
François-Xavier Roth brings Les Siècles to the UK for two distinctive projects

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- Aldeburgh Festival residency 10-15 June with music from Rameau to Reich
- Royal Festival Hall debut on 2 November with French music of the early 20th century featuring live 'Cinesthetic' animation by Grégoire Pont

Les Siècles, the group founded by François-Xavier Roth in 2003, have become synonymous with fresh and adventurous performances of repertoire from across the centuries. The combination of research into period-appropriate instruments and original scores has given audiences a unique window into how those pieces might have sounded at their first performance. Following a series of highly-acclaimed recordings - in particular of the music of Stravinsky on early 20th century French instruments - and their BBC Proms debut in 2013, Les Siècles bring their unique approach to the Aldeburgh Festival in the form of a 5-day residency and will make their Royal Festival Hall debut on 2 November.

Their first programme at the Aldeburgh Festival, on 11 June and which will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3, brings together Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé* and *Daphnis et Eglé* by Rameau. These two depictions of the shepherd Daphnis give rise to two highly evocative scores which will be brought vividly to life by the timbres of contemporary instruments. On Sunday 12 June soloists of the orchestra pay homage to the legendary French harpist Pierre Jamet, whose ensemble of flute, harp and string trio premiered Roussel's ravishing serenade. Steve Reich's *Tehilim* is performed alongside Bach's *Magnificat* in a concert on 14 June. The final concert of the residency brings François-Xavier Roth and Les Siècles together with Festival Artistic Director Pierre-Laurent Aimard and violinist Thomas Zehetmair as soloists for the Berg Chamber Concerto, programmed alongside and Mozart's *Gran Partita Serenade*. At the heart of both these works is the idea of a 'Harmonie', a blended band of winds and brass, exploited in different ways.

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These programmes straddle the centuries and hope to reveal unexpected relationships between pieces and composers, a recurring theme in the work of François-Xavier Roth. His wide-ranging work compasses the LSO's ongoing *After Romanticism* and *LSO Futures* series, engagements with top orchestras around the world including Boston Symphony, Berlin Philharmonic and Amsterdam Concertgebouw, opera productions in Paris with Les Siècles and in Cologne where he is General Music Director, and creative work with other art forms including a collaboration with the Pina Bausch Company.

Another example of such collaborations is the one with the illustrator and animator Grégoire Pont, with whom he first worked on the hugely popular Presto!, a primetime series of short films about classical music for French television.

Pont, who is passionate about music and making it more accessible to both children and adults by means of animation, has created Cinesthetics, a performance concept where he draws and animates live in response to a musical performance. Key to the success of his approach is the wit and insight he brings to the interplay of music and animation.

Cinesthetics will be featured for the first time in the UK during the 2 November concert at the Royal Festival Hall, when Pont will animate to Les Siècles' performance of Maurice Ravel Ma mère l'oye (Mother Goose) complete ballet. The musical programme also includes Debussy La Mer, Jeux, and Ravel Piano concerto for the Left Hand with soloist Jean-Efflam Bavouzet.



François-Xavier Roth returns to the UK in 2017 for further concerts as part of the LSO's After Romanticism series, opening with a programme including Mahler Symphony No 1 on 30 March, and including Bruckner Symphony No 4 on 23 April.

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