



# l'Opéra de Poche

The Pocket Opera



[www.operadepoche.fr](http://www.operadepoche.fr)

Appel d'Airs Association Loi 1901 03220 Châtelperron France  
SIREN: 482 379 146 Licences d'entrepreneur de spectacle n°2-1001245 n°3-1033870  
[www.operadepoche.fr](http://www.operadepoche.fr)



# |l'Opéra de Poche|

## The Pocket Opera Company « l'Opéra de Poche »

### A concept

"l'Opéra de Poche", a traveling opera company, was created by Appel d'Airs with the aim of bringing sung opera to as wide a public as possible. Carrying on the tradition of 18th and 19th century chamber operas, Opéra de Poche produces short, entertaining works sung in the original language with subtitles.

The repertoire ranges from the 17th to the 21st century and includes world creations of contemporary works. These live performances combining music and comedy, often in the vein of commedia dell'arte, appeal to audiences who are not necessarily familiar with opera but also to well-informed music-lovers who can discover works which are rarely performed in the big opera houses.

What makes a pocket opera different from classic grand opera is its short format. There are two to four sung roles, often accompanied only by the piano, and the opera lasts an hour and a half at most. These operas, staged with sets and costumes, are created by the Appel d'Airs workshop and are sung and acted by professional singers.

### Unusual

In order to attract a new audience, Appel d'Airs has chosen to perform classic operas in unusual venues: barns (Poisson), stables (Moulins), oyster shed (Carnac), cattle breeding center (Meillard), circus tent (Footsbarn), castles (Châtelperon, Quessoy, Chanonat) or studio workshops (Paris) which are all venues that can make opera more accessible to a new audience.

These improvised, medium-sized opera venues enable audiences to be in close contact with the singers and the performance. The operas take place in venues with seating for 200 people, often in small towns.





## The story of an innovative cultural project.

In 1992 an opera studio was started up at Chatelperron in the Allier. Over a period of ten years orchestras and singers performed in this venue dedicated to both stage and musical artistic creation. Building on the experience gained, the success of this venture led to the creation of the association Appel d'Airs in 2002.

While continuing to organize concerts and recitals, Appel d'Airs decided to specialize in the production of chamber operas. This was the start of “ **l'Opéra de Poche** ” traveling opera company. Since then l'Opéra de Poche has mainly developed

- through the organization, from 2008 on, of two annual festivals, "l'Opéra de Poche à Moulins" and "l'Opéra de Poche" at Carnac
- through the initiation of cultural partnerships with Italy, China and the US
- the world creation of two contemporary operas

## The Association has defined its main aims as:

- promoting musical and artistic creation for the stage
- winning over new audiences : newcomers and young people who have never been to traditional opera houses
- producing works which are rarely performed as well as creating contemporary works
- performing in local historical settings to enhance awareness of the national heritage
- promoting French cultural knowhow abroad and developing multicultural exchanges
- discovering and encouraging artistic talent
- helping young people to learn about opera



## Projects for 2013

The development of a Franco-American exchange with the world creation in Paris and New York by the Opéra de Poche company of an opera whose composer and librettist are American. The Island of the Ugly Sisters has been commissioned by Appel d'Airs.

Again in New York, it is planned to introduce Moro to American audiences.

In April 2013, creation of an original adaptation of Don Giovanni at the Berthelot Theater in Montreuil.

Teaching partnership with the Victor Hugo College in Bourges to introduce students to opera, in particular via a new production of Carmen and continuing the current activities:

the organization of the summer festivals and of the Chinese singers' master classes in Carnac as well as the preparation of a new tour in China.



## Multicultural Opera Exchanges

### Franco-Chinese

In 2011 Appel d'Airs began a Franco-Chinese opera exchange with the Peking (Beijing?) Comic Opera Festival directed by David Li Wei.

With the backing of the town of Carnac, two weeks of Master Classes were organized for about twenty young Chinese opera singers who also took part in the festival. In 2011 they performed Gianni Schicchi by Puccini, in 2012 Don Pasquale by Donizetti and Wen Ji, a contemporary Chinese opera.

Music lovers as well as people curious to discover new music appreciated this exceptional opportunity to hear contemporary Chinese classical music.

Opera de Poche's French singers went on tour to Beijing and Xi'an in December 2011 with *Kiki de Montparnasse* and *Le Telephone*. In December 2012 *The Tragedy of Carmen*, *The Telephone* and a Franco-Chinese production of *Don Giovanni* are already programmed for Beijing and Shanghai.

In 2012, a 'first' in Paris and Carnac, French artists performed Chinese songs in Chinese.

A genuine cultural exchange has begun under the impetus of the two partners .



### Franco-Italian

2006 saw the beginning of a collaboration between Italian author Marco Ongaro and the composer Andrea Mannucci. It led to the world creation in Paris in March 2007 of the Opera *Kiki de Montparnasse*, written and composed by the Italian authors, directed by Chloe Latour, conducted by Florestan Boutin, and sung by Lucie Mouscadet, Arnaud Le Dü and Vincent Billier. This production was then performed in Italy with the NED ensemble conducted by the composer and subsequently many times during the festivals in Moulins and Carnac and in December 2011 in China in Beijing and Xi'an.

### Franco-American

A meeting with the American writer Emily Anderson led to the idea of an opera partnership. Emily Anderson recently completed the libretto, the young composer Evan Fein from the Julliard School in New York is currently composing the music and the French singers are already getting to know the work which will be directed by Chloe Latour. Opera de Poche is committed to producing the world creation of this opera in Paris, to performing it in New York and to presenting it at its festivals in Moulins and Carnac.



## 2013 Festival Season

### Public support for an innovative cultural project

Supported by its loyal audiences and by its partners , Opera de Poche has set up its traveling stage in the old stables of the Centre National du Costume de Scène ( National Center for Theatrical Costume) at the Espace Villars in Moulins in July and in August in a workshed of the Gouzer oyster farm at Carnac in Brittany.

In keeping with its successful formula of 'opera for all ' , the company performed short operas lasting about an hour drawn from its wide repertoire of works ranging from the baroque period to modern times.

Each evening a different opera is performed by professional singers.

Opera is more than ever a living art form.

### The 2013 Program

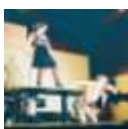
- Don Giovanni - Opera by W.A. Mozart  
Adaptation by Luigi Cerri and Florestan Boutin
- **L'Enfant et les sortilèges** - Lyrical fantasy by Maurice Ravel  
Adaptation and staging by Vincent Billier
- Les Coulisses - ( Carnac ) Lyric show  
Directed by David Li Wei. Singers from the Beijing Comic Opera Festival
- **L'Île des sept soeurs** - The island of the ugly sisters -  
Opera by Evan Fein and Emily Anderson  
Mise en scène de Chloé Latour.
- and an opera program directed by David Li Wei et interpreted by singers from the Beijing Comic Opera Festival .





## | The Repertoire |

Seventeen Pocket Operas have been performed in numerous venues in France and abroad.



*Pimpinone*, comic-opera by G.P. Telemann (1725)  
Directed by Vincent Billier (2011).

*Serva Padrona*, intermezzo by G.B. Pergolèse (1733).  
Directed by Ghislaine Lenoir (2002).



*Lo Speziale (The Apothicary)*, opera buffa by Joseph Haydn (1768).  
Directed by Chloé Latour (2006).

*Bastien et Bastienne*, Singspiel by W.A. Mozart, (1768)  
preceded by *Pygmalion* by Jean-Jacques Rousseau,  
directed by Ghislaine Lenoir, coproduced with the ensemble *Le Banquet* and its  
conductor Olivier Dejours (2003).



*L'Île déserte* (Isola disabitata), opera buffa by Joseph Haydn (1779).  
Directed by Simon Hatab (2011)



*Abu-Hassan*, Singspiel by Carl Maria Von Weber (1811).  
Directed by Chloé Latour (2008).

*Le Dr Miracle*, comic opera by Georges Bizet (1856)  
Directed by Chloé Latour (2012)



*Rita ou le mari battu*, comic opera by Gaetano Donizetti (1860).  
Directed by Chloé Latour (2005).

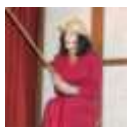
*La Grand'Tante*, comic opera by Jules Massenet (1867)  
Directed by Vincent Billier (2010)



*Une Éducation Manquée*, operetta by Emmanuel Chabrier. (1879)  
Directed by Chloé Latour (2009).

*The Old Maid and the Thief*, (1939)  
grotesque opera by Giancarlo Menotti.

Directed by Vincent Billier (2009).



*La Croisière*, lyric show featuring songs from musical comedy  
Directed by Vincent Billier (2010).



*Le Téléphone*, buffa opera by Giancarlo Menotti (1945)  
Directed by Vincent Billier (2010).

*La Voix Humaine*, lyric tragedy by Francis Poulenc (1958)  
Directed by Ghislaine Lenoir (2010).



*The Tragedy of Carmen*, adapted from Carmen by Georges Bizet (1875)  
by Peter Brook, J.C. Carrière, Marius Constant (1981)  
Directed by Chloé Latour (2007).



*Kiki de Montparnasse*, opera by Andrea Mannucci and Marco Ongaro (2006)  
Directed by Chloé Latour (2007).

*Moro*, lyric tragedy by Andrea Mannucci and Marco Ongaro (2010)  
Directed by Luigi Cerri (2011)



## | The Artists | (for more details see [www.operadepoche.fr](http://www.operadepoche.fr))

### The company's founding members :

#### Chloé Latour, *director*

After studying at the Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique Nadia Boulanger in Paris, *Chloé* decided to study stage direction and the mask at the Jacques LECOQ International Theatre School in Paris. *Chloé* has directed seven operas for Appel d'Airs: Rita by Donizetti in 2004, Lo Speziale by Haydn in 2005, the world creation of Kiki de Montparnasse by Mannucci in 2007, Abu Hassan by Weber in 2008, Une Education Manquée by Chabrier in 2009, The Tragedy of Carmen in 2010, Dr Miracle by Bizet in 2012. *Chloé* will stage *The Island of the Ugly Sisters* by Evan Fein in 2013.



#### Ghislaine Lenoir, *director*

*Ghislaine* was a permanent member of the Centre Dramatique de Franche Comté de Besançon where she worked in particular with André Mairal, André Widmer and André Steiger. She created and directed the company "Le Théâtre de la Roulotte" (The Gipsy Caravan company) with Jean-Luc Lagarce. Ghislaine then worked with Hervé Pierre and as assistant to Hideyuki Yano, a Japanese choreographer. *Ghislaine* directed *La Serva Padrona* by Pergolese, *Bastien Bastienne* by Mozart and *La Voix Humaine* by Poulenc for Opera de Poche.



#### Vincent Billier, *director and bass baritone*

*Vincent* won a First Prize for singing at the CNSM de Musique de Paris in 1998. In 2002 he was a prizewinner at the Marmande International Singing Contest. With Opera de Poche, *Vincent* has directed and sung the roles of Ben in *The Telephone*, Bob in *The Old Maid and the Thief* by Menotti, Pimpinone in *Pimpinone* by Telemann and created the show *La Croisière* (The Cruise). He sang Uberto in *La Servante Maîtresse* by Pergolese, Colas in *Bastien et Bastienne* by Mozart, Sempronio in *Lo Speziale* by Haydn, Gasparo in *Rita* by Donizetti, Omar in *Abu Hassan* by Weber, several roles in *Kiki de Montparnasse* by Mannucci, Pausanias in *Une Education Manquée* by Chabrier, Escamillo in *The Tragedy of Carmen*, Le Podestat in *Dr Miracle* by Bizet, Aldo Moro in *Moro* by Mannucci. In December 2012 *Vincent* will sing the roles of Escamillo in *The Tragedy of Carmen* by Bizet, and Don Juan in *Don Giovanni* in Beijing and Shanghai. In 2013 *Vincent* will direct, and sing in, *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* by Ravel.



#### Isabelle Fallot, *soprano*

Gold medal-winner in the CNR singing class, *Isabelle* joined the Opera Studio of the Lyons Opera then won a first prize at the Lyons CNSM. With Appel d'Airs *Isabelle* has sung Volpino in *Lo Speziale* by Haydn, Hélène in *Une Education Manquée* by Chabrier, Lucy in *Le Téléphone* by Poulenc and Laetitia in *The Old Maid and the Thief* by Menotti, La Voix in *La Voix Humaine* by Poulenc, Serpette in *Pimpinone* by Telemann, Micaela in *The Tragedy of Carmen* adapted from Bizet, Alice de Kerdrel in *La Grand'Tante* by Massenet, Véronique in *Dr Miracle* by Bizet. In December 2012 *Isabelle* will sing the roles of Micaela in *The Tragedy of Carmen* and Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, in Beijing and Shanghai.





## The Artists | (continued)

### Lucie Mouscadet, *soprano*

*Lucie* studied singing in Paris with Anne-Marie Rodde then in Florence with Margherita Rinaldi and at the Bologna Conservatory. With Opera de Poche *Lucie* has sung Serpina in La Serva Padrona by Pergolesi, Bastienne in Bastien and Bastienne by Mozart, Grilletta in Lo Speciale by Haydn, Fatima in Abu Hassan by Weber, Bertha in The Barber of Seville by Rossini, Rita in Rita by Donizetti, Chevrette in La Grand'Tante by Massenet, Miss Pinkerton in The Old Maid and the Thief by Menotti, Carmen in The Tragedy of Carmen adapted from Bizet, Kiki in Kiki de Montparnasse by Mannucci, Serpette in Pimpinone by Telemann, Laurette in Dr Miracle by Bizet, Cassandra in Moro by Mannucci and Silvia in The Desert Island by Haydn. In December 2012 *Lucie* will sing the roles of Carmen in The Tragedy of Carmen and Zerlina in Don Giovanni, in Beijing and Shanghai.



### Arnaud Le Dù, *ténor*

After studying musicology, the piano, organ and saxophone, *Arnaud* turned to singing and performed with groups such as "les Musiciens du Louvre" under Marc Minkowski, "Les ArtsFlorissants" under William Christie, Le Concert d'Astrée under Emmanuelle Haim, Accentus, Musicatreize....With Opera de Poche *Arnaud* has sung Beppe in Rita by Donizetti, Mengone in Lo Speciale by Haydn, Abu hassan in Abu Hassan by Weber, various roles in Kiki de Montparnasse by Mannucci, Miss Todd in The Old Maid and the Thief by Menotti, Gontran in Une Education Manquée by Chabrier, Guy de Kerdrel in La Grand'Tante by Massenet, Don José in The Tragedy of Carmen, Dr Miracle in Dr Miracle by Bizet.



### Florestan Boutin, *pianist and vocal coach*

*Florestan* studied at the CNR in Grenoble where he won a gold medal for piano and chamber music. In 1993 he was a prizewinner in piano and chamber music at the Paris CNSM. Florestan joined the preparatory class for international contests at the Paris CNR. In 1993 he won the "Vasso Devetzi" Prize. In 1996 he was a prizewinner at the international contests of Saint Nom la Breteche and Meknes (Morocco). With Appel d'Airs *Florestan* has accompanied La Serva Padrona by Pergolesi, Rita by Donizetti, Lo Speciale by Haydn, Abu Hassan by Weber, Une Education Manquée by Chabrier, Kiki de Montparnasse by Mannucci, The Old Maid and the Thief and The Telephone by Menotti. *Florestan* has also accompanied many recitals with Appel d'Airs.



## The artists who have contributed to Opera de Poche's development, and young talent:

Composers and authors: Emily Anderson, Evan Fein, Andrea Mannucci, Marco Ongaro, Pablo de Robertis. Stage directors: Luigi Cerri, Simon Hatab, David Li Wei. Sopranos and mezzos: Caroline Champy, Aude Engel, Eva Ganizate, Annastina Malm. Tenors: Fabrice Maitre, Xavier Mauconduit, Xuehao Yin. Baritones: Sebastien Brohier, Antoine Chauveau, Shi Heng, Julien Neyer. Pianists: Sandra Boyer, Elise Kermanac'h, Bertille Monsellier, Yoshiko Moriai, Agnes Rouquette. Ensembles: Quatuor Antarès - Maurizia Dalla Volta, NED Ensemble, Heidelberg Chamber Orchestra. Actors/actresses: Coralie Cruard Pradet

**Bernard Mouscadet, Président de l'association Appel d'Airs,**  
3bis, rue d'Orchampt 75018 Paris France  
tel. +33 (0)6 07 34 45 61 [appeldairs@hotmail.com](mailto:appeldairs@hotmail.com)