

Ludovice Ensemble - English Biography 2020

Ludovice Ensemble

Ludovice Ensemble is a Portuguese Early Music group, based in Lisbon. Fernando Miguel Jalôto and Joana Amorim created the ensemble in 2004 and it has since become a reference point in the Portuguese Early Music scene, being known for the high quality of its performances, the coherence of its artistic projects, and the novelty of its programs and proposals, which combine creativity, a passionate approach to the repertoire, and a historically informed interpretation. A very special attention is given to unknown repertoire, and the regular modern première of hidden Portuguese, French, German, English and Italian treasures is part of the ensemble's strategy. Its repertoire extends from large sacred works by Monteverdi, Scarlatti, Bach and Rameau and full operas by Caccini, Lully and Charpentier to small sacred works by Couperin, De Lalande, Locke, Purcell and Buxtehude; and includes a vast amount of Iberian and French chamber cantatas besides instrumental music, from Telemann and Bach concertos to Handel Sonatas, Hotteterre Suites and Avondano Trios. The group regularly invites some of the best Portuguese performers and often collaborates with foreign artists of exceptional quality - musicians but also actors and dancers. Ludovice Ensemble has performed at several important venues and international music festivals in Portugal, and is a regular guest in prestigious seasons like Gulbenkian Foundation and CCB - Lisbon's Cultural Centre. They also perform regularly in Spain (Early Music Festivals of Aranjuez, Catalan Pyrenees, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Daroca, Peñíscola, Jaca; San Lorenzo del Escorial's Real Coliseo Carlos III, Circulo de las Artes de Lugo and Festival Iberico de Badajoz); Belgium (AMUZ in Antwerp and MA Bruges Festivals); The Netherlands (Oude Muziek Festival in Utrecht); France (La Chaise-Dieu, Vivarais-Lignon, Festes Baroques); Czech Republic (Summer Festivities of Early Music in Prague) and Israel (Felicja Blumenthal Festival in Tel-Aviv, Haifa, and Jerusalem). Ludovice Ensemble performed for the REMA Showcase in 2011 at Casa da Música in Porto, and has been recorded live on the Portuguese Broadcast Company RDP/Antena 2 and the French Television Channel MEZZO. Ludovice Ensemble's first CD with an exquisite selection of French Baroque Cantatas recorded for Ramée/Outhere received a warm welcome from the general public and the specialized press, being nominated to the ICMA (International Classical Music Awards) in 2013. In 2020 they edited their second CD, for the British label Veterum Musica, with a collection of sonatas by the brothers Graun. A new CD is being prepared, recorded together with the Spanish soprano María Hinojosa, and featuring chamber music written for the Portuguese court in the early 18th century, by Giorgi, Astorga, Té y Sagau and Seixas, among others.