

# RESONANCES

## Aedes' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary programme



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“ The 2025-2026 season will mark Aedes' 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary: for two decades this personal adventure has been nourished by our passion for choral singing, guided by the desire to express and share emotions which is the source of our uniquely homogeneous, brilliant, full and powerful timbre.

For this anniversary, Mathieu Romano has devised a programme which reflects the ensemble's savoir faire, articulated around the major works which have marked its history thus far. The 28 *a cappella* singers will be exploring the multiplicity of colours and harmonies in choral music, ranging from the masterpieces of the Romantic and Post-Romantic periods (Brahms' *Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen*, Rachmaninov's *Bogoroditse Devo*, and Barber's *Agnus Dei*) to contemporary music, by way of the modern works from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century which the ensemble has made a point of making better known to audiences.

A large portion of this miscellany is therefore devoted to Francis Poulenc, Aedes' chosen composer from the very beginning: the ensemble will be making a box set devoted entirely to Poulenc, due for release in autumn 2025. His Mass in G major will be one of the foundation stones of this programme, alongside other key works such as Benjamin Britten's *A.D.M.G.* and Frank Martin's *Mass for double choir a cappella*.

Aedes is an advocate for contemporary music, which forms an integral part of its repertoire, both recorded and in concert. The ensemble's first ever commission, in 2008, was Philippe Hersant's *Trois poèmes d'Eichendorff*, and we will be reviving them, juxtaposed with a new work commissioned to be premiered especially for this anniversary season.

Long live choral singing everywhere!

# Programme

## Johannes Brahms

*Warum ist das Licht gegeben dem Mühseligen?* op. 74 No. 1

## Sergueï Rachmaninov

*Bogoroditse Devo* (women choir)

## Samuel Barber

*Agnus Dei*

## Francis Poulenc

*Messe en sol majeur*

## Francis Poulenc

Excerpts from *Quatre petites prières de Saint François d'Assise* (men choir)

## Frank Martin

*Mass for double choir a cappella* (excerpts)

## Benjamin Britten

*A.M.D.G.* (excerpts)

## Philippe Hersant

*Trois poèmes d'Eichendorff*

## Commission to a woman composer

1h20 with no interval

Aedes

**Mathieu Romano**

conductor



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**Samuel Barber, *Agnus Dei***



**Frank Martin, *Mass for double choir a cappella***



**Technical information**

**Total number of people on tour: 31**

***Artistic staff***

28 singers

1 conductor

***Technical staff***

2 production managers

***Estimated planning***

**The day of the concert**

1 rehearsal

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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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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