France, Frédéric Chaslin. Arias by Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Gounod, Donaudy, Offenbach, Cilea, Tosti, Puccini (19 June)

— Malena Ernman, Jennifer Holloway, Sonia Prina, Ensemble Matheus, Jean-Christophe Spinosi. “Mezzo-Furioso” (excerpts from Handel and Vivaldi operas (22 June)

— Katia and Marielle Labèque. Gershwin Three Preludes. Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring* original version for two pianos (24 June)

— Soloists, Le Concert Spirituel, Hervé Niquet. Rameau La Princesse de Navarre suites, Castor et Pollux extract from choral finale, Motets (26 June)

THÉÂTRE DU CHÂTELET

JUNE

— Offenbach *Le Belle Hélène* (2-22 June)