"The intention of music is not only to please the ear, but to express sentiments, stir the imagination, affect the mind, and direct the emotions."
Geminiani, *The Art of Playing on the Violin*, 1751

Les Passions - the Montauban Baroque Orchestra

Les Passions – Orchestre Baroque de Montauban was formed by recorder player Jean-Marc Andrieu in Toulouse in 1986 and is in residence in Montauban. The ensemble is flexibly sized and specializes in playing **period instruments**. Its artistic approach reconciles two principles: respect for early playing techniques and dynamic performance of the musical discourse.

In 2026 the orchestra celebrates its 40th anniversary!



Daphnis et Alcimadure de Mondonville, Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse, 2022 © Patrice Nin

Repertoire

Les Passions plays **a broad range of music**. There are small instrumental groups, grand oratorios, historical shows, French, Italian, German and English Baroque music, and blends of traditional and oriental music. The orchestra provides innovative shows in which it delights in combining music with film, theatre, literature, dance and even culinary arts! The southern French Baroque that it explores with happiness is one of its specificities.

Musical Collaborations

The Orchestra frequently collaborates with choirs such as Le **Chœur de Chambre Les Eléments** and Le **Chœur du Capitole** from Toulouse. Since 2011, the orchestra has taken part in the **Festival Passions Baroques à Montauban of which Jean-Marc Andrieu is the artistic director**. Since 2021, he has been working closely with **Dulci Jubilo** (Christopher Gibert). In 2022, the documentary "***Mémoires baroques, une traversée des passions***" was released at the invitation of the international festival *Misiones de Chiquitos*.

Regional, National and International Renown

Abroad: prestigious festivals receive J.-M. Andrieu and Les Passions: Palazzo Farnese in **Rome**, Oude Muziek d'**Utrecht** (Netherlands), various organizations in **Spain**, including *Música, Historia I Art* in Valencia, *Música Antigua* in Saragossa, Amsterdam, as well as **Morocco, Switzerland, Hungary, Germany and Monaco**... Since 2014, the orchestra has been invited by the French Embassies and Alliances Françaises, and, assisted by the French Institute, they went on six tours of **Bolivia** (*Misiones de Chiquitos)*, **Peru, Chile, Brazil, Argentina** (Teatro Colón de Buenos Aires) **and Mexico**.

In France, the orchestra is received to famous festivals and on the Island of La Réunion... The Festival de La Chaise-Dieu received the orchestra three times for its famous triptych dedicated to Jean Gilles. In 2013/2014 J.-M. Andrieu and Les Passions, with the Chœur du Capitole, performed Rameau and Mondonville's Motets Versaillais at the **Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse** then at the **Festival Baroque de Pontoise**.

2027 will celebrate their 1000th concert!

Discovering Regional Musical Heritage: The Masters of Southern French Baroque

By virtue of his in-depth musicological and historical research, and considerable re-creation studies into forgotten or lost scores, Jean-Marc Andrieu has established himself as **the Jean Gilles specialist**. His discoveries have led him to **revive unpublished works by the composer Antoine-Esprit Blanchard**, both on stage and on CD, broadcast on France Musique and on the network *Union des Radios Européennes*.

His latest project is dedicated to the revival of a unique Occitan opera by Mondonville: Daphnis et Alcimadure, with great media coverage. Around this project, didactic actions are developed, and the video recording is broadcast on POM.tv

Discography

15 CDs have been released, most of them on Ligia label: ***Con Voce Festiva*** (Scarlatti), ***Venetian Vespers*** (Porpora/Vivaldi), ***Noël Baroque Occitan***, ***Beata est Maria*** *(Charpentier)*, a Jean Gilles box set with ***Requiem*** (2008), ***Lamentations*** (2010) and ***Te Deum, Messe en Ré*** (2012). **FolieS!** is a purely instrumental CD featuring the recorder. In 2016, ***Magnificat à la Chapelle Royale*** dedicated to Antoine-Esprit Blanchard in coproduction with Radio France–received awards such as *5 Diapasons, 4 Etoiles Classica, Clé du Mois de Resmusica,* and *Choix de France Musique.* In 2018, ***Vent des Royaumes*** in which Baroque music is mixed with traditional music from the Far East. The ***Stabat Mater by Pergolesi and Salve Regina by Scarlatti*** in a chamber orchestra version was released in September 2019.

The 2-CD set of the Occitan opera ***Daphnis et Alcimadure*** by Mondonville (2023) received important distinctions: *the Diamant from Opéra Magazine, the Choc from Classica, 4 Diapasons, the Joker from Crescendo, the Muse d'Or from the website La Muse Baroque, the Soleil from Musikzen...*

Residency and Backing

Les Passions Orchestra has a residency in Montauban. It is subsidized by the City of Montauban, the Urban Community of Grand Montauban, The General Council of Tarn-et-Garonne and the Occitanie Region.

The ensemble regularly receives support for its recordings from CNM, SPEDIDAM, the French Institute and Adami. It is a member of the CNM (Centre National de la Musique), Scène Ensemble and FEVIS.

Jean-Marc Andrieu Recorder Player and Conductor


Festival Oudemusiek, Utrecht © J.Vanderfeesten

Jean-Marc Andrieu began his musical studies at the Toulouse National Regional Conservatoire, where he obtained **first prizes in recorder, chamber music and musical theory**. He developed a passion for early music and honed his recorder playing and performance skills at the **Sweelinck Academy in Amsterdam**. He holds **Certificates of Aptitude in recorder playing, choral conducting and academy direction**. Jean-Marc Andrieu was Director of Montauban Conservatoire from 1991 to 2021.

In 1986 in Toulouse, he formed a Baroque instrumental ensemble which has enjoyed growing renown. It became known as the Orchestre Baroque de Montauban in 1991, and then **Les Passions** in 2003. He shows the explorer's spirit, unearthing rare scores for which he carries out extremely important **re-creation research**. His onstage and recorded version of the complete works of Jean Gilles is an international benchmark.

His dual skills as conductor and choirmaster lead him to take part on a regular basis in programs and recordings of Baroque and opera music both in France and abroad. Jean-Marc Andrieu is a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres and an Officier des Palmes académiques.