

Alexis Kossenko & *Les Ambassadeurs*



chamber music
2018-19

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Alexis Kossenko has made a remarkable double career on both modern and historical flutes. A musical child prodigy, he has performed on stage from an early age, in recital as well as a soloist with orchestras. Alexis is frequently collaborating with baroque ensembles like Arte dei Suonatori, Holland Baroque Society and B'Rock. 2011 he founded his own ensemble 'Les Ambassadeurs'. Modelled after the Dresdner Hofkapelle, in J.S. Bach's time hailed for its beautiful sound, it aims to combine the German, French and Italian styles and performs repertoire from the early baroque to the classical and romantic era. Les Ambassadeurs recruits musicians from all over Europe. Kossenko has made many recordings for the Alpha Label. In 2013, Alpha issued the first recording with Les Ambassadeurs with music by Antonio Vivaldi, in a series dedicated to 'l'Orchestra di Dresda', the orchestra at the Dresden court called "the finest orchestra of its time". A second CD, dedicated to highlights from operas by Jean-Philippe Rameau, with rising star soprano Sabine Devieilhe, was issued on the Erato label and was awarded the prestigious *Diapason d'Or de l'Année*. In 2014, to mark the 300th anniversary of Bach's most productive son Carl Philipp Emmanuel, Alpha released a new album with the complete concertos and trio sonatas by C.P.E. Bach. 2015 will see the release of two new CD's with Les Ambassadeurs (see page 7).

Alexis Kossenko & Les Ambassadeurs Chamber Music *

CHAMBER MUSIC BY C.P.E. BACH

Solos, duets and trio sonatas for flute, violin, cello and harpsichord (from their latest CD)

G. PH. TELEMANN: THE PARISIAN QUARTETS

for flute, violin, viola da gamba, harpsichord

W. A. MOZART: THE FLUTE QUARTETS

for flute, violin, viola, cello

CONCERTI DA CAMERA FROM VIVALDI, LEO, SCARLATTI

for flute/recorder, 2 violins, cello, harpsichord

J.PH. RAMEAU & J.M. LECLAIR: OPERA ARIAS / RECRÉATION DE MUSIQUE

for tenor, 2 flutes, 2 violins, cello, harpsichord

with REINOUD VAN MECHELEN (tenor)



* Brochure with larger ensemble or orchestral programmes available on request

Alexis Kossenko



Born in Nice, Alexis Kossenko masters the flute in all its historic forms from the 'modern' flute to the baroque and renaissance flutes, as well as the recorder.

He is solo flautist in La Chambre Philharmonique (Emmanuel Krivine), Gli Angeli Genève (Stephan MacLeod) and Le Concert Spirituel (Hervé Niquet) and a regular collaborator with many ensembles including Orchestre des Champs-Élysées, Ensemble Matheus and Barokk Solistene. Since his acclaimed interpretation of concertos by Quantz and Vivaldi with the EUBO in 1997, he has been invited by numerous European ensembles as soloist on modern or baroque flute as well as on recorder.

A busy soloist and chamber musician, Alexis also has a flourishing conducting career. He conducts his own ensemble Les Ambassadeurs and is a regular guest conductor of B'Rock, Holland Baroque Society, EUBO, Le Concert d'Astrée and

Arte dei Suonatori, with whom he has recorded concertos by CPE Bach and Vivaldi (for Alpha, the latter was Gramophone's 'Editor's Choice'). Other CD releases include Concerts by Rameau, Flute concertos by Touchemoulin, Telemann, Hoffmann, and Charpentier *Leçons de Ténèbres* with baryton Stephan MacLeod.

Alexis Kossenko conducted Rameau, Haendel, Zelenka, Vivaldi, Mozart in Salle Gaveau, Paris, the Opéra Royal Versailles, Marseille Opera, Concertgebouw Bruges, Vredenburg Utrecht, Warsaw and Poznan Philharmonie, Sofia National Opera and festivals of Paradyz, Trigonale, Riga, Brezice, Würzburg, Weimar and Regensburg. He performed concertos by Vivaldi, Telemann, Hasse with Spinosi, Mozart with Emmanuel Krivine, C.P.E. Bach with Arte dei Suonatori and Holland Baroque Society, and Bach and Sammartini with EUBO, in Brussels, Potsdam, Tonhalle Zürich, BBC Proms, Wigmore Hall, Mozarteum Salzburg, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and the Philharmonies of Stockholm, Moscow and Berlin. In 2015 Kossenko will conduct Les Ambassadeurs in a French production of Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*.

Les Ambassadeurs



Founded by flute virtuoso Alexis Kossenko, 'Les Ambassadeurs' is a pan-European ensemble on period instruments which performs a wide repertoire from early baroque to classical and romantic music and from chamber ensemble to large orchestral settings. The ensemble takes particular interest in the rediscovery of the Dresden Hofkapelle, at Bach's time described as "the most beautiful orchestra in the world" for its exemplary discipline, virtuosity of its musicians, its shimmering colors which made it the first 'modern' orchestra. It was in Dresden that Italian, French and German styles were united and gave birth to the 'Goûts Réunis' treasured by Telemann.

According to Alexis Kossenko, the mission of Les Ambassadeurs is "to share with as wide a public as possible the infinite range of emotions conveyed by the experience of music." Away from dogmas, fashions and schools, Les Ambassadeurs pursue an ideal of eloquence — where the grammar of period instruments, the art of rhetoric and musical instinct do not exclude each other.

Following the example of the Dresden Hofkapelle, Kossenko brings together musicians from all parts of Europe. Les Ambassadeurs & Alexis Kossenko performed in Brussels (Bozar – Palais des Beaux-Arts) and Paris (Auditorium du Louvre), in Bruges (including the opening of the MAFestival in 2012), in Germany (Festspiele Potsdam-Sanssouci), Austria (Trigonale Festival), Slovenia (Brezice Festival), Poland (Festivals in Poznan, Paradyz and Warsaw), Latvia (Riga Bach Festival), Bulgaria (Sofia Baroque Arts Festival), The Netherlands and Belgium, with large scale works including secular and religious works from Dresden, Rameau's *Anacréon* and Haendel's oratorio *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*. In 2014 their performances of Haendel's *Tamerlano* at the Opera of Poznan met with huge success.

Since its foundation in 2012, Les Ambassadeurs has recorded five CD's, with music by Vivaldi (Concerti per l'orchestra di Dresda), Rameau (Le Grand Théâtre de l'Amour, on Erato), C.P.E. Bach (trio sonatas), Telemann (ouverture, flute and violin concertos, for Alpha, and "Tempesta", an album with arias by Vivaldi and Haendel starring mezzo-soprano Blandine Staskiewicz, for Glossa (these last two titles to be released in march 2015).

CD releases & press quotes - *Click on titles to listen to audio or view clip*



Antonio Vivaldi: Concertos Per l'Orchestra di Dresda Volume 1 [Alpha 2013]

Les Ambassadeurs, directed by Alexis Kossenko

The Dresden orchestra revived. Les Ambassadeurs are a model of disciplin and virtuosity. Such a fine brass! [...] A passionate adventure that explores the final terrae ignitae from the discography of Vivaldi's music. —Diapason

A very fine Vivaldi recording of the highest caliber : Five stars out of five —Klassik.com



J.Ph. Rameau: the grand theatre of love [Erato 2013] - **DIAPASON D'OR DE L'ANNÉE 2014**

Les Ambassadeurs, directed by Alexis Kossenko, with Sabine Devieilhe, soprano

If Jean-Claude Malgoire and William Christie were the first generation of French Baroque specialists, and Christophe Rousset, Hervé Niquet and Marc Minkowski were the second, then here are members of the third – soprano Sabine Devieilhe and flautist, musicologist and founder-director of Les Ambassadeurs, Alexis Kossenko. —BBC Music Magazine



Telemann, Overtures & Concertos [Channel Classics]

Alexis Kossenko with Holland Baroque Society

...an album of great art by great artists. —OpusOneReview



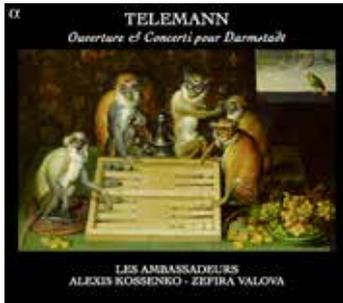
C.P.E. Bach: Complete Flute Concertos & Trio Sonatas [Alpha 2014]

Alexis Kossenko with Arte dei Suonatori and Les Ambassadeurs

The performances are outstanding in every way. I can't remember having heard this repertoire in more sensitive and expressive interpretations. —Musica dei Donum



New Releases March 2015



Telemann: Ouverture & Concerti pour Darmstadt [Alpha 2015]
Les Ambassadeurs, directed by Alexis Kossenko



“Tempesta” Arias by Haendel and Vivaldi [Glossa 2015]
Les Ambassadeurs, directed by Alexis Kossenko
with Blandine Staskiewicz, mezzo-soprano





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