

2019 SEASON

TROPIQUES ATRIUM – FORT-DE-FRANCE

THE SPHERE CORPORATE FOUNDATION WILL PAY TRIBUTE TO THE SOPRANO CHRISTIANE EDA-PIERRE.

The South African soprano Zandile Mzazi will give a retrospective of her international career on the occasion of two exceptional concerts on 8 and 9 March 2019.

A production of the of SPHERE Corporate Foundation presented on the occasion of the release of her biography *Christiane Eda-Pierre, a life of excellence* by Catherine Marceline.

Under the musical direction of Peter Valentovič with the Sainte-Thérèse Choir of Father Louis Élie

For the 2019 edition, the SPHERE Corporate Foundation wishes to pay tribute to one of the greatest sopranos of the second half of the 20th century.

The programme will begin by her last occupation, during which she taught many artists, some of whom went on to become stars, then by her last stage performance of the angel that Olivier Messiaen specially composed for her in his opera *Saint Francis of Assisi*. It will then evoke her beginnings at the Nice Opera, then at Marseille where, at the age of 26, her success and triumph were such that an audience that had gone crazy and was besieging her dressing room forced her to travel back to her hotel in a police van. It will be end with Opéra Comique, "her home" as she still likes to say and the most prestigious opera halls of Paris, New York, London, Milan, etc., with among others at her side, Pavarotti and Domingo.

"For this tribute, the SPHERE Foundation has chosen the South-African soprano Zandile Mzazi who sang for President Mandela at his 90th birthday, Marie-Claude Bottius who was a student of Christiane Eda-Pierre, Emily Bradley of the Slovak National Theatre, the Bratislava String Quartet and the Sainte-Thérèse Choir of Father Louis Élie. For the musical direction it is the conductor and pianist Peter Valentovič who will direct these two concerts. I had the great fortune to meet Christiane Eda-Pierre on the occasion of her birthday at the Ministry of Overseas Territories a few years ago and I was, like everyone who met her, won over by the charisma and the spirit of this very great Lady." John Persenda, President of the SPHERE Foundation said.

THE PERFORMERS

PETER VALENTOVIČ

Peter Valentovič combines the careers of concert pianist with that of song and choir master as well as orchestra conductor. In 2017 and 2018 he was the conductor of the Slovak National Theatre as well as the Berlin opera house.



ZANDILE MZAZI

Zandile Mzazi is a South-African soprano who studied music at the University of Cape Town under the direction of Virginia Davids. In July 2018, she sang at the concert given at the Nelson Mandela conference in the presence of Barack Obama.



EMILY BRADLEY

Emily Bradley is a young British soprano, a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She won the Mozart prize and the Grace Bumbry grant in the Grandi Voci competition in Salzburg in 2017.



MARIE-CLAUDE BOTTIUS

Marie-Claude Bottius is a dancer and soprano who began learning her craft by being taught by Christiane Eda-Pierre. She subsequently graduated from the École Normale de Musique of Paris and won the silver medal in the "Clefs d'Or" competition in 2015.



BRATISLAVA STRING QUARTET

Founded in 2000, the Bratislava String Quartet has recently performed in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Norway, Benelux, Switzerland and France. They also play in the Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, the Slovakia Radio Orchestra and the Bratislava National Opera.



THE SAINTE-THÉRÈSE CHOIR

United by a passion for singing and music, 50 choristers from almost all the municipalities of Martinique, make up the Sainte-Thérèse Choir. Under the direction of Father Louis Élie, passionate about polyphonic singing, the Sainte-Thérèse Choir has performed, for over thirty years, songs well outside the liturgy with classical and modern, sacred and secular works.



ABOUT SPHERE CORPORATE FOUNDATION

Since its beginning, SPHERE Corporate Foundation has directed its actions towards charitable works and support for music. It has funded a school project in a South African township, near Cape Town, for orphaned children. It has also supported the Dominique Lapierre foundation in Calcutta which helps leper children and educates them. In 2017, it supported the association Global Heart Watch which works to combat heart attacks.

The Foundation has largely contributed to increasing awareness of and reviving musical works that have been forgotten such as *Tree-monisha*, the first black opera by Scott Joplin which had been played only once since its creation in 1912. The Foundation produced this opera with the Cape Town Opera company in South Africa and then in France. In 2009, it was performed in Martinique with South African soloists, the Orchestra of Bratislava and the Sainte-Thérèse Choir of Father Louis Élie. Highly eclectic, the Foundation has also staged concerts of the *Buena Vista Social Club* of Eliades Ochoa, as well as *Nabucco* by Verdi and Italian operatic works sung by South African soloists at the EPCC Atrium Martinique in Fort-de-France.

For several years, the SPHERE Foundation has wished to support and revive forgotten works. In 2012, it was behind the revival of the quartets and sonatas of Chevalier de Saint-George in Martinique. In 2013, the SPHERE Foundation decided, with the assistance of the Department Council of Martinique, the Trois-Îlets municipal council and the La Pagerie museum, to revive the music in France and in the islands at the time of Joséphine during which composers whose works had been forgotten could be heard such as Grétry, Méhul, Gossec and Spontini, Joséphine's favourite musician and especially Chevalier de Saint-George, a musician, fencer, and general of the Republic.

In 2014, the SPHERE Foundation continued its musical activities in the theatre of Saint-Pierre with *Two centuries of music in Saint-Pierre* and at a concert of sacred music in Saint Louis cathedral. In 2015, it staged a performance in Martinique of *The Anonymous Lover*, the only opera of Chevalier de Saint-George which has been handed down to us in full. In 2016, the SPHERE Foundation produced in Martinique *Three centuries of music in the Americas* with extracts of the works of Chevalier de Saint-George, Scott Joplin and George Gershwin. In 2017, it staged in Martinique the sacred music concerts *The three sopranos, the three continents that have made Martinique: India, Africa and Europe*, under the direction of Peter Valentovič.

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