

Ravel transatlantique

CONCERT

Maurice Ravel / George Gershwin
with H el ene Tysman, piano & the Percussions Claviers de Lyon



Ravel transatlantique

Concert — Duration: 75 min.

PROGRAMME

Rapsodie espagnole
Gaspard de la nuit
Piano concerto in G major
Maurice Ravel

Rhapsody in Blue
George Gershwin

ARTISTIC TEAM

Artistic Director
Gilles Dumoulin

Transcription
Raphaël Aggery,
Gilles Dumoulin

With
Hélène Tysman, piano
Les Percussions Claviers de Lyon

Find out more at
[www.lespcl.com/en/spectacles/
ravel-transatlantic/](http://www.lespcl.com/en/spectacles/ravel-transatlantic/)

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Team
6 musicians
1 technician
1 tour manager

Stage
Length : ≥ 12m
Depth : ≥ 9m
Height : ≥ 7m

Piano
Parlor grand or Concert grand
Steinway or Yamaha

Production
Percussions Claviers de Lyon

THEY HOSTED THE PROJECT >>> USA / CANADA TOUR IN OCTOBER 2019

The Cultural Center of the Lycée Français de New York (USA), Alliance Française Toronto (Canada), Helen M. Hosmer Concert Hall - Potsdam University (USA), Salle Bourgie - Montreal (Canada).

See page 8 for more international touring experience of Hélène Tysman and the Percussions Claviers de Lyon

Ravel transatlantique

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ABOUT RAVEL TRANSATLANTIQUE

New York, March 7th, 1928. Maurice Ravel celebrates his 53rd birthday with a dinner organized by soprano singer Eva Gauthier. Whilst in the United States, he has constant rehearsals, concerts, interviews, conferences and mostly, his excitement for American culture.

In 1923, Eva Gauthier is the first lyrical singer who performs George Gershwin's works, merely one year before *Rhapsody in Blue*. The young composer is invited to Ravel's birthday party because they are interested by the musical personality of each other. This evening, the French composer is astonished with Gershwin's improvisations on the piano.

However, Ravel had already been influenced by elements of African American, Hungarian and Spanish music. The next day after his birthday, he conducts his *Rapsodie espagnole* with the New York Symphony.

The composer happily continues his tour with another twenty American and Canadian cities, and states, « I've never performed as well as this—this crazy adventure. »

The following year, the Boston Symphony Orchestra commissions him to compose a *Divertissement for piano and orchestra* that will become the *Concerto in G major*. This piece is known for its extremely sensitive melodies and its joyful, bright, very jazz-like accents! How is it not a culmination of Ravel's experience in the United States ?

The Percussions Claviers de Lyon look back on a significant period of the composer's life, eclectic and filled with curiosity. Gershwin's famous *Rhapsody in Blue* is associated with a selection of pieces, all linked to Ravel's « crazy adventure » - *Rapsodie espagnole*, *Concerto in G major* and *Gaspard de la Nuit* - the undeniable presence of jazz in Ravel's music.

Hélène Tysman brilliantly performs the piano pieces which alternate audacious versions for the percussion quintet, and the two concertos promise an unusual dialogue! The combination of Ravel's and the sound of instruments historically born from jazz music, like the vibraphone... in a harmony that neither the French nor Americans knew in 1928.

Gilles Dumoulin
Musical selection

« I like how Ravel combines jazz and classical music with such subtlety and precision. That's one of the reasons why I was immediately prone to collaborate with the Percussions Claviers de Lyon in this repertoire. [...] In Ravel's music everything is organized like a Swiss watch, however he captures a variety of rhythms, the colors and the jazz harmonies with the most infinite delicacy.»

Hélène Tysman
Pianist

HÉLÈNE TYSMAN

PIANIST



© Lou Sarda

Hailed by The New York Times as a pianist of “warm touch and dreamy sensibility”, praised by The Daily Telegraph as “poetic” and qualified by the Süddeutsche Zeitung as a “pianistic cosmos”, Hélène Tysman’s recitals make a deep impression on her audience and professionals who describe it as “dazzling” (BSC News Magazine), “mixing excitement with eloquence” (Gramophone Chopin Express), “of rare fineness and intensity” (Télérama) and “extraordinary interpretation” (Le Figaro).

In 2010, after winning the First Prize of Darmstadt International Chopin Competition (Germany) as well as being Prizewinner of many international piano competitions in China, United States, England and Germany, she first broke out onto the international music scene as a finalist and Distinction Prize Winner of the prestigious International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw.

Her Chopin renditions have been acclaimed by critics and audiences all over the world and have led to releases of two all-Chopin recordings for OehmsClassics/Naxos which won the “Maestro” Award of French magazine *Pianiste*. She also recorded two chamber music Cds for the French label Indésens Records with the soloists of the Orchestre de Paris.

Invited by the Deutschlandradio Kultur Berlin to record a new release, she signs a Ravel program called “From Antics to demons” for Klarthe/Harmonia Mundi which received the French Arthèmes Classiques Award and was described by the press and the radio this way: “the exquisite sensitiveness of the pianist as well as her extreme precision inhabits the CD end to end”, “Nothing is conspicuous and yet all is here”, “a great artist and a great CD”...

Since a few years, she has extended her artistic horizons with original collaborations with literature and theater including famous French actors such as Francis Huster, Michel Robin, Jacques Gamblin, Dominique Pinon and multi-disciplinary artist Yanowski.

Graduated from the Paris Conservatory as well as Hamburg and Weimar Hochschule, she has studied with Pierre-Laurent Aimard, Oleg Maisenberg and Grigory Gruzman.

Internationally performing (Asia, South of America, United States, Russia, North Africa, Middle East, Europe), she is regularly invited at various radio and TV programmes and has performed in recital as well as a soloist with orchestras among which the Riverside Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Padeloup Orchestra, on the most worldwide renowned scenes such as New York Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, Paris Philharmonie Hall, Frankfurt Alte Oper, Hamburg Laeiszhalle, Shanghai City Theater, Cairo Opera...

Hélène Tysman is a laureate of the Georges Cziffra Foundation in Senlis (France), as well as the Chopin Foundation in Hanover, and was recipient of the prestigious American Anna-Maria Moggio Foundation for the Arts. She is a Steinway Spirio recording artist.

GILLES DUMOULIN

MUSICAL SELECTION



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Born in 1977, he began his musical studies at the Clermont-Ferrand conservatory with percussion teacher Claude Giot and then graduated from the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Lyon where he studied with Jean Geoffroy and Georges Van Gucht. He regularly played with Lyon and Toulouse orchestras and with Ensemble Orchestral Contemporain.

Gilles Dumoulin has been a member of the Percussions Claviers de Lyon for eighteen years, and since 2015 as an artistic coordinator.

From 2007, he adapted works by J.S. Bach, A. Roussel, G. Gershwin, H. Villa-Lobos, D. Shostakovitch, B. Britten, U. Choe. M. Van Der Aa.

In 2015, *Batêches*: international production with Ensemble Sixtrum (Montreal) including a new work from Patrick Burgan on poems of Gaston Miron.

In 2016, *Halla San*: works by Claude Debussy and Uzong Choe, with a commission to Arnaud Petit on a novel of Nicolas Bouvier (featuring soprano Yuree Jang).

In 2017, *Mille et Une*: staged show directed by Abdelwaheb Sefsaf, with actress Juliette Steimer, music by Patrick Burgan, new texts by Marion Aubert, Rémi De Vos, Marion Guerrero, Jérôme Richer, Abdel Sefsaf.

In 2018, *Ravel transatlantique*: a concert with pianist Hélène Tysman; works by George Gershwin and Maurice Ravel with music programme inspired by Ravel North-American tour in 1928.

En blanc et noir: concert with visual artist David Myriam, combining transcriptions of Debussy and Messiaen's music with original creation composed by Denis Fargeton on a sand painting background.

In 2019, *From New York to London*: concert programme with chamber choir Les éléments that illustrates how the American minimal music school has proven to be a major actor over a large artistic spectrum. *Caleidoscôpio*: a concert focused on Brazilian musical traditions with batucada Zalindê.

In 2020, *Bertrand Belin & les Percussions Claviers de Lyon*: two years after their meeting around Gavin Bryars opera *Calamity/Billy*, French singer Bertrand Belin reunites with the quintet on a specially designed setlist of his own repertoire.

PERCUSSIONS CLAVIERS DE LYON

Created in 1983, the Percussions Claviers de Lyon is a five-percussionist ensemble based in Lyon, France. Recently renewed, the ensemble is now composed of Gilles Dumoulin, Sylvie Aubelle, Jérémy Daillet, Renaud Cholewa and Lara Oyedepo. Dedicated to keyboard percussion such as marimbas, vibraphones, and xylophones, the ensemble produces an innovative and eclectic repertoire for their instruments that is always evolving. The quintet is constantly striving for musical excellence, reaching out to their audiences with original music creations, multidisciplinary performances, and collaborations with renowned bands and musicians like French singer Bertrand Belin (*Calamity/Billy* – 2018, *Bertrand Belin & Les Percussions Claviers de Lyon* – 2020), Doudou N'Diaye Rose (*Mix* – 2004), Zalindé (*Caleidoscópico* – 2019). These include the interpretation of pieces from the western musical heritage (Steve Reich, John Cage, Leonard Bernstein, Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, Darius Milhaud), transcriptions of popular music works (Scott Joplin, Emilie Simon, Chico Buarque, Jule Styne), as well as commissioned musical pieces by contemporary composers (Gavin Bryars, Moritz Eggert, Thierry Pécou, Xu-Yi, Patrick Burgan). The ensemble also participates in numerous cultural and education activities on tour such as conferences and workshops, as they do in L'Hameçon, their location in Lyon.

The Percussions Claviers de Lyon is subsidized by the Ministry of Culture - DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Region and the City of Lyon. The ensemble receives support for their concert, performance and recording activities from SPEDIDAM, SACEM, FCM, ADAMI and Musique Nouvelle en Liberté. The Percussions Claviers de Lyon is a member of FEVIS, PROFEDIM, Bureau Export and Futurs Composés. Companies La Nouvelle Imprimerie Delta, Les Ateliers Guedj and Resta-Jay Percussions are partners of the ensemble.



Percussions Claviers de Lyon © Cédric Roulliat
Photo taken at the Lugdunum-museum & Roman theatres

PRESS REVIEW

Hélène Tysman

« *Hélène Tysman revisits Ravel with rare finesse and intensity.* »

Télérama

« *The pianist's exquisite sensitivity as well as her extreme precision inhabit this release end to end. Nothing is conspicuous, and yet all is here.* »

Le Figaro

« *Helene Tysman crowned the evening with Maurice Ravel's Piano concerto in G major. [...] She fashioned the turbulent piano part with some elegant and percussive passages.* »

Zeitung Für Gotha

« *The 'singing' of Hélène Tysman's keyboard is a revelation.* »

Grey-Panthers

Percussions Claviers de Lyon

« *The quintet has broadened its scope over time, with new projects such as the adaptation of musical comedies. Its international renown regularly takes it on tours throughout the world.* »

Le Progrès

« *The Percussions Claviers de Lyon – a rich arsenal of incredible sounds and timbres.* »

La Lettre du Musicien

« *The ensemble performs contemporary creations, transcriptions of works by Ravel or 'French songs' with equal ease, revealing the multiple facets of percussion.* »

La Terrasse

INTERNATIONAL TOURING EXPERIENCE

Hélène Tysman

Performances as a soloist with orchestras, among which the Riverside Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, Padeloup Orchestra, on the most worldwide renowned scenes such as New York Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, Paris Philharmonie Hall, Frankfurt Alte Oper, Hamburg laeiszhalle, Shanghai City Theater, Cairo Opera...

Percussions Claviers de Lyon

Belgium (Concertgebouw, Brugge), Canada (Palais Montcalm, Quebec; Salle Claude Champagne, Montreal), China (Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing), Croatia, Denmark, Germany (Berlin Konzerthaus; Kuppelsaal, Hannover), Holland (Operadagen, Rotterdam), Hungary, Italy (Auditorium of Roma), Ireland, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan (Taipei National Theater), The UK (Kings place, London; Cheltenham Festivals), USA (Florence Gould Hall – FIAF, NYC; Maison française, Washington).

CONTACT

Percussions Claviers de Lyon

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