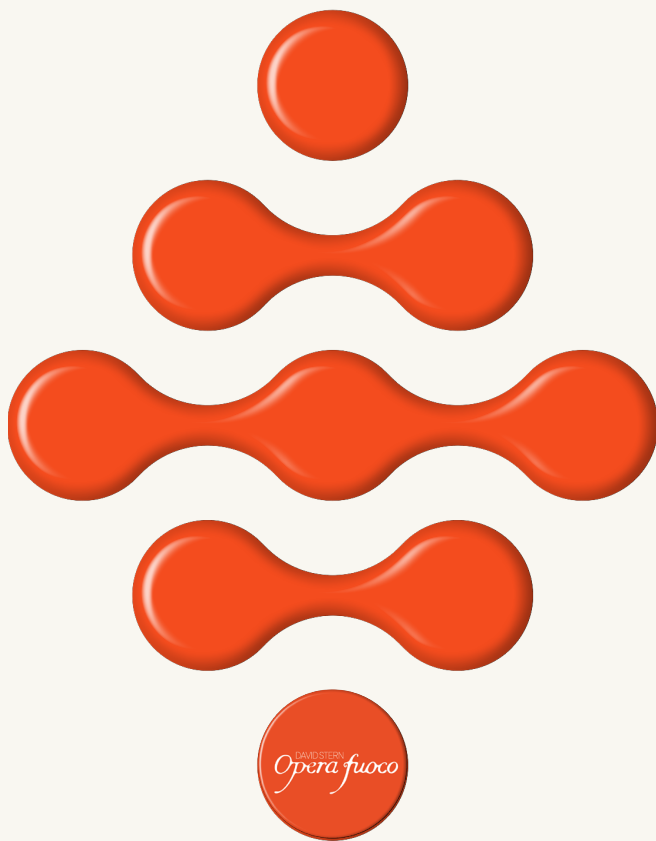


OPERA FUOCO



PROGRAM
2025-2026
SEASON

EDITORIAL

WELCOME TO THE OPERA FUOCO 2025-2026 SEASON!

As we enter our second season with the 6th generation of Opera Fuoco's Young Artists and the company's 3-year residence at the Opéra de Massy, we are delighted to share wonderful new projects with our young singers, our instrumentalists and our audiences.

We will be working with two wonderful directors, Elsa Rooke and Randa Haines, on productions, with the ParTerre hip-hop dance company on outreach projects, and continuing with our two fantastic associate artists, Elsa Rooke and Laurent Naouri, for masterclasses and workshops. From Bach and Bernstein to La Bohème, the new season will be both exciting and engaging.

We will stay true to our signature repertoires as we continue to explore rare jewels and American works, as well as delve into works by important female composers. The great musical canon is well represented by Bach & Handel cantatas on the one hand and

Puccini's tragic score on the other, offering a diverse palette of main-stage productions, Fuoco Obbligato chamber concerts, Masterclasses with their final recitals and important debut roles to the emerging artists, each one on the cusp of a budding career.

Please join us for another year of original projects, artistic excellence, a contagious group spirit and the art of communicating through words and music.

David & Katharina

SUMMARY

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I

LARGE VOCAL
FORMATS



SEPTEMBRE MUSICAL DE L'ORNE
ÉGLISE DE LA FERTÉ MACÉ
Friday, September 19, 2025 at 8:00 PM

BACH & HANDEL

SACRED & MYTHOLOGICAL CANTATAS

Bach and Handel composed cantatas exploring both religious and secular themes. Although more concise than operas or oratorios, these works are no less emotionally and musically rich. Designed to establish a direct and intimate connection with the audience, they display scenes of great expressivity, capable of eliciting vivid and contrasted emotions.

The excerpts from Bach cantatas presented in this program celebrate the metaphysical connection between human beings and nature, reflecting the composer's sensitivity to the beauty, complexity and depth of the living world. As for Handel, his rereading of the Dafne myth unfolds an array of emotions, mixing seduction, dread, exaltation of virtue and the power of metamorphosis in a musical narrative as captivating as it is timeless.

PROGRAM

J.S. Bach

Sinfonia BWV 42

Cantata BWV 180, Aria « Lebens Sonne, Licht der Sinnen »

Cantata BWV 170, Aria « Vergnügte Ruh, beliebte Seelenlust »

Cantata BWV 202, Aria « Wenn die Frühlingslüfte Streichen »

Cantata BWV 187, Aria « Du Herr, du krönst allein das Jahr mit deinem Gut »

Chorale « Gott hat die Erde zugericht »

G.F. Handel/ J.J. Fux

Cantata *Apollo e Dafne* with excerpts from the opera *Dafne in Lauro*

Semi-Staging by Randa Haines

ARTISTS

David Stern MUSICAL DIRECTION
Randa Haines STAGE DIRECTION

Soloists of the 5th & 6th generations of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program

Iryna Kyshliaruk SOPRANO
Cécile Madelin MEZZO-SOPRANO
Kevin Arboleda BARITONE-BASS

OPERA FUOCO ORCHESTRA

DURATION: 1H40



OPÉRA DE MASSY
Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 8:00 PM

BACH QUATTRO STAGIONI

The seasons are an eternal source of change and contrast. In the cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach, we find a wealth of colorful and theatrical compositions that, according to the ecclesiastical calendar, are sometimes oriented towards the seasons and depict the human condition in its metaphorical environment. In the musical excerpts of this program, elements of nature become protagonists in their own right: the cold of winter gives way to the warmth of spring, and the gray color palette of autumn replaces the rumble of a storm at the end of summer. Each aria illuminates the multifaceted expression of the human condition in the face of the forces of nature. The sinfonias articulate the unfolding of expressive pasticcio like theater backdrops. The final chorale «Gott hat die Erde zugericht» from the New Year's Cantata BWV 187 crowns the four seasons with a thanksgiving for the past year.

PROGRAM

WINTER - ICE, SNOW, THE STORMS

VIVALDI - Largo *La Pioggia*

BACH - excerpts from cantatas BWV 18 and 81

SPRING & SUMMER—Flowers, pastures, sun, springs, the village festivals

VIVALDI - Allegro, *Danza pastorale*

BACH - excerpts from cantatas BWV 209, 202, 170 and 180

VIVALDI - Adagio *Mosche e mossoni/tuonI*

BACH - excerpts from cantatas BWV 42, 146 and 205

AUTUMN — Rain, wind in the leaves, storms marines, THE GRAPE HARVEST

VIVALDI - Allegro *La caccia*

BACH - excerpts from cantatas BWV 21, 178 and 187

ARTISTS

David Stern MUSICAL DIRECTION

Soloists of the 6th generation of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program

Thaïs Rai-Westphal	SOPRANO
Cécile Madelin	MEZZO-SOPRANO
Lucas Pauchet	TÉNOR
Max Latarjet	BASS-BARITONE

OPERA FUOCO ORCHESTRA

DURATION : 1H40



OPÉRA DE MASSY
Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 8:00 PM
Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 4:00 PM

BONNEUIL-SUR-MARNE - SALLE GÉRARD PHILIPPE
Saturday, January 17, 2026 at 8:30 PM

PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS
Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 8:00 PM

ANATOMY OF LOVE

TROUBLE IN TAHITI & ARIAS AND BARCAROLLES | BERNSTEIN

Leonard Bernstein's vocal works are at the heart of Opera Fuoco's repertoire. After *West Side Story* and *Candide*, David Stern has chosen to explore less frequently performed American works.

While one of the company's founding axes is the promotion of unjustly forgotten Baroque, Classical and Romantic works, it has also made it its mission to explore the American repertoire, an ideal entry point for the public and an important building block for the soloists of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program. David Stern takes on this new production with a perfect understanding of the composer's language, both musical and psychological.

Leonard Bernstein wrote *Trouble in Tahiti* on his honeymoon.

Created in 1952, this mini-opera tells the story of *Sam and Dinah*, a couple who seem to have fallen out of love. Bernstein's lyrical writing captures the fragility of two human beings and their immense solitude behind the banality of a household bored with love. The composer seems to have taken his inspiration directly from his parents' relationship, making the plot almost naturalistic. He would later write a sequel to this story in *A Quiet Place*

David Stern

"*Trouble in Tahiti*", a one-act opera by Leonard Bernstein, explores the daily life of Sam and Dinah, a suburban couple trapped between routine, loneliness, and failed communication. From a breakfast scene to work and psychoanalysis, their attempts at connection dissolve, ending with a decision to escape to the movies instead of attending their son's play. An onstage trio delivers ironic commentary on the illusion of happiness, highlighting the emptiness of postwar suburban life.

Composed 35 years later, "*Arias and Barcarolles*" takes a very different form: a whimsical, poetic song cycle that reflects on life's intimate moments through fragments of humor, tenderness, and reflection. Written during a period of personal grief, it shows a more inward, vulnerable Bernstein.

Although never conceived as companion pieces, these works resonate when paired: they share similar voice types, orchestration, and Bernstein's own words, offering a unique journey through his feelings, his sense of love and solitude, and his artistic evolution.

Elsa Rooke

ARTISTS

David Stern	MUSICAL DIRECTION
Elsa Rooke	SEMI-STAGING
Charlotte Gauthier & Stéphane Petitjean	PIANISTS & COACHES

Soloists of the 6th generation of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program

Marion Vergez-Pascal	MEZZO-SOPRANO
Cécile Madelin	MEZZO-SOPRANO
Lucas Pauchet	TÉNOR
Kevin Arboleda	BARITONE-BASS
Max Latarjet	BASS-BARITONE

**AN OPERA FUOCO CO-PRODUCTION WITH
 L'ORCHESTRE NATIONAL ÎLE-DE-FRANCE & OPÉRA DE MASSY**

DURATION : 1H15 (without intermission)



ÉGLISE SAINT-PIERRE DE TOUQUES

Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM

In preparation for performance with the Swedish Chamber
Orchestra in our 26-27 season

LA BOHÈME

PUCCINI

Puccini's masterpiece, La Bohème, is among the most often performed operas worldwide since its creation in 1896. David Stern and the Paris-based company Opera Fuoco propose a rendition of this timeless story which captures the true spirit of the opera: one of youth, of starving artists who live out their fantasies in the garrets of wintry Paris, defying fate for art and love. Due to the composer's lavish orchestration, it is rare to hear La Bohème sung by young artists. Opera Fuoco offers a chamber version which not only heightens the audience's experience but also allows the young operatic stars to bring truly uninhibited youthful passion to the stage.

Director Elsa Rooke's semi-staging will capture all the intimacy of the drama and will invite the audience to experience Mimi's saga in an up-close telling.

ARTISTS

David Stern	MUSICAL DIRECTION
Elsa Rooke	SEMI-STAGING

Soloists of the 5th and the 6th generation of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program

Margaux Poguet	MIMI
Serafima Liberman	MUSETTA
Vincent Guérin	RODOLFO
Pierre Gennaï	MARCELLO
Aymeric Biesemans	SCHAUNARD
Max Latarjet	COLLINE
Julien Ségol	BENOÎT / ALCINDORO
Karolos Zouganelis	PIANO

DURATION : 2H00 (with intermission)

II

FUOCO OBBLIGATO



CHÂTEAU D'ÉCOUEN - MUSÉE NATIONAL DE LA RENAISSANCE

Friday, November 28, 2025 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Rehearsal open to schools

Saturday, November 29, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Concert

ANIMA AMANTE

PROGRAM

After having traveled the passions
baroque in several programs, Fuoco

Obbligato explores the multiple
landscapes in love with repertoires
classic and romantic.

From Gluck to Beethoven and from
Mendelssohn to Hérold, the sensitivity of two
centuries brings forth all the torments and joy
of the soul lover.

This program is an opportunity to
rediscoveries from collections of airs or unsung
operas.

The singers.euses of the Atelier Lyrique
Opera Fuoco and instrumentalists will awaken
the loving soul to the chords of the most
beautiful music of these eras.

Katharina Wolff

State of Mind

Gluck - *Cessate, fuggite*
C.P.E. Bach - *D'amor per te languisco*
Beethoven - *La Gondoletta*

Shadows

Gluck - *Danse des Champs Élysées*
Von Paradis - *Meiner lieben trauten Linde*
Haydn - *Placidi ruscelletti*
Rossini - *Qual tenero diletto*

Dream of Marriage

Beethoven - *The Dream*
Beethoven - *Um in der Ehe froh zu leben*
Mayr - *Romanza*

Touch of Humor

Mozart - *Batti, batti*
Mendelssohn - *Mit zärtlichen süßen Blicken*
Haydn - *Mi fanno ridere*
Mozart - *Tandem post turbida fulmina*
Hérold - *C'en est fait*

ARTISTS

Soloists of the 6th generation of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program

Thaïs Raï-Westphal

Cécile Madelin

Lucas Pauchet

SOPRANO

MEZZO-SOPRANO

TÉNOR

Katharina Wolff

Jean Bregnac

Daria Fadeeva

Jennifer Hardy

VIOLIN & ARTISTIC DIRECTION

FLUTE

PIANOFORTE

CELLO

DURATION : 60MIN (without intermission)



WINTER PARK BACH FESTIVAL (USA)
TIEDKE CONCERT HALL
Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 3:00 PM

PALM BEACH (USA) - ROYAL POINCIANA CHAPEL
Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 5:00 PM

MASTERCLASS AT LYNN CONSERVATORY
Date TBA

LABYRINTH OF LOVE

PROGRAM

The mythological labyrinth crosses the centuries, taking shape in literature, the arts and gardens. It symbolizes the inner journey and the meanders of life. This program of baroque tunes, dedicated to love in mythology, invites the listener to journey into the heart of a labyrinth of human emotions, incarnated by the elements of nature. The course opens with French tunes evoking winged creatures – elusive butterfly, migratory birds – who address fidelity, constancy and wounded heart. Then come the German, Italian and English tunes, which plunge into the shadows: monsters, snakes and spiders arise at the bend of dead ends, revealing fear, rage, deception and loss. Despite these obscure paths and the almost deadly sleep of Schürmann's melancholic aria, light returns with Bach's cantata dedicated to Aeolus and Vivaldi's Zefiretti. This emotional journey ends with a trio sparkling, evoking the Wheel of Fortune and leaving room for renewal.

Katharina Wolff

Johann Joseph Fux, *Pour le Coucou*

Arias by Campra

Jean-Philippe Rameau, *Le Rappel des Oiseaux*

Arias by Handel

Georg Caspar Schürmann, *Sinfonia pour la tempête*

Arias by Handel and Fux

Johann Joseph Fux, *Pour le Rossignol*

Arias by John Christopher Smith

Johann Joseph Fux, *Air*

Arias by Vivaldi and Rameau

Johann Joseph Fux, *Pour la Caille*

Arias by Bach

Johann Joseph Fux, *Gigue*

Duos by Vivaldi and Handel

ARTISTS

Soloists of the 3rd and the 6th generation of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program

Juliette Tacchino
Sophia Stern

SOPRANO
MEZZO-SOPRANO

Katharina Wolff
Jean Brégnac
Jennifer Hardy
Kenneth Weiss

VIOLIN & ARTISTIC DIRECTION
FLUTE
CELLO
CLAVECIN

DURATION: 1H10 (without intermission)

III

YOUNG ARTISTS
PROGRAM &
MASTERCLASSES

THE YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM

Opera Fuoco offers a unique, custom-made experience to young singers of all backgrounds transitioning from conservatory to professional life. Singers are able to work with David Stern, experienced vocal coaches and stage directors in various contexts ranging from masterclasses and recitals to large-scale performances with orchestra and fully staged opera productions. The repertoire spans not only several centuries but a variety of genres, from baroque to contemporary, including musical comedy and jazz.



Kevin Arboleda
BARITONE-BASSE



Clara Barbier-Serrano
SOPRANO



Pierre Gennai
BARYTON



Max Latarjet
BASSE-BARITONE



Serafima Liberman
SOPRANO



Cécile Madelin
MEZZO-SOPRANO



Lucas Pauchet
TÉNOR



Margaux Poguet
SOPRANO



Thaïs Rai-Westphal
SOPRANO



Julien Ségol
BASSE



Juliette Tacchino
SOPRANO



Marion Vergez-Pascal
MEZZO-SOPRANO

THE 6TH GENERATION



REID HALL, PARIS 6

Thursday, October 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Encounter - Concert

OPÉRA DE MASSY

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Apéro-Concert

LE GÉNIE FÉMININ

WOMEN COMPOSERS

Opera Fuoco and David Stern enthusiastically delve into the rich heritage of women composers, and invite you on a musical journey through 18th and 19th century Europe. These works are as expressive as they are inspired. With music by Marianna Martinez, Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, Louise Bertin and Pauline Viardot, this program highlights a rich and varied palette of works that until recently were unfairly ignored.

From the first classical explorations to romantic daring, from literary salons to opera stages, these musicians have left works of astonishing vitality.

Performed by the young artists of the Atelier Lyrique Opera Fuoco and coached dramatically by Elsa Rooke, our resident stage director, this masterclass offers not only a rediscovery of an important repertoire but an intense exploration of why these works are unique and relevant today.

COACHES

Elsa Rooke

David Stern

Soloists of the 6th generation of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program



REID HALL, PARIS 6
Friday, April 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Encounter-Concert

IDOMÉNÉE

CAMPRA

On January 12, 1712, André Campra premiered at the Royal Academy of Music his opera *Idoménée*, based on a libretto by Antoine Danchet. The work marked an important moment in the history of French tragic opera. In addition to the brilliant and psychologically compelling music of Campra, the libretto by Antoine Danchet was one of the best on its era. With a particular emphasis on human relationships, Danchet delivers an almost naturalistic drama that would later directly inspire Varesco in his adaptation for Mozart in 1781.

The plot draws its dramatic strength from the family relationships between Idomeneo and Idamante, from Ilione's moral conflict and from Elettra's personality worthy of a heroine worthy of Verdi. For this master class, David Stern invites resident artists Laurent Naouri and the director Elsa Rooke to accompany the soloists of the 6th generation of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program in the meanderings of this universal human drama.

COACHES

Laurent Naouri
Elsa Rooke
David Stern

Soloists of the 6th generation of the Opera Fuoco Young Artists Program

IV

OUTREACH

FUOCO ACTIONS

For two years, Opera Fuoco has been leading an artistic project at the Marcoussis horticultural high school outside Paris, mixing music, the plastic arts and mythology. Through vocal and visual workshops, students explored the link between gods, nymphs, sorceresses and modern superheroes and the nature of the labyrinth in both its aesthetic and dramatic forms.

The students themselves were able to bring these ancient stories back to life and make sense of them by discovering the force of the music and text. It is always moving to see a student touched by a voice and wondering about the emotions that singing can evoke. It is a beautiful example of the power of music and the need to bring the arts closer to young people.

These workshops gave rise to several showcases, including two collective exhibits on Heros and Labyrinths in the entrance hall of the Opéra de Massy, accompanied by two musical performances with the school classes involved, the soloists from our young artists program, and musicians from the Opera Fuoco Orchestra directed by David Stern.

A big thank you to the teaching teams, artists and students for their creativity and commitment!



V

CALENDAR

2025

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 19th

BACH & HANDEL

Septembre Musical de l'Orme
ÉGLISE DE LA FERTÉ MACÉ
8.00 PM

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 2nd

GÉNIE FÉMININ

Encounter - Concert
REID HALL, PARIS 6
7.00 PM

Thursday, October 16th

BACH QUATTRO STAGIONI

OPÉRA DE MASSY
8.00 PM

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 28th

ANIMA AMANTE

Rehearsal open to schools
2.00 PM - 5.00 PM

Saturday, November 29th

ANIMA AMANTE

Concert
6.00 PM
CHÂTEAU D'ÉCOUEN
MUSÉE NATIONAL DE LA
RENAISSANCE

2026

JANUARY

Saturday, January 10th

ANATOMY OF LOVE

OPÉRA DE MASSY
8.00 PM

Sunday, January 11th

ANATOMY OF LOVE

OPÉRA DE MASSY
4.00 PM

Saturday, January 17th

ANATOMY OF LOVE

BONNEUIL-SUR-MARNE
Salle Gérard Philipe
8.30 PM

Tuesday, January 20th

GÉNIE FÉMININ

OPÉRA DE MASSY
Apéro-Concert
7.00 PM

Thursday, January 22th

ANATOMY OF LOVE

PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS
8.00 PM

FEBRUARY/MARCH

Saturday, February 28th

LABYRINTH OF LOVE

WINTERPARK BACH
FESTIVAL (USA)
TIEDKE CONCERT HALL
3.00 PM

Sunday, March 1st

LABYRINTH OF LOVE

PALM BEACH (USA)
ROYAL POINCINA CHAPEL
5.00 PM

APRIL/JUNE

Friday, April 17th

IDOMÉNÉE

REID HALL, PARIS 6
Encounter - Concert
7.00 PM

Saturday, June 27th

LA BOHÈME

ÉGLISE SAINT-PIERRE
DE TOUQUES
6.00 PM

VI

ASSOCIATE
ARTISTS

LAURENT NAOURI



Laurent Naouri enjoys an international career with a rich repertoire of forty roles from Baroque to contemporary opera, notably in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *Pelléas and Mélisande*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Falstaff*, *Madame Butterfly*, *La Traviata* and *Don Pasquale* on stages such as the Paris Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, Salzburg, Aix-en-Provence and Tokyo. For several years he has shared the stage with many young members of the Opera Fuoco troupe.

«After a few initial collaborations, it is a great pleasure for me to associate regularly with this vibrant musical cauldron!»

ELSA ROOKE



Elsa Rooke is a director and pedagogue trained in music, theater, literature and musicology. She has been teaching dramatic interpretation to singers, musicians and actors for more than 25 years and has staged contemporary works (*Postcard from Morocco*, *Transformations*) as well as the core repertoire (Monteverdi's trilogy, Rossini's *Cenerentola*, Mozart's *Idomeneo*, and Puccini's *La Bohème*).

For Opera Fuoco she has taught many masterclasses and has staged Mozart's *Idomeneo* and Puccini's *La Bohème*.

«Supporting young artists in their development is the most exciting adventure there is, and Opera Fuoco, which is a wonderful home in every sense of the word, is the happiest family in which one could dream of being!»

VII

THE TEAM



David Stern
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
MUSICAL DIRECTION



Katharina Wolff Stern
CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
FIRST VIOLIN



Océane Urgell-Drobnik
ADMINISTRATOR



Marion Lecapelain
BROADCAST
MANAGER



Lucile Didier
PRODUCTION
MANAGER



Elisa Perez
GRAPHICS &
COMMUNICATION



Pedro Octavio-Diaz
ARTISTIC ADVICE
& STRATEGY

VIII

JOIN US



BE PART OF THE ADVENTURE AND CARRY THE VOICE OF YOUNG TALENTS!

This Circle, intended for gourmets of opera and lyric repertoire, gives privileged access to the work of David Stern and Katharina Wolff Stern and their Atelier Lyrique.

You can thus contribute to highlighting the new generation of young talents and accompany our productions in a more intimate way.

We thank you very much for helping us to perpetuate our creations with exceptional stage directors, choreographers, artists, accompanied by our orchestra on period instruments with a varied repertoire, so that we can continue to share with you productions of great quality.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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operafuoco.fr



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IX

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&
DONORS

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OPERA DE MASSY
Directeur Général: Jack-Henri Desmette / Directeur: Philippe Bellet / PARIS 92



Orchestre
— national d'Île-de-France



PARIS FRANCE
REID HALL
4 RUE DE CHEVREUSE

FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBRE
MUSICAL
DE L'ORNE

X

THANKS

**Opera Fuoco
warmly thanks its faithful
audience, its professional partners
and its generous donors in France and
internationally!**

The Opera of Massy, the Philharmonie de Paris, the Museum National de la Renaissance/ Château d'Ecouen, the Festival September of the Orne, the ONDIF, Reid Hall, the City Hall of Touques. The DRAC Ile-de-France/Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Ile-de-France Region and the National Music Center, the WinterPark Bach Festival, The Poicina Chapel, the GRoW Annenberg Foundation, Bruce and Suzy Kovner, Danny and Sylvia Fine Kaye Foundation, the Opera Verace Foundation, William G Brown, Richard Divine, Ari Rifkin, Mitchell Wolfson, Judy and Jerry Kaufman, Sanford Fisher, Joan and David Genser, Mary Greer, Bonnie Simon, Judy and Bernard Boulet, Katharina and Jacques Bouhet, Lynn and Russel Kelley, Karen Stone, Alain Pierre Kahn, Robert Hurley and Judith Symonds.

