



Compiègne, 8 April 2019

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **The Festival des Forêts, an immersion into music and nature**

For 26 years, the Festival des Forêts has been renewing the forms of concerts, and inviting the audience to live new experiences, bringing together music, nature and monuments. Only one hour away from Paris by car or by train, in **15 wonderful spots of the Compiègne and Laigue forests**, the programme of the Festival addresses a wide range of festival goers.

As an innovative festival, it gives a large part to creation, multidisciplinary, and hosts exceptional musicians and audacious settings.

A unique festival devoted to discovery and originality, it offers unexpected links between nature and art: a real immersion into nature and a guided discovery of the forest allow the audience to approach the musical works with a new sensory experience.

#### **Four formulas to meet a wide range of audience**

##### **>Event**

Highlight concerts of the Festival, they will offer all sorts of public intense musical emotions in exceptional places.

##### **>Concerts and hiking**

Hiking in the forest with specialized guides, and attending a concert, a genuine immersion into nature in order to intensify the experience of the festival goer.

##### **>Cosy events and Downtown festival**

In the heart of lovely villages or amidst different areas of Compiègne, these concerts are an opportunity to hear international artists and to exchange with them in a very friendly atmosphere.

##### **>Children**

The Festival offers concerts for the young ones as well as musical workshops called “Les p’tites Zoreilles” for children between 4 and 10.

#### **A bath of nature and music**

**Information** : Isabelle Baragan - Babel Communication - [isabellebaragan@orange.fr](mailto:isabellebaragan@orange.fr) - 06 71 65 32 36  
Alexandra Letuppe-Pantic 03 44 40 58 60 / [aletuppe@festivaldesforets.fr](mailto:aletuppe@festivaldesforets.fr) [www.festivaldesforets.fr](http://www.festivaldesforets.fr)

The Festival des Forêts proposes a real immersion into classical music, thanks to the richness of its programme and the vibrations experimented during the concerts. The feeling of an immersion into nature is given by the choice of the settings for the performances and during the musical hikes which are its landmark. It is a response to the large demand for more proximity with nature together with self soul-researching, and authentic and revitalizing experience thanks to the warm and attentive welcome.

During the Festival, two types of walks are proposed:

**> Before-concert hiking**

For persons with a ticket for one of the concerts of the day, previous booking the day before  
– walks with a theme such as history, nature, botany, singing, guided by a specialized expert,  
or  
- hiking of 12 and more km.

And,

**> “Self soul-researching walks”**, 3 hours, distinct from the concerts, inspired by *shinrin yoku* (a forest “bath” in Japanese). This practice of immersion and meditation in the forest has been developing since the end of the 90’s due to the benefits it provides for the body and the spirit. It is also a means of resisting city or work stress.

The therapeutic value of nature has been well-known since ancient times, and nowadays, many studies report that nature really reduces stress and suffering, fosters relationships and contributes to better physical and mental health. As for the immersion into the forest, although the Japanese have been the pioneers, other studies have confirmed the physical effects : to lower the blood pressure and heartbeat, as well as mental effects : to relax, to bring calm, to help with concentration, creativity and energy.

It is striking to notice that when listening to music, when done with moderation and attention, you can get benefits very close to those described for the forest. This is also established by many studies.

The Festival des Forêts, whose purpose for 26 years has been to link classical music, forest and heritage had to develop its own approach of the “musical bath” for the well-being of its audience.

Thanks to our coach Jean-Luc Chavanis<sup>1</sup>, and under the supervision of Christine Vervel, a medical doctor, the Festival has been able to propose the Self Soul-Researching Walks in 2018.

These walks comprise 3 hours in the forest with the coach and a high level professional musician. Walking with the indications of the guide, observing and simple exercises, together with music played during short breaks, everything aims at the same goal : the power of nature and music in order to achieve self-discovery and resourcing.

Before and after the walk, traditionally, the Festival offers drinks and snacks for a friendly break. At the end, summary exercises sheets are given to the participants so that they can practice by themselves, in order to open the way to self-awareness, harmony and well-being.

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<sup>1</sup> Designer of Méтанature, method of support outside the walls of mediation outside the walls and author of Ces Jardins qui nous aident (éd. Courrier du Livre, 2010)

## **NEW THIS SEASON**

### **The Self Soul-Researching Walks all year round**

The walks are proposed on a seasonal pattern : each season offers different benefits. The summer walks will be under the sign of energy, music and nature.

### **Thierry Escaich, composer-in-residence**

Composer, organist and improviser, Thierry Escaich is a unique figure on the contemporary music scene and one of the major representatives of the new generation of French composers. Thierry Escaich's pieces are part of the repertoire of the greatest orchestras in Europe and the United States, as well as that of musicians such as Valery Gergiev, Paavo Järvi, Alan Gilbert, Alain Altinoglu, Louis Langrée, Lisa Batiashvili and François Leleux, Renaud and Gautier Capuçon, Emmanuelle Bertrand and Paul Meyer. He has received four Victoires de la musique awards (2003, 2006, 2011 and 2017). Since 1992, he has been teaching improvisation and writing at the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris (CNSMDP), where he himself won eight first prizes. In 2013, he was elected to the Academy of Fine Arts of the Institut de France.

### **The objectives of the residence**

The hosting by the Festival des forêts, for a four-year residency, of the composer Thierry Escaich, is a way to continue and deepen this work of creating and disseminating music of today. The choice of Thierry Escaich was suggested by Philippe Hersant, who had succeeded Nicolas Bacri.

This year, this residence is structured around 3 axes:

- 1) A presence of the composer's works in the programme, whether in the form of creations or covers, particularly as a performer.
- 2) The animation of a writing and master class academy.
- 3) A mediation approach, through the presence of the composer during the festival and the organization of meetings with the public as part of the Preludes to the concert, but also in an informal way, especially on friendly occasions.

### **Orders and creations**

This 27th edition will include several creations including:

the commission from Thierry Escaich of a piece for horn quartet to be created by Hervé Joulain, Micha Clicquenois, Jean-Michel Tavernier and Jérôme Rouillard in mirror with a piece by Rossini created in the Compiègne forest;

the co-commission with Proquartet of Nicolas Bacri's Quartet n°10 which will be created by the Voce Quartet;

A creation on the Dictation of Mérimée, commissioned by the Festival des Forêts to Isabelle Aboulker.

## The Festival des Forêts, a few figures – 2018 Season

- > **19** concerts in 14 spots
- > **60** composers – 400 guest artists
- > **9700** spectators (festival and educational concerts)
- > **26 %** increase of audience between 2012 and 2018
- > Budget **560K €**
- > **68** public and private partners
- > **100** volunteers

## PROGRAMME OF THE 2019 SEASON OF THE FESTIVAL DES FORÊTS

- THURSDAY JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
**FESTIVAL DOWNTOWN**
- Compiègne, Garden of the cloister of the Saint-Corneille Library  
>**An encounter with Thierry Escaich**  
**6 p.m** Musical Conference – Drinks and Snacks  
Tchalik Quartet  
Public Interpretation class for the 1<sup>st</sup> quartet “Scènes de Bal”  
Erinnerung first version
- FRIDAY JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**FESTIVAL DOWNTOWN**
- Compiègne, Salles Saint Nicolas  
>**Music at Napoleon III ‘s court**  
**8.30 p.m** Concert
- Acer Quartet :  
WALDTEUFEL / DELIBES / STRAUSS
- SATURDAY JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup>**  
**A COSY CONCERT**
- Choisy-au-Bac, Villa du Châtelet and Church  
> **Léo Delibes Day**  
**5 p.m** Conference by Pauline Girard, biographer in the gardens of the Villa du Châtelet  
**6.30 p.m** Melody Concert in the Church  
Fanny Crouet, soprano  
Joséphine Ambroselli Brault, piano  
Isabelle ABOULKER, Set to music of the Dictée de Mérimée (World premiere - Commissioned by Festival des forêts 2019)  
**7.45 p.m** Picnic in Brunerie Park (Léo Delibes' house) - To be booked before June 20<sup>th</sup>
- 8.30 p.m** Piano concert in the church  
Aline Piboule, piano  
**9.45 p.m** Choir concert in the church  
Ensemble Athénaïs ( 6 women’voices and continuous bass)

SUNDAY JUNE 23<sup>rd</sup>  
**A COSY CONCERT**

Pierrefonds, Saint-Sulpice Church  
> **Creation**  
**5 p.m** Prior to the concert with Camille Villanove, musicologist  
& Nicolas Bacri, composer  
**6 p.m** Concert  
Thierry Escaich, piano  
Quartet Voce  
DVORAK / ESCAICH / BACRI / BEETHOVEN  
World creation of quartet n°10, Nicolas Bacri, an order from the  
Festival des Forêts and ProQuartet.

THURSDAY JUNE 27<sup>th</sup>  
**HIGHLIGHT CONCERT**

Compiègne, Théâtre Impérial  
> **Mahler 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony**  
**8 p.m** Concert  
Orchestre National de Lille  
Conductor, Emmanuel Boch  
Tribute to composer Alain Kremski by Temperaments variations  
chorus

FRIDAY JUNE 28<sup>th</sup>  
**HIGHLIGHT CONCERT**

Choisy-au-Bac, La Brunerie Park  
> **Pavel Sporcl and Ensemble Gipsy Way**  
**7 p.m** Picnic served by Ludovic Dupont  
**9 p.m** Concert  
Final with fireworks  
Pavel Sporcl, violin  
Ensemble Gipsy Way

BRAHMS/SPORCL/PIAZZOLLA/KATCHATOURIAN/MONTI/SARASATE/BABAI

SATURDAY JUNE 29<sup>th</sup>  
**A COSY CONCERT**

Choisy-au-Bac, Church  
> **Martinu #1**  
**1 p.m** Picnic  
**2.30 p.m** Walk with a theme & hiking  
**6 p.m** Concert  
Pavel Sporcl, violin  
Ingmar Lazar, piano  
MARTINU/ DVORAK / KOCIAN

SUNDAY JUNE 30<sup>th</sup>  
**MUSIC IN THE FOREST**

Saint-Jean-aux-Bois, Abbatial Church  
> **Bestiary**  
**10 a.m** Musical Self-resourcing Walk  
**1 p.m** Picnic  
**2 p.m** Walk with a theme & hiking  
**5.45 p.m** P'tites zoreilles workshop  
**6 p.m** Concert  
Stéphanie-Marie Degand, violin  
Thomas Brillant, violin  
Jack Stulz, alto

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Diana Ligeti, cello  
Nicolas Crosse, Bass  
Sophie Deshayes, flute  
Jean-Marc Fessard, clarinet  
Christophe Bredeloup, drums  
Sebastien Vichard and Julien Gernay, pianos  
Jerôme Wacquiez, Narrator  
SCHUBERT / SAINT SAENS / CONNESSON  
*In partnership with American Art Schools of Fontainebleau*

MONDAY JULY 1<sup>st</sup>  
**MUSIC IN THE FOREST**

Vieux-Moulin, Saint-Pierre-en-Chastres Priory  
> **The Origin of the World**  
Concert and video-mapping

**8.30 p.m** Picnic  
**9.30 p.m** Concert  
**10.15 p.m** Video-mapping

Ensemble Mikrokosmos (Chamber chorus)  
Choirmaster, Loïc Pierre  
HAYASHI/PRIEUR/TORMIS/SERNA/LARSEN/ERIKSON  
*In partnership with Video-mapping Festival*  
*Postponed to the following day in case of rain*

WEDNESDAY JULY 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**MUSIC IN THE FOREST**  
*Postponed to the following*  
*day in case of rain*

Tracy-le-Val, Domaine Saint-Mard  
**10 a.m** Musical self-resourcing walk

Compiègne, Saint-Corneille Library  
**4 p.m** P'tites Zoreilles workshop

Plessis-Brion Castle  
> **Les Plaisirs du Palais**  
**8.30 p.m** Concert  
**9.30 p.m** Buffet

Ensemble Clément Janequin  
Five voices, lute and organ  
COMPERE/NON PAPA/LASSUS/JANEQUIN/DESPRES/SERMIZY/  
MOUTON

SATURDAY JULY 6<sup>th</sup>  
**A FAMILY CONCERT**

Pierrefonds, Old train station  
> **Discovery of the quartet with Charlot**  
Movie and concert  
Compiègne, Saint-Corneille Library  
**4 p.m** Concert and snack  
Prima Vista Quartet

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Compiègne, Saint-Corneille library

**Fantasy for 4 horns**

**6 p.m** Surprise concert

Hervé Joulain, solo horn to French National Orchestral

Misha Clicquenois, Opera Orchestra

Jean-Michel Tavernier, republican guard

Jean-Paul Quennesson, French National Orchestral

SUNDAY JULY 7<sup>th</sup>

**MUSIC IN THE FOREST**

Saint-Crepin-aux-bois, Church

**>In the Forest with Rossini**

**10 a.m** Musical self-resourcing walk

**1 p.m** Picnic

**2.30 p.m** Walk with a theme and hiking

**5 p.m** Prior to the concert with Camille Villanove, musicologist

& Thierry Escaich, composer

**5.45 p.m** P'tites Zoreilles Workshop

**6 p.m** Concert

Hervé Joulain, horn

Micha Clicquenois, horn

Jean-Michel Tavernier, horn

Jean-Paul Quennesson, horn

ROSSINI/SCHUBERT/SCHUMANN/BRUCKNER/STRAVINSKI/ESCAICH

World creation of quartet N°10, Nicolas Bacri, an order from the Festival des Forêts and ProQuartet

MONDAY JULY 8<sup>th</sup>

**A COSY CONCERT**

Rethondes, Church

**>Goldberg Variations / Die Winterreise**

Piano and Liederabend

**7 p.m** First Concert

**8.30 p.m** Prior to the Concert with Camille Villanove, musicologist

Drinks and snacks

**9.30 p.m** Second Concert

Lucio Prete, bass-baritone

Maria Perrotta, piano

BACH / SCHUBERT

WEDNESDAY JULY 10<sup>th</sup>

**HIGHLIGHT CONCERT**

Tracy-le-Val, Domaine Saint-Mard

**10 a.m** Musical self-resourcing walk

Compiègne, Saint-Corneille Library

**4 p.m** P'tites Zoreilles Workshop

Verberie, Aramont Castle

**>Carte Blanche to Vassilena Serafimova**

Music & Lights

**7 p.m** Picnic in the park  
**9 p.m** Concert (1<sup>st</sup> part)  
Vassilena Serafimova, drums and marimba  
Rémy Delangle, clarinet  
BARTOK/CONNESSON/KOVACS/DE FALLA/PIAZZOLLA  
**10.15 p.m** Concert (2<sup>nd</sup> part)  
Vassilena Serafimova, drums and marimba  
Julien Poulain, lights and video  
TIME, audio & video performances  
REICH/CANGELOS/PIAZZOLLA/ALVAREZ/ALBENIZ  
*Postponed to the following day in case of rain*

FRIDAY JULY 12<sup>th</sup>  
**HIGHLIGHT CONCERT**

Compiègne, Armistice Clearing  
**4 p.m** Serenade and Conference  
Saint-Jean-aux-Bois, Abbatial Church  
**>Peace and fractures**  
After Armistice  
**8.30 p.m** Concert  
Slovak Chamber Orchestra  
Conductor, Ewald Danel  
Concert & lecture about the Versailles and Saint-Germain treaties  
BACH/BEETHOVEN/CASALS/STRAVINSKI/JANACEK/SUK/JEZEK/TWARDOVSKI

SATURDAY JULY 13<sup>th</sup>  
**MUSIC IN THE FOREST**

Pierrefonds, Saint-Sulpice Church  
**>Martinu #2**  
**1 p.m** Picnic  
**2.30 p.m** Walk with a theme and hiking  
**6 p.m** Concert  
Slovak Chamber Orchestra  
Conductor, Ewald Danel  
VIVALDI/PIAZZOLLA/MARTINU/ESCAICH/SIBELIUS

SUNDAY JULY 14<sup>th</sup>  
**A FAMILY CONCERT**

La Croix Saint-Ouen MCA  
**>Bécassine**  
**4 p.m Concert & Snacks**  
Coup de Balai Company  
Direction and choreography :  
Marie-Pierre Lagarde, with :  
Marie-Pierre Lagarde, actress  
Didier Massein, piano  
Costumes : Corinne Guillaume  
Lights : Marie Bellot  
Music : Eric SATIE, Claude DEBUSSY, Béla BARTOK  
Songs : Francis POULENC

MONDAY JULY 15<sup>th</sup>  
**FESTIVAL DOWNTOWN**

Morienvall, Abbatial Church  
**>Creations of the Léo Delibes Academy – Créations #3**  
Young Talents

**Information** : Isabelle Baragan - Babel Communication - isabellebaragan@orange.fr - 06 71 65 32 36  
Alexandra Letuppe-Pantic 03 44 40 58 60 / aletuppe@festivaldesforets.fr www.festivaldesforets.fr



**7.30 p.m** Snacks & Drinks prior to the concert with Camille Villanove,  
musicologist & Thierry Escaich

**8.30 Concert**

Tchalik Quartet

Restitution of the works composed during the Academy

Thierry ESCAICH, After dawn

Franz SCHUBERT, Quartet No. 15 in G major

Or Maurice RAVEL, Quartet in F major

THUESDAY JULY 16 th

**FINAL CONCERT**

Morienvall, Abbatial Church

**8.30 p.m Concert**

Restitution of the works composed during the Academy

Program to be completed

**>Forest Inspiration**

Omo Bello, soprano

Chausson Trio

BEETHOVEN

### **Agenda of the Self soul-researching walks 2019**

>Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 - 12.30

>Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 – 12.30

>Sunday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10 – 12

>Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 12

>Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 12

>Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10 – 12

>Sunday July 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 12

>Wednesday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 – 12

>Weekend 12/13 october 2019, 10 – 12

### **Useful Information**

#### TICKETS

- Online : [www.festivaldesforets.fr](http://www.festivaldesforets.fr)
- Telephone: 03 44 40 28 99
- Festival's office (as of May 2<sup>nd</sup>) : from 9.00 a.m to 5 p.m, Monday to Saturday :
- 6, promenade Saint-Pierre des Minimes, 60200 Compiègne
- By postal mail
- Directly on the concerts site

#### ACCESS

by road,

from Paris : A1 motorway, towards Lille

Exit n°9 - then follow Compiègne

From the North : A1 motorway, towards Paris

Exit n° 11, then follow Compiègne

by train

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arrive at Compiègne station, line Paris Gare du Nord-Saint Quentin/Maubeuge.

In the area: free shuttles,

- for each concert out of the City.

- Prior booking compulsory 24h before the concert : 03 44 40 28 99

- Departure from Compiègne Railway station : 1 h before the beginning of the concert

Or departure from the Town Hall : 45 minutes before