

BIOGRAPHY OF JOËL SUHUBIETTE

From the a cappella repertoire to oratorios, from music of the Renaissance to contemporary creation, including opera, Joël Suhubiette devotes his time and energy to direct his two vocal ensembles: the chamber choir of Toulouse *les éléments* and the *ensemble Jacques Modern* from Tours. Joël Suhubiette founded the first one_ in 1997 and he is the musical director of the second since 1993. He works in close collaboration with musicologists and often meets up with contemporary composers.

After musical studies at the Toulouse Conservatory, Joël Suhubiette rapidly fell in love with the choral repertoire. He started his professional career by singing with *Les Arts Florissants* and *William Christie*, then encountered Philippe Herreweghe and his ensembles –*la Chapelle Royale* and *Collegium Vocale de Gand* in Belgium- with whom he sang for about twelve years. Meeting this conductor was determining in his life and allowed him to work a large repertoire representing four centuries of vocal music. In 1990 and for eight years, Herreweghe gave him the role of assistant within both his choirs.

In 1997, the chamber choir *les éléments* was created, counting 20 to 40 professional singers, and will receive in 2006 the award of “ensemble of the year” at the Victoires de la Musique Classique – awards ceremony that recognizes outstanding performances in the classical music field. Joël Suhubiette devotes most of his time to this ensemble by exploring contemporary creations, the rich 20th century a cappella repertoire and also the baroque and classical oratorios.

By conducting the ensemble Jacques Moderne in Tours since 1993, Joël Suhubiette is willing to reinstate the ancient musical repertoire. Indeed, this ensemble is composed of a professional choir and an orchestra of ancient instruments specialized in the 16th century polyphony and 17th century baroque repertoire.

Even if he is strongly attached to the valorization of the a cappella repertoire, Joël Suhubiette also performs oratorios, cantatas and the instrumental repertoire with several French orchestras and ensembles. (Les Passions-orchestres Baroque de Montauban, Les Folies Françaises, Café Zimmermann, the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, the Orchestre de Chambre de Toulouse, Les Percussions de Strasbourg, the Ensemble Ars Nova, etc...).

He also conducts another type of vocal repertoire, namely opera, at the Festival of Saint-Céré, (*Don Giovanni*, *The Magic Flute*, *The Marriage of Figaro*) at the Massy Opera where he directed the French premiere of Kurt Weill's *Silbersee* and at the Dijon Opera where he was invited to perform several Operas of Mozart, Offenbach and for *les Caprices de Marianne* by Henri Sauguet.

For the symphonic repertoire, he is often invited by the Orchestre de Pau Pays de Béarn to perform classic (Hayn-Mozart) and contemporary repertoires.

With his two vocal ensembles, Joël Suhubiette records with many labels such as Virgin Classics, Hortus, Caliope, Ligia Digital, Naïve, Mirare and l'Empreinte digitale. Since 2006 he has also been the artistic director of the Festival *Musiques des Lumières* at the Abbaye-Ecole in Sorèze (Tarn). Joël Suhubiette was awarded with the Officier des Arts et des Lettres honor by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.