

LES BASSES REUNIES

Artistic direction
Bruno Cocset

*Jean-Baptiste Barrière e
Francesco Geminiani,
violoncellisti stravaganti*

Francesco Geminiani

Sonates from 6 cello sonates opus V

Jean-Baptiste Barrière

Sonates from the four books: Sonates pour le violoncelle avec la basse continue

Francesco Geminiani and Jean-Baptiste Barrière: these two composers are quite apart in the hearts of cellists who are interested in the 18th century repertoire... The first is a virtuoso violinist, a whimsical conductor before going to seek his fortune in London where he will play with Handel before going to prison for trafficking in paintings... Saved by an Irish protector, he will be enriched by his encounters with traditional musicians. His cello music, published in Paris and Amsterdam, is a reflection of his life: we can sense a tempestuous, daring man who constantly seems to want to tell us something that the instrument alone is not enough to translate. From this singular language is born an extraordinary narrative force.

Jean-Baptiste Barrière, originally from Bordeaux, will make his career as a cellist at the Royal Academy of Music, an institution which will become the Paris Opera. Little is known of his life, except that he was a virtuoso of his instrument, that he made at least one trip to Italy to improve his skills with the Italian cello masters and that his performances at the spiritual concert in Paris were very noticed.

The 4 books of sonatas for cello and basso continuo that he published in the first half of the 18th century are of a great musical variety - there is a tasty mix of Italian and French styles - and a true technical and virtuoso exploration of the instrument. The fact that Barrière also played the viola da gamba enriches his music: we are permanently immersed in several universes and the tone is resolutely free. It expresses a palette of feelings and affects going to the radiance of humor, eloquence knowing how to flirt with extravagance...

A meeting between these two fantastic musicians was essential, a way of honoring the cello in a two-way dialogue: the two composers and the two performers!

Bruno Cocset & Emmanuel Jacques: violoncello



About Us

Founded twenty five years ago with the vocation of promoting the repertory specific to string bass instruments, the ensemble "Les Basses Réunies" brings together around Bruno Cocset a team stimulated by the search for a sonic identity, the twin exploration of repertory and organology, the narrative qualities and eloquence of the musical discourse, and a passion for the articulation, the grain, the colour and a certain exaltation of sound. The luthier and instrument maker Charles Riché is the faithful companion of this quest that links instrument, musician and composer.

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Contact

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