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MADRIGALS FOR ARIADNE

Concert with lighting and surtitles

“**A**edes explores the works of Monteverdi, inventing a new plot based around his famous *Lamento d’Arianna* which depicts the tragic love story of Theseus and Ariadne.

Universally acclaimed as one of the jewels of the baroque repertoire, the *Lamento d’Arianna* is the only fragment we still have of Monteverdi’s second opera *L’Arianna*, the original score having been lost over the centuries. It was apparently the central element of this opera, composed in 1608 and much performed until it disappeared. Ariadne, abandoned by Theseus on the island of Naxos after she helped him kill the Minotaur, laments her lost love in a moving plaint which presages her death – or her deliverance, the myth having various endings.

In this programme, which exploits the riches Monteverdi’s madrigals as well as the ensemble’s own favourites (Britten’s *Sacred and Profane*, Ligeti’s *Night*, and works by Jean-Yves Daniel-Lesur and Frank Martin), Mathieu Romano gives us a modern interpretation of Theseus and Ariadne’s relationship. The works selected enable us to hear the voices of the two lovers in turn, and in dialogue, their respective emotions pointed up by the lighting of this show. As the enchantment, doubt and pain of this passionate dialogue culminate, the heroine discovers the idea of revenge: Theseus pays for his betrayal, falling victim to Ariadne’s curse.

Programme

Instrumental prologue

Claudio Monteverdi

Ecco mormorar l'onde, Book II

La giovinetta pianta, Book III

Altri canti d'amor, Book VIII

Claudio Monteverdi

Tempo la cetra, Book VII

Bel Pastor, Book IX

Sì, sì, ch'io v'amor, Book IX

Jean-Yves Daniel-Lesur

Cantique des cantiques No.1

Claudio Monteverdi

Ardo, avvampo, Book VIII

György Ligeti

Night

Claudio Monteverdi

Hor che'l ciel e la terra, Book VIII

Benjamin Britten

Sacred and profane No. 4

Claudio Monteverdi

Si tu mi lassi, Book II

Lamento d'Ariana, Book VI

Instrumental piece

Frank Martin

Full Fathom Five (excerpts from
Three Shakespeare Songs)

Claudio Monteverdi

Cantai un tempo, Book II

1h25 with no interval

Aedes choir and orchestra

Mathieu Romano

conductor



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**Claudio Monteverdi, *Quarto libro de Madrigali*,
*Cor mio, mentre vi miro***



Technical information

Total number of people on tour: 30

Artistic staff

27 people on stage

18 singers

8 instrumentalists

1 conductor

1 light designer

Full technical details available on request

Technical staff

2 production managers

Provision of surtitling device

Estimated planning

The day of the concert

1 technical service (lighting)

1 rehearsal

1 performance

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 Zolt 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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