

Jasmin Toccata

Keyvan Chemirani, *zarb and Indian santoor - artistic direction*

Keyvan Chemirani first played zarb (Persian goblet drum), at age 13 with his father. He graduated in mathematics in 1989, but eventually started an international career as soloist and accompanist. Playing different kinds of percussions such as the udu, an earthenware jar used in the East and in Africa, Keyvan Chemirani performed with jazz and contemporary bands but also traditional ensembles like the Chemirani Trio and the Ethnic Archipel Quartet. By introducing Persian percussions to a wide range of music genres, Keyvan Chemirani intends to transform his musical inheritance into a multiform creation.

Thomas Dunford, *lute*

Thomas Dunford grew up in Paris and discovered lute at age nine, thanks to his first teacher Claire Antonini. He graduated in 2006 from the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris (CNR), and obtained an unanimous first prize with honors in the class of Charles-Edouard Fantin. Three years later he obtained his bachelor degree at the Schola Cantorum in Basel, Switzerland, with American lutenist Hopkinson Smith. Since then, Thomas Dunford has played recitals in New-York's Carnegie Hall and London's Wigmore Hall, and made numerous solo and ensemble appearances in European festivals, including Ambronay, Arc La Bataille, Bozar, La Chaise-Dieu, and around the world. Inspired by a wide range of music genres, including jazz, Thomas Dunford is looking for the connections that bring them together

Jean Rondeau, *harpsichord*

Jean Rondeau studied harpsichord at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Paris and at the Guildhall School of music and Drama in London. Awarded at the prestigious Les Victoires de la Musique Classiques as Best Solo Artist Revelation in 2015, 24-year-old Jean Rondeau is also one of the youngest first-prize-winners of the International Harpsichord Competition in Bruges (MAfestival 2012). His studies at the Sorbonne University in Paris led him to combine philosophy and baroque, classical and jazz music, exploring the musical relationships that bound cultures to one another.

Programme

Keyvan Chemirani (b. 1968)

Faotiti
To Bandegui

Robert de Visée (1650-1725)

Chaconne

Bernardo Storace (FL. 1664)

Chaconne

Keyvan Chemirani

Soudha

Henri Purcell (1659-1695)

Zarb solo on Music for a While

Antonio Soler (1729-1783)

Fandango improvisation on a fandango bass

Girolamo Kapsberger (1580-1651)

Toccatà 6

Joan Ambrosio Dalza (FL. 1508)

Calata

Keyvan Chemirani

Dawâr

Improvised eastern and baroque music.

Jasmin Toccata Project features an encounter between European Baroque and traditional Persian music. Percussionist Keyvan Chemirani, lutenist Thomas Dunford, and harpsichordist Jean Rondeau create bridges between these different musical worlds as they juxtapose pieces of the great Baroque masters—Scarlatti, Purcell, Dowland—with virtuoso Persian compositions of sublime rhythmic richness.

"When I played for the first time with baroque ensemble, I felt catapulted into a new world, in which the need of immediate efficacy to prove my own legitimacy and that of my instruments required absolute concentration. It was only several years later, after my collaboration with Leonardo García Alarcón for the world re-creation of Falvetti's *Il Diluvio Universale* in Ambronay, that I felt that this encounter between baroque and oriental instruments could make sense. It was then that I found a variety of resonances and bridges between these two musical worlds.

I first discovered the incredible warmth and intimate dimensions of baroque instruments. Such beauty of timbre and intimacy can coincidentally be found in the instruments used in the Middle-Eastern art music.

The baroque also works with diminution, which mirrors the oriental ornamentations. Finally, there is improvisation. The baroque continuo possesses great freedom, and therefore is able to develop a personal color in a precise framework.

Yet, it is above all the human encounter and the adventure of juxtaposing these two musical traditions that are the source of Jasmin Toccata. Thomas Dunford and Jean Rondeau are two young and talented musicians who both possess great knowledge in their field, and who are eager for openness and for the encounter that will result from this project. They are not only inventive and virtuosos, but also curious and open, capable of sobriety and great delicacy. The promise of much pleasure and emotions. "

Keyvan Chemirani