

The Percussions Claviers de Lyon

The Percussions Claviers de Lyon (PCL) were created in 1983 by 5 experienced and passionate young musicians, eager to innovate by building up an original repertoire which would draw all sorts of audiences.

Their instruments: 2 marimbas, 2 vibraphones, 1 bass marimba, 1 xylophone and 3 glockenspiels – keyboard percussions.

Their repertoire: interpreting our cultural heritage by adapting works which belong to our common patrimony, commissioning new works by young composers, creating their own music by blending classical, jazz, world-music and contemporary cultures.

Their assets: a will to innovate, the splendour of their percussion instruments, their new sounds akin to those of an orchestra, a group flexible enough to adapt to all sorts of styles and cultures. If percussions are universal, it is difficult to classify this new ensemble: classical? Contemporary? Jazz? World music? Or perhaps a bit of all that?

They have succeeded in their endeavour since the creation of the group is still considered by experts as a major event in the world of percussions.

In 1986, the group received an Award from the Menuhin Foundation.

1988, PCL gave the first performance of their first musical show, *la Ballade de Marie M’Ba* (performed 160 times), followed in 1998 by *Planète Claviers* (performed 120 times) and by *Blok* in 2003, which bears witness to the group’s spirit of innovation in this particular field.

In 1986, they collaborated with GRAME (now a national centre for musical creation) for the first time.

In 1992, PCL recorded their 3rd album, a version of *West Side Story* presented a few years earlier to Leonard Bernstein, who accepted to stand godfather to the group. This adaptation

met with tremendous success and was even played at the Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, and at the Citta della Musica, Rome, with over 100 performances in its various versions (instrumental, with string orchestra, with solo singers, with a children's choir...)

Invited in renowned international festivals, in China, Poland, Switzerland, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, the USA, Taiwan..., the PCL have played nearly everywhere in France, in festivals, theatres and cultural centres. They worked on their projects and shows with the complicity of such great figures of percussive and contemporary music as Doudou N'Daye Rose, Denis Badault, David Robertson, Mark Foster, Claire Gibault, Frank Tortiller, Gilles Racot, Keiko Abbé, Jean Geoffroy, Martial Solal, Gavin Bryars, Steve Reich, Jean François Estager, Jean-Luc Rimey-Meille, Bruno Giner, Daniel Tosi, Dominique Debart, James Giroudon, to name but a few.

In 2003/2004, with their 20th anniversary, the group has received large media coverage and has begun to explore new tracks, with a new repertoire and new projects, from a contemporary and interactive sort of music which mixes sounds and images to Emilie Simon's electro-pop songs and Frank Zappa's rock music.

Whether in Paris, Lyons, Vaison la Romaine or elsewhere, with the Orchestre National of Lyons or the Orchestre National of Basse-Normandie, this ground-breaking ensemble in the world of percussion, composed today of Raphaël Aggery, Sylvie Aubelle, Henri-Charles Caget, Gilles Dumoulin and Gérard Lecointe, still attracts audiences everywhere thanks to their virtuosity and the magic of their sounds.