

sequenza 9.3

Catherine Simonpietri

SEQUENZA 9.3, innovating and high-level confirmed vocal band

The vocal ensemble SEQUENZA 9.3's ambition is to convey with sincerity and spontaneity the discovery of vibrant musical novelties and the playback of unknown masterpieces from our heritage.

As the numerous projects conducted since its creation went by, the ensemble succeeded in being identified as an innovating and effective group though a little unconventional as regards to the musical landscape of today.

Created by Catherine Simonpietri in 1998, Sequenza 9.3 is acknowledged for the virtuosity of its performances, its commitment and its appetite for risk. The singers forming the ensemble are professional soloists who all decided to serve and share with passion a large panorama of the polyphonic vocal art of today. The vocal quality and artistic dimension of each of them and the precision work they carry under the demanding and generous baton of Catherine Simonpietri contributed to enhance Sequenza 9.3's interpretations with subtlety.

Taking advantage of its twenty-year experience, the vocal ensemble Sequenza 9.3 is acknowledged for its artistic commitment. Today, the most renowned festivals and concert halls can attest it.

Among others: the Châtelet Theatre, Paris Philharmonie, Chaillot National Theatre, Saint-Louis of the Invalids Cathedral, Royaumont Abbey, Noirlac Abbey, Epau Abbey, Clairvaux Abbey, the festival Musical September of the Orne, the festival Presences, the festival of Ile-de-France, the festival of Saint-Denis, the festival of Auvers-sur-Oise, the festival Saint-Riquier, the Flaneries Musicales in Reims, the Messiaen festival in La Grave, the festival of the Black Perigord, the Africolor festival, the festival of Sully and the Loiret, the festival of the Forests, Classic au Vert (festival), the Easter festival of Aix en Provence, the season of the national Orchestra of Lille, the festival of music and competitions of the conductors of Besançon, the festival of La Chaise-Dieu... and abroad in Spain, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Canada.

Latest news on www.sequenza93.fr // Contact: Claire LEROUX / +33 (0)6 08 26 89 70 / diffusion@sequenza93.fr





SEQUENZA 9.3, privileged performer of the creation

Sequenza 9.3 chose to direct its artistic journey around the rediscovery of the vocal repertoire of the XXth century, the dialogue and creation with the composers of today: Philippe Hersant, Ondrej Adamek, Alexandros Markeas, Eric Tanguy, Daï Fujikura, David Neerman, Juste Janulyte, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Aurélien Dumont, Edith Canat de Chizy, Patrick Burgan, Vincent Paulet, Suzanne Giraud, Thierry Escaich, Stéphane Leach, Laurent Durupt, Alexandre Gasparov.

Many of them are internationally famous among various streams of the contemporary creation but all of them have acknowledged in Catherine Simonpietri and the SEQUENZA 9.3 ensemble, generous and ambitious quality performers who offer a reading and a creation of their masterpieces delivered with a precise and ambitious musical skill.

György Kurtag *"I've had the pleasure to work with Catherine Simonpietri on the occasion of the French creation of my composition "Messages for an orchestra" which was interpreted by Sequenza 9.3 and the National Orchestra of Ile-de-France in 2000. I was able to see and appreciate the precision and artistic commitment of her work with the singers. Thank you!"*

Thierry Escaich (Victoire de la Musique 2017) *"When we know Catherine Simonpietri, we know that her passion for the music of her time has been decisive in her desire to enter music. Hence her uncanny ability to defend living composers with the same hard work, the same energy, the same expressive power as with the great repertoire.*

Galvanised by this direction at the same time precise, vigorous and musically engaged, the singers of the Sequenza 9.3 ensemble can echo this desire for perfection in the work and know how to make clear the thought of the creator they are defending."

Philippe Hersant (Victoire de la Musique 2016) *"As of now, a long adventure ties me to Catherine Simonpietri and the Sequenza 9.3 ensemble. I have heard them for the first time almost ten years ago. I have been immediately stricken by the vocal beauty, the precision, the accuracy and expressive intensity of this ensemble as well as by its commitment to a challenging and demanding repertoire. I have since then written three masterpieces for them (The Stranger, Metamorphoses and Kitoo) and Sequenza 9.3 recorded some of them. I have rediscovered on every one of these occasions all the qualities which had seduced me at once ten years ago: the same musicality, the same enthusiasm. We have some other projects together and I'm delighted by that because I count Catherine Simonpietri and the Sequenza 9.3 among my privileged performers."*



The discography of the Ensemble has been unanimously acknowledged by the critics. Last record published by Universal DECCA in March 2017, FFFF Télérama, Choc Classica, Clef Resmusica, Sélection France Musique.

KAFKA DANS LES VILLES

OPÉRA-CIRQUE-THÉÂTRE
FRONTAL / CIRCULAIRE / ESPACE PUBLIC

PHILIPPE HERSANT / ENSEMBLE SEQUENZA 9.3
ELISE VIGIER & FRÉDÉRIQUE LOLIÉE / GAËTAN LEVÉQUE

MONTEVERDI EX ILLO TEMPORE

MONTEVERDI <> BEFFÀ/ZAVARO/
FÉNELON/DUSAPIN/SALONEN

DIALOGUE ENTRE
MUSIQUE ANCIENNE ET
CONTEMPORAINE

NOIR LAC,
NEERMAN / KOUYATÉ
KRYSTLE WARREN / SEQUENZA 9.3

BALAFON, VIBRAPHONE,
SOUL-JAZZ ET ART VOCAL
ENREGISTREMENT FIN 2018

AVEC HENRI DEMARQUETTE

VOCELLO

VOIX ET VIOLONCELLE

DISQUE 2017
FFF TÉLÉRAMA,
CHOC CLASSICA...

Ensemble vocal SEQUENZA 9.3

dirigé par Catherine Simonpietri

MUSES,

AVEC ODILE ABRELL
AVEC OU SANS RÉCITANT

VOIX DE FEMMES ET HARPE

nouveau site à partir du 1^{er} octobre www.sequenza93.fr

AN ZUKUNFT,

HOMMAGE À LA PAIX / 1918-2018

TOURNEE NOVEMBRE 2018 : PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS,
CAMBRAI, AMIENS, CHARLEVILLE-MÉZIÈRES, ...

AVEC LE CHOEUR DE L'ARMÉE FRANÇAISE

INEDIA PRODIGIOSA

DE LUCIA RONCHETTI
CRÉATION PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS

OPÉRA VOCAL PARTICIPATIF

TRIBAL

AVEC THIERRY ESCAICH

AU CARREFOUR DES INFLUENCES
LIGETI/OHANA/MESSIAEN/ESCAICH

SEQUENZA 9.3, hybridise with a commitment to other aesthetics

Since its creation, Catherine Simonpietri explores creation under all its forms:

Going to meet with instrumentalists from different musical universes (jazz, world music, rock artists, etc.)

Going to the “edges” of other artistic universes “outside the music” (choreographer, theatre director, circus artists, comedians, plastic artists, etc.) by confronting the requirements and liberties of everyone to serve original projects, full of exchanges and sharing while keeping the commitment to a polyphonic vocal music of high quality.

Creating innovative forms of performances in collaboration with other artists from different fields and exploring unknown territories; daring to get out of its working habits.

Going to meet other audiences and taking the musical creation out of the concert halls are as well the challenges defended by the Sequenza 9.3 Ensemble. The meetings with other fields allow these crosses of audiences.



/ Latest programmes of the Ensemble (concert format)

VOCELLO / with Henri Demarquette / The cello is supposed to be "the instrument the closest to voice". Taking this assumption literally or at least digging its meaning by giving the control to creators of today. More than a dozen of composers have already written for this ensemble: Eric Tanguy, Philippe Hersant, Baptiste Trotignon, Thierry Escaich, Justé Janulyté, Patrick Burgan, Eric Montalbetti, Florentine Mulsant, Alexandre Gasparov, Daï Fujikura, Régis Campo. Création 2020: Jean-Frédéric Neuburger. In 2019, new form / **VOCELLO GALLERY** in concert – video with live audio mix by Juliette Deschamps.

BACH-HERSANT // *With Christine Plubeau (viola da gamba) et Pierre Cazes (organist)* / Inspirations or patterns which respond to each other between the different composers (J. Crüger, J-S Bach, D. Scarlatti et P. Hersant)



MUSES, voices of women and harp // *With Odile Abrell* / The harp, the oldest musical instrument of all times, evokes the charm and enchantment, thanks to its sweet and full of joy sounds. Associated with feminine voices, the alliance of the tones takes shape through the writing of the chosen composers.

CHRISTUS VINCIT // *Sacred prayers* / An A Capella journey across the centuries with masterpieces from Tanguy, Morales, Rheinberger, Gleilo, Connesson, Lotti, MacMillan...

CARTE BLANCHE / FOCUS ON COMPOSERS : *Thierry Escaich / Philippe Hersant / Daï Fujikura / Olivier Messiaen / Daniel Lesur ... Catherine Simonpietri likes to weave programmes guided by the origins, the influences, the encounters to paint an accurate picture of the composers of today*

MONTEVERDI EX ILLO TEMPORE // *The In Illo Tempore Mass of Monteverdi as the common thread of the programme counterpointed by masterpieces from composers of today (Beffa, Dusapin, Zavarò, Fénelon...)*

REQUIEM DE DURUFLE / THOMAS LACÔTE / *With Thomas Lacôte* / Evocation of the prayers to Mary, from Perotin until Thomas Lacôte. Maurice Duruflé is brought to light through his two masterpieces for voices and organ which mirror one another: the Requiem and the Cum Jubilo Mass.

AN ZUKUNFT, homage to Peace // *Created to take part in the Centenary of the Armistice / A Cappella masterpieces with the women of the Ensemble weaving the common thread with the Mass of André Caplet and some masterpieces for pour mixed choirs (Schoenberg, Reger, Fujikura, Poulenc) interpreted with the French Army Chorus.*

- **Programmes in creation (extracts)** - **AUDITE** / *Focus on Grégoire Rolland (and recording of his masterpieces for voices, organ and voices and organ) <> TRIBAL / Ohanna, Messiaen, Ligeti (A Cappella) <> improvisations by Thierry Escaich (organ) <> SHADOWS AND LIGHTS / Gorecki, Lesur, Penderecki, Pärt, Xenakis (A Cappella panorama of the second half of the XXth century which illustrates certain pages of history marked by the sufferings and hopes of humanity.)*

Latest projects at the crossroads of fields and aesthetics

THEATRE AND CIRCUS // *Kafka dans les Villes (Kafka in the cities)* / Elise Vigier and Frédérique Loliée & Gaëtan Levêque / Musical creation of Philippe Hersant / Lyrical singers and violinists mixed with circus artists and comedians / three stage versions: frontal, circular and light for the public space

WORLD MUSIC / JAZZ // *Noir Lac* / David Neerman & Lansiné Kouyaté – Krystell Warren / with the encounter of the universe of jazz, world music and soul. RECORD RELEASE IN 2019.

DIGITAL INSTALLATIONS // *Extended concert NOIR LAC & EMPREINTE(S)* / With sound creators (Jean-Yves Bernhard) and specialists of the technologies (GMEA), creating interactive (or not) immersive sound installations to inhabit the heritage.



Projects in creation

THEATRE AND MUSIC // *À l'iniziu c'era a nanna* / 6 singers, 1 comedian, 1 choir master. Some music: monodies / traditional harmonised lullabies of Corsican women and a creation of Lucia Ronchetti and the thread of the story of a lonely man, encased in his Corsican tradition, who interrogates his roots, his insularity...

LOOKS ON AN ERA // 50/50 – *Janis Joplin/Jimi Hendrix* / Sequenza 9.3, Trio Polycordes (mandolin, guitar and harp) and reciter Lydie Salvayre / two male composers and two female composers will compose for this acoustic ensemble and evoke and question a bygone era and its icons.

DANCE // “*A consecration*” / with the organ of the journey of Jean-Baptiste Monnot / a major project in which the sounds and the bodies celebrate the materials, the spaces, the rhythms of the universe

VIDEO / CINEMA // *The intimacy of the choir* / Work with a video maker to create reports, immersive cameras, live video mix to enter the creation of sound and the work of the choir master.

DIGITAL INSTALLATIONS // *EMPREINTE(S) (BLUEPRINTS)* / With Jean-Yves Bernhard / To become a part of the local heritage / vocal performances and immersive sound installations to inhabit the heritage

Old “polymorphic” projects: DANCE // *Corazon Loco* / Blanca Li Company / Musical creation of Edith Canat Chizy / Lyrical singers mixed with dancers on stage (2007) <> CINEMA // *The Feelings of Noémie Lvovsky* / the singers become cinema actors during a capella interludes <> WORLD MUSIC // *Corsican lullabies* with the IMadrigalesca ensemble (traditional singers) (2009) / *Oratorio Mandingue* with a Malian “griot” (bard) and the percussionist Jazz Franck Tortiller (2011) <> MUSICAL BANQUET // *The Opera-Bouffa* on musical compositions of Alexandros Markeas, during a meal shared with the audience, a musical creation, a comedian maître d'hôtel, musical interludes between the dishes... (2012)

Catherine Simonpietri, a generous and demanding choir master

Passionate about the choir direction, Catherine Simonpietri followed the teaching of Pierre Cao in the Royal Conservatoire of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg where she received the first prize of choir direction. Then she went to the International School of Choral Singing of Namur in Belgium from which she graduated with a unanimous first prize.

In France, she improved her training under the direction of Frieder Bernius, master of the Kammerchor and Barockorchester of Stuttgart as well as with John Poole, Eric Ericson, Hans Michael Beuerle and Michel Corboz.

In 1995, she participated to the creation of the Mission of Choral Singing of Seine-Saint-Denis before taking the responsibility of the pedagogical and artistic direction. Passionate about the contemporary artistic creation, she founded in 1998, the professional vocal ensemble *Sequenza 9.3* with whom she developed a demanding music policy open on the different aesthetics of the XXth and XXIst centuries.

Lecturer and director of the Masters of Direction of Choir at the National Superior Conservatoire of Music of Paris, she directed there numerous productions (Bach, Haendel, Stravinsky, ...). She is as well professor of direction of choir at the Conservatoire of Regional Influence of Aubervilliers / La Courneuve and since 2010 within the Pôle Sup'93 (Center of Higher Education of Music).

She directed the *National Chamber Choir* in Ireland, the *Chamber Choir of the Flemish Radio*, the *Radio-France Choir* and the *Arsys-Bourgogne Choir*, the *Chamber Choir of Quebec*. Catherine Simonpietri is as well often requested to be a member of the jury of direction (54th *International Contest of Young Conductors of Besançon*)



SEQUENZA 9.3, involved with the audiences, in residence in Seine-Saint-Denis

Implanted in Seine-Saint-Denis since its creation, Sequenza 9.3 is involved with the audiences for the transmission and the mediation around the work on the voice and the contemporary creation.

Sequenza 9.3 carries out different **cultural actions**: encounter with the audiences, open rehearsals, listening clues or commented concert.

And also **actions of sensibilisation and artistic journeys at school** (primary schools, secondary schools, high schools) or some **projects with the amateur participants of Conservatoires** (masterclasses, open rehearsals, projects with singing classes, compositions).

The Ensemble encourages the **professionalisation of young musicians by offering immersion projects in professional conditions** (singing classes, instrumentalists, students in choir direction (CNSMDP, CRD Pantin – Network of the Conservatoires Est-Ensemble, Pôle Sup 93, CRR-Aubervilliers-La Courneuve).

Close to the “furthest” audiences, the Ensemble puts in place a transmission of the practice alongside social supervisors, social workers in link with Culture of the Heart and other associations from Seine-Saint-Denis. The involvement of the supervising staff then allows to favour the visit of the audiences during open rehearsals, concerts or to push them to participate into participating projects (vocal challenges of territory, concert / participative creation).

In its involvement alongside the audiences, the Ensemble likes to imagine some actions on different levels in order to favour an immersion by a departmenting of the practices by creating projects with adapted repertoires or formats and by staying true to its commitment to favouring the discovery of vocal art and today's creation with rigor.

Examples of major projects of territories under the shape of participative concerts in close collaboration with different actors and local partners.

- In 2019, creation of *Inedia Prodigiosa* of Lucia Roncetti at the Philharmonie of Paris gathering 24 professionals, a choir of 30 young ladies of Conservatoire and 80 amateur ladies (choristers and outsiders)
- In 2020, French creation of *The Decision* of Brecht/ Eisler (1930) at the Philharmonie of Paris: major participative project with 300 amateurs (choristers, outsiders and audiences in link with social exclusion)

Examples of local participative projects: Participative vocal challenge (#Seine-Saint-Denis chante), a short restitution after a 3-hour workshop with professional singers, amateur choirs (from different aesthetics - like « Choeur de Conservatoire » and a choir of oral or popular tradition) and the inhabitants and associations of a territory.

Examples of forms interactive concerts, commented or "outside the walls" in order to go meet the audiences publics by favouring the discovery of the polyphonic music and the contemporary creation.

- Interactive concert *Magical Christmases* in which the audience is invited to join the soloists to share a festive spirit through their voices.
- Version of neighbourhoods-concerts or pedagogical concerts: *Axiomes* (Berio, Bach, Zavarro), *A Nanna* (concert with a reciter, intimate concert / musical nap, concert "in situ")
- Project "in situ" with regular meetings all along the summer in an urban park *A Lyrical Garden*: vocal practices workshops, musical naps, sound installations creation, concerts in a departmental park between Montreuil and Bagnolet on a territory in high social difficulty. In addition to the artistic proposition, the project is constructed by involving the local partners (conservatoires, social centres, childcare and leisure sectors, other cultural places, associations of the territory...).

News under development projects (2019/20):

- **A vocal orchestra at school**, creation of a pedagogical kit to favour the choir practice and its deployment in schools. The Ensemble has imagined a tool for teachers and participant-musicians based on the technology Nomadplay around harmonized melodies. Creation of the tool and of a first volume of repertoire for the first day of school of the year 2019/2020 (in link with the deployment of the choral practice at school)
- **Human(s)**, project in link with the Centre for the Refugees of Montrouge. An artistic journey with the refugees to favour the inclusion and the learning of the language via vocal practice and writing, collecting and achieve a collective creation (Alexandros Markeas) which leans on the riches of this encounter.
- **Future participative projects at the crossroads of the sports world** and other fields.

The vocal ensemble Sequenza 9.3 is supported by the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis and the Regional Direction of the Cultural Affairs of Île-de-France - Ministry of the Culture and Communication. It is welcomed in residence by the city of Pantin. The Sacem (Society of Authors, Composers and Editors of Music) contributes to its development. Certain programmes receive the support of the Nouvelle Musique en Liberté (New Music in Liberty), of the Adami. Membre of the network "Futurs Composés" (Composed Futures) and the FEVIS (Federation of Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles). It is a part of the Ambassadors of the Seine-Saint-Denis.

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