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ITINÉRANTES



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WHO ARE LES ITINÉRANTES ?

« Three sorceresses as if escaped from a not-so-distant Brocéliande... »

Natalie Dessay & Laurent Naouri, opera singers

Les Itinérantes, a one-of-a-kind female vocal trio, draws its strength from the diversity of its repertoire. Carried by **original compositions and arrangements**, the three singers perform **a cappella** songs from all eras in fifty different languages, in a **journey through styles, time and space**.

Manon Cousin, Pauline Langlois de Swarte and Elodie Pont shape **a sound with multiple personalities** to dress the **different musical stories** they tell. Gentle, powerful, celestial or earthly, the voices meet, blending forgotten tales with original compositions, in languages sometimes vanished or invented, in a journey where eras intertwine and borders dissolve.

Three musicians with very distinct universes who have brought together their diverse influences – from early music to French chanson, through world music and sacred songs – to illustrate the themes dear to them:

Women . Nature . Travel . The Imaginary

THEIR HISTORY

LES ITINÉRANTES is an a cappella trio founded in Paris in 2017. The project was born from a chance encounter between three singers originally brought together for a single concert. Coming from different backgrounds and repertoires, they nevertheless share the same desire for vocal exploration and an open relationship to singing, outside established categories. From the very first rehearsals, one thing became clear: the trio became a space for research around sound, the voice and what it reveals about our humanity.

Without instruments, LES ITINÉRANTES explore song as living matter: a space of memory, transmission and connection. Their repertoire spans more than nine centuries of music, some fifty languages and numerous vocal traditions. This diversity does not stem from an encyclopedic approach, but from a shared desire to explore what connects human beings beyond song, across styles and eras, and to contribute to preserving the richness of an intangible heritage.

Their work draws as much on the interpretation of early and traditional music as on original compositions and arrangements. Song is conceived as a primary gesture, rooted in the body, in resonance with emotions, founding narratives and natural cycles.



This approach is based on vocal work of great musical and technical rigor, carried by a particularly demanding a cappella writing

LES ITINÉRANTES perform regularly in France and internationally, in festivals and venues dedicated to vocal and musical creation. They have shared the stage with numerous artists and ensembles, and recorded several albums. In June 2023, they won first prize in the acoustic category of the Tampere International Vocal Music Festival as well as the Grand Prix, thus becoming the first French acoustic group to obtain this distinction.

Refusing fixed frameworks, LES ITINÉRANTES continue to explore the a cappella voice as a place of encounter and gathering, affirming its dimension that is both archaic and profoundly contemporary. A practice of singing based on listening, sharing and human experience.

DISCOGRAPHY

- 2019 - « *Au Fil de l'Air* », self-produce album
- 2021 - « *Voyages d'Hiver* », label Ambronay Éditions
- 2022 - « *Existence Shade* », EP in collaboration with the artiste Philip Barkhudarov
- 2024 - « *Origines* », label Mirare, La Folle Journée de Nantes official album
- 2026 - « *Hysterae* », album currently in production





PORTRAITS OF THE SINGERS

MANON COUSIN



Coming from a family of musicians, Manon began music at a very young age. She joined a choir at age 11, then entered the Chalon-sur-Saône conservatory where she studied singing, classical and jazz music theory. She sang in various ensembles, developed a passion for polyphony, then taught singing at the Chalon-sur-Saône maîtrise and the Autun maîtrise from 2008 to 2011. In 2012, she joined the International Academy of Musical Theatre in Paris. Co-creator of the trio Les Itinérantes since 2017, she composes, arranges and writes for this project, and for related projects such as the book-album *Rondes autour de la Terre* (Esperluète Edition) or her electro EP «Jeane Selleck». Since 2021, she has been working with the vocal ensemble ANÚNA directed by Irish composer Michael McGlynn.

PAULINE LANGLOIS DE SWARTE

Pauline began music at the age of 4 with piano, viola da gamba, harpsichord, singing and dance. After musical studies at the CRR in Perpignan, she obtained her DEM in piano, chamber music, musical training and the UV in accompaniment. She continued her studies at the École Normale de Musique de Paris (Alfred Cortot) where she obtained the 5th execution diploma in piano and chamber music (in duo with her brother Théotime), while perfecting her vocal technique with phoniatrician Benoît Amy de la Bretèque and singing regularly as a soloist with the Irvem maîtrise. She then joined the International Academy of Musical Theatre, where she completed the professional training program for three years. At the same time, she performed in various musicals and co-created the association La Compagnie with Malaika Lacy, for which she directed several productions. In 2018, she joined the Compote de Prod team as musical director and arranger for their different shows and directed the one-woman show «Ta vie d'endive» written and performed by Lucile Mennelet at the Théâtre Paris Villette. In 2021, she joined the vocal ensemble ANÚNA directed by Irish composer Michael McGlynn and performs in numerous festivals on the international music scene, while continuing to explore different repertoires as a soloist on various projects. («West Side Story» with the Keystone Big Band, «Gioia, la comédie musicale baroque» with the ensemble Les Ombres...) Today she is a singer, arranger, stage director, vocal and musical director on various artistic projects



ELODIE PONT



An artist from a very young age (singing, dance, theatre, flute...), Elodie entered the International Academy of Musical Theatre (AICOM) in Paris in 2012 to perfect her performing arts skills. Since 2015, she has performed in the musicals «Jeu d'Enquête» (Folie Théâtre) and «Madiba» (Comedia then Théâtre Antique de Carthage), the creation «Flop, le musical» (La Générale, Créteil), the show «La Princesse sans bras» (tour), the creation «La Tour de 300 mètres» (Comédie Bastille), a French and immersive version of «Company», the creation workshop of a French adaptation of «Pippin» supervised by Stephen Schwartz, the floral musical «Naturya» (Floralies de Nantes), the Christmas show «Let's Sing Christmas» at Disneyland Paris... For the 2021-2022 season, she performed on national stages in the role of Liza in the space musical «Mars 2037», the latest creation by Pierre Guillois and Nicolas Ducloux.

For several years, she was also part of the vintage singers/dancers group «The Satin Dollz». Since 2021, she has occasionally participated in international tours with the vocal ensemble ANÚNA directed by Irish composer Michael McGlynn.

Today she is a singer, composer and arranger for the a cappella vocal trio «Les Itinérantes» which she co-created.



SPATIAL AND POETIC CONCERTS

“ One of a kind,
Les Itinérantes’ concert blends vocal performance and poetry.”

(*LE PETIT BLEU*, June 2022)

Duration : 1h10 - Audience : All audiences

Les Itinérantes offer several concert formats and themes depending on venues and their acoustics, always in a spirit of musical journey across borders and eras. They currently present eight standard programs for churches, performance halls, with or without percussionist or sound system.

*BETWEEN WORLDS - TERRA MATER - WINTER JOURNEYS - ORIGINS
MUNDUS IMAGINALIS - HYSTERÆ - GARDENS OF LIGHT - DREAM LAND*

SPATIAL PERFORMANCE

One of the trio’s distinctive features is that the singers move through the space, among and around the audience during the concert, in order to create an immersive and three-dimensional sound experience, and to showcase the space itself.

A WIDE-RANGING REPERTOIRE

Whatever the format or the theme chosen, Les Itinérantes always offer a program where eras, styles and languages blend together.

WORKSHOPS & CUSTOM EVENTS

Les Itinérantes lead workshops on voice and body, for children or adults from 1 to 111 years old.

For your events, they offer custom programs with the possibility of arranging and composing on specific themes.





BETWEEN WORLDS

A cappella musical journey

FOLKLORE - NATURE - JOURNEY BETWEEN WORLDS

“The realm of fairy-story is wide and deep and high and filled with many things: all manner of beasts and birds are found there; shoreless seas and stars uncounted; beauty that is an enchantment, and an ever-present peril.” (J.R.R TOLKIEN)

Between reality and imagination, BETWEEN WORLDS is a crossing between two worlds, a vocal odyssey between folk traditions from five continents and songs from an invented universe.

This imaginary land takes the form of a planet with nine moons, divided between eternal light and endless night. In this other world, new peoples are born along with their songs, performed in invented languages, telling us of their traditions and their wild nature, populated by vibrant birds and mysterious creatures.

These dreamlike folklores dialogue and resonate with songs from our own world: from the forests of Latvia to the shores of Cameroon, from Mongolian songs to New Zealand ballads, from the Bulgarian mountains to the plains of America. Like migrating birds, the voices carry us from one land to another, at the borders of reality.

Program: folk and traditional songs from 5 continents, original compositions around an invented world

Venues and accoustics: Interior and unamplified (amplified possible)





DREAM LAND

Ode to the night

NIGHT – DREAMS – MAGIC

DREAM LAND explores that fragile in-between where anything becomes possible, where imagination breaks free, and where visions emerge, masked figures, mysterious queens, mischievous spirits and moonlight with shifting reflections.

Night is also that time apart, conducive to secrets, hidden impulses, furtive encounters and whispered desires.

Through an a cappella program blending works by Fauré, Poulenc, world songs and other repertoires around the theme of night, Les Itinérantes give voice to the multiple faces of dreams - by turns luminous, playful, unsettling or soothing.

An ode to the night, from its spells to its mirages.

Program: world music, French chanson, compositions or arrangements on the themes of night, dreams, magic...

Venues and accoustics: Interior, amplified or not





TERRA MATER

The sacred and the feminine

PROGRAM ON THE FEMININE IN THE SACRED

Figure of protection, bearer of hope, mother and tutelary presence: in sacred traditions, the feminine occupies a central place in the relationship to earth, birth and transmission, notably through the figure of Mary, often associated with light and the living world.

Through traditional songs and original compositions, Les Itinérantes give voice to these figures of the Mother, creating a dialogue between eras and traditions, from the medieval visionary Hildegard von Bingen to contemporary composers such as Farnaz Modarresifar or Mariana Marrache, a 19th-century Syrian poet.

Program : songs to the Virgin, Christian songs, Orthodox songs, hymns to Mary Magdalene...

Venues and acoustics : Indoor and unamplified, heritage venues only with rather long-reverberant acoustics

This program also exists in a version with the singers from the IRVEM maîtrise.





THE GARDENS OF LIGHT

The experience of the sacred

SACRED PROGRAM

THE GARDENS OF LIGHT draws inspiration from the figure of Mani, a 3rd-century Mesopotamian prophet whose spiritual impulse sought to bring traditions together and reveal what they share: light, inner peace, the quest for meaning.

In this spirit, the program brings together songs from diverse spiritual and cultural traditions - Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism, animism, Norse and Egyptian mythologies - that resonate with each other like facets of the same human search: to understand oneself, to find meaning, to connect, to respect one another.

To these traditional songs are added original compositions on ancient texts, carried by voices such as Rumi, Lao Tzu or Lal Ded.

THE GARDENS OF LIGHT opens a space in which each individual is free to experience their own inner journey, their own experience of the sacred.

With the support of the Abbey of Sylvanès, Cultural Center for Encounters.

Program: sacred songs from various traditions, origins and eras

Venues and acoustics: Indoor and unamplified, heritage venues only with rather long-reverberant acoustics

Special feature: This program is performed with a specific scenography, notably involving a circular arrangement of the audience when possible.





MUNDUS IMAGINALIS

An epic in the medieval imagination

MEDIEVAL FANTASY PROGRAM

“Three sorceresses as if escaped from a not-so-distant Brocéliande...”

(Natalie Dessay & Laurent Naouri, Opera singers)

Would it please you to hear a beautiful tale of love and death?

Lend an ear and close your eyes if your heart so desires. Voices will guide you through myths and legends, to distant lands. Lands where men fight dragons, fall in love with fairies, where forests are populated by mysterious creatures, where love potions unite hearts, and where magic can still seal destinies.

Medieval songs, traditional songs, original compositions and arrangements, in languages sometimes vanished or invented, Les Itinérantes take you into the medieval fantasy imaginary, for a mystical journey outside of time.

Program: rearranged medieval songs, traditional world songs, compositions

Venues and acoustics: Indoor and unamplified (amplification possible), preferably in heritage venues with rather long-reverberant acoustics

Special feature: Paper set elements, in the manner of shadow theatre (darkness required)





WINTER JOURNEYS

Christmas carols from around the world a cappella

WINTER PROGRAM (November and December)

"A mysterious and magnificent journey into the heart of winter made of transcriptions and arrangements of traditional or classical airs. Each melody intoned is a delight of purity and precision."

(FRANCE MUSIQUE)

Sankta Lucia in Sweden, the winter solstice in the Baltic countries, Christmas celebrations... December celebrations have brought people together and united them for thousands of years. When the surrounding darkness meets the joy of gathering, of laughing... of singing to ward off the cold. You will be invited to come take tea at the Sugar Plum Fairy's house, swept into a mystical epic beneath the ice... You will meet the Spirits of Christmas and be invited to climb aboard the sleigh of the illustrious Father Winter. Not to mention the dance of a pretty Brazilian butterfly, flitting from flower to flower, tells us of the warmth of its summer Christmas...

Program: Christmas carols, winter solstice songs, compositions...

Venues and acoustics: Indoor and unamplified

Special feature: Performed with a percussionist, possible as a trio.





ORIGINS

Earth, Fire, Water, Air

AT THE ORIGINS OF MUSIC - FOUR ELEMENTS

“We go back to the origins of humanity becoming one with its first instrument: the voice.”

(*Hebdo LA VIE*)

Music accompanies humanity. Since prehistory, human beings have been creating music and singing. And like all artists, composers have always drawn inspiration from what they heard or experienced in order to create and share. This program, in a journey through the 4 elements, tells the story of what drove humans to sing: the need to connect to something else, to accompany a ritual, work, to dance, to give oneself strength, to pray, to honor, to transmit or to tell stories...

Program: traditional world songs, compositions, medieval music...

Venues and acoustics: Indoor, amplified, compatible with performance halls

Special features: Program with percussionist.





HYSTERAE

Women stories a cappella

PRÉFET
DE LA RÉGION
BOURGOGNE-
FRANCHE-COMté
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

CiTE
DE
La VOIX
VÉZELAY
BOURGOGNE
FRANCHE-COMté
centre national d'art vocal

THE FACETS OF THE FEMININE - STAGED PERFORMANCE

Mothers, queens, widows, witches, workers, wives, fairies and sorceresses... Powerful, defenseless, adored or feared, made invisible or idealized, fantasized and demonized, vengeful and merciful, victims, idols. The representations of the feminine in the world throughout the ages are numerous and fascinating in their paradoxes. Whether in a mythological or fantastical character (enchanting creatures with infinite powers, goddesses, saints...) or in the different roles she takes on within human society, the feminine figure has always had multiple faces, of unlimited complexity and richness.

Carried by melodies from around the world with surprising narratives, original compositions, forgotten works by women composers, this program questions our way of perceiving femininity today.

Program: portraits of women through traditional songs, French chansons, medieval songs, compositions...

Venues and acoustics: Indoor and theatre or performance hall. Other venues possible without the scenography, in acoustics not exceeding 2 seconds of reverberation.

Special feature: staged version with the show's sound and lighting technicians.



THEY TRUSTED THEM



« Folle journée de Nantes »
« Via Aeterna »
« Rivage des Voix »
« Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud »
« Festival Sacrée Musique »
« Festival de Rocamadour »
« Rencontres musicales de Conques »
« Festival d'Ambronay » (residency)
« Festival de Rocamadour »
« Festival de musique sacrée »
« Festival de musiques sacrées de Sylvanès »
« Festival de la voix »
« Les Folies vocales »
« Journées européennes de la musique ancienne »
« Rencontres musicales de Vézelay »
« Théâtre de Compiègne »
« Scène nationale de Tarbes »
...

FRANCE MUSIQUE

> « Générations France Musique, le Live »
> « 42e rue »

With Natalie Dessay

> Opéra de Bordeaux
> Le Bon Marché
> UNESCO
> FR 3 « Symphonie pour la vie »

INTERNATIONAL

« Folle journée de Varsovie and Tokyo »
(Poland and Japan)
« Udaipur World Music Festival » (India)
« Tampere Vocal Music Festival » (Finland)

Latvia, Benin, Iceland, Germany, Italy...

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Each program has its own specific requirements, don't hesitate to ask us for the associated technical riders, or to contact us for a quote.

VENUES

Primarily indoor, in enclosed places steeped in history, where the natural acoustics are sufficient to make three a cappella voices resonate (churches or other stone venues for example). Our programs can adapt to more or less reverberant acoustics.

The «Origins» and «Hysterae» programs can be performed in theatres.

SOUND

Mostly unamplified. We have our sound technician if amplification is needed.

LIGHTING

Subdued and intimate: candles (to be provided) and lanterns, with possible additional lighting to highlight the venue.

Specific technical rider for the «Hysterae» program.

TEAM

We primarily perform as a trio. Certain programs require a percussionist and/or our sound technician and our lighting technician.



THEY TALK ABOUT LES ITINÉRANTES...

“Their concert-performances take on the aspect of an initiatory ritual.”

(CLASSIQUE NEWS February 2024)

“Their blended voices surge forth, powerful, deep or ethereal.”

(OUEST FRANCE February 2024)

“One of the essential figures of the French music scene.”

(TV5 MONDE, January 2024)

“Bewitching and of a beauty that gives you shivers.”

(RFI, December 2021)

“A delight of purity and precision”

(FRANCE MUSIQUE, November 2021)

“A magnificent virtuosity, never showy, always in service of emotion.”

(PREMIÈRE LOGE, November 2021)

“Enough to surprise music lovers, intrigue the initiated and interest the youngest.”

“A contemporary and authentic interpretation.”

(OLYRIX, November 2021)



“A female trio like I had never seen before.”

(René Martin, artistic director of classical festivals, 2024)



“Three sorceresses as if escaped from a not-so-distant Brocéliande. Their intertwined voices offer a hypnotic fabric on which seemingly disparate patterns are drawn, finding here an unprecedented way to unite, or to confront each other.”

(Laurent Naouri & Natalie Dessay, opera singers, 2019)



“Full of atmospheric originality Les Itinérantes are one of the most exciting ensembles I have come across in recent times.”

(Michael McGlynn, Irish composer, founder of the ensemble Anúna, 2019)

CONTACTS

Production Manager:

Elodie BAILLET

itinerantes.acapella@gmail.com

Administrator:

Claire BAILLAT

claire.lesitinerantes@gmail.com

UK Booking Agent:

Thea PARASKEVAIDES

thea@artists-and.com





www.lesitinerantes.fr