

“An evening at the Knight de Chavoye”

Page 2

From you devoted Pierre-Jacques Payen, Knight of Noyan and Chaboye, Lord of Avranches, Lieutenant of His Majesty Louis XV, in Trois-Rivières, New France.

Dear Friends,

You know how much I enjoy receiving you for an evening dedicated to the music that delights me so much. Therefore, I ask some of the best musicians in the Kingdom, gathered as the ensemble named Les Chantres de Saint Hilaire, to give you the opportunity to hear some of the wonders of Couperin, Stuck, Clérambault, Bodin de Boismortier and Pignolet de Montclair. Moreover, did I personally have a collection gathering some of these cantatas, to enjoy them.

It is with strength, courage, and determination that my dear musicians have undertaken the interpretation of the gems. I hope you will enjoy, as much as I do, the discovery of the works and the harmony.

Thus, I will always have a very particular passion to witness by all the actions of my life, that I am,

Dear Friends,

The very humble and loyal servant

Though the invitation is not authentic, it nevertheless reflects the spirit intended not only on this recording, but also what probably governed the scores present in the Knight of Chavoye's collection. By discovering the cantatas which the Knight appreciated, the transmission of this collection is a big surprise. He was probably an amateur singer, who loved to perform, but also to give recitals himself, as was common practice at the time, surrounded by his close friends. When he inherited the Norman fief, not far from Avranches, King Louis XV's Lieutenant only knew France to some extent.

In 1739, his journey to his new lands offered him the opportunity to collect these scores. Some of them, such as Couperin's "Ariane consolée par Bacchus" (Ariane consoled by Bacchus), a rare secular cantata by the composer, will never be edited. Therefore, Les Chantres de Saint-Hilaire wished to dive these scores into an evening dedicated to French music. It's within a historical context of the Quarrel of the Comic Actors, that the Ensemble will navigate between the then innovative Italian style and much rather traditional French style. The great mythical figures have given substance to these stylistic jousts, for our greatest pleasure.

F.X Lacroux, musical director

Page 3 :

1 - Opening

brass band tunes from the Serenade in three suites of pieces

by Michel Pignolet de Montéclair

2 - “Ariane consolée par Bacchus” (Ariane consoled by Bacchus)

Cantata by François Couperin

3- “Courantes” (Currents)

brass band tunes from the Serenade in three suites of pieces by

Michel Pignolet de Montéclair

4- “Léandre et Héro” (Léandre and Héro)

Cantata of Louis-Nicolas Clérambault

5 - “Passepieds” (Passe-pied)

brass band tunes from the Serenade in three suites of pieces by

Michel Pignolet de Montéclair

6 – “Héraclite et Démocrite” (Heraclitus and Democritus)

Cantata of Batistin Stuck

Page 4 :

Cécile Larroche, soprano (4 ;7)

Guillaume Figiel Delpech, alto (2;7)

Michel Coppé, Violin 1

Isabelle Duluc, Violon 2 (expect 4), viol (2 ;4) ; violone (4)

François-Xavier Lacroux, transverse flute, flute (5 ;6)

Florian Abdesselam, oboe

Barabra Bajor, bassoon, flute (5)

Benoit Bératto, cello, double bass (1 ;3 ;5 ;6) ; viol (7)

Benoit Fammai, theorbo

Takahisa Aida, harpsichord and organ

Artistic direction of Les Chantres de Saint-Hilaire, François-Xavier Lacroux

Artistic counselors, Benoit Bératto and Guillaume Figiel Delpech

Realization of scores, Gaétan Bonjour and Julie Richard

Sound recording, mixing, post production, Laurent Pélissier

Recorded in the halls of the Filhot castle in Sauternes (Gironde) in October and December of 2020.

Photography and graphic design by Aleksander Zielen

Pages 5 and 6

You can find the German and Polish versions of the texts on this page Or by scanning this QR code.

Page 7

You can find the program's presentation, 2 karaoke tracks, and more information on this page Or by scanning this QR Code.

The scores were edited by Saint-Rémi editions, you can order them on

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Page 8

Château Filhot

Created in 1709 by Romain de FILHOT, the domain of the Filhot castle was transmitted to his descendants until the current owners: the Vaucelles family. In 1845, the modern castle was built in a neoclassic style close to the one of the Petit Trianon of Versailles and surrounded by a superb English-style park of the renowned landscape gardener Louis-Bernard Fisher.

The domain of Château Filhot, managed by the Count Gabriel de Vaucelles since 2001, extends over 350 hectares of which 62 hectares, in the south of the village of Sauternes, are planted in vineyards. These parcels, located around the park between the Ciron and the woods of Fargues, are made of gravel, sand and clay with a grape variety of Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc and Muscadelle.

The SAUTERNES produced by Château FILHOT testifies to more than 300 years of work and passion for the great white wines of Bordeaux.

Château Filhot is a patron of the Ensemble Les Chantres de Saint-Hilaire since 2015.

SAUTERNES EARLY MUSIC CENTER (CMAS)

The Sauternes Early Music Center, founded in 2021, brings together, under the aegis of the association Les Fils du Tonaire, many activities related to early music, both in its research, its teaching, and its production. In the heart of the village of Sauternes, the CMAS welcomes training for amateurs and professionals, children,

and adults, from cycle I to cycle III, by promoting access to

The CMAS organizes international academies and is supervised by the professionals of the ensemble Les Chantres de Saint-Hilaire.