



ENSEMBLE INTERCONTEMPORAIN: THE WIND QUINTET

France
31 May 2020, Sun, 5pm
Chamber, Festival House

Synopsis

In a tribute to the natural world, Parisian group *Ensemble intercontemporain* make their Singaporean debut in a mesmerising evening of 20th century music.

Parisian group *Ensemble intercontemporain* is hailed as one of the world's leading contemporary music ensembles. Led by artistic director Matthias Pintscher, the group's 31 soloists explore instrumental techniques and develop projects interweaving music, dance, theatre, film, video and visual art. For their Singapore debut, the group's wind quintet presents a passionate overview of 20th century music. Inspired by nature and her sounds, and reflecting her imagined spaces and peculiar discoveries, the wind quintet features music from decorated composers including Claude Debussy, Pierre Boulez, John Cage, Luciano Berio and more.

The programme segues from György Ligeti's bucolic Bagatelles with refined harmonies full of melancholy in its reinterpretation of Hungarian

folklore to Luciano Berio's *Ricorrenze* which grows unpredictably from a musical "seed", to Flamen by Ivan Fedele which explores the spatial dimension of sound and John Cage's *Music for Wind Instruments* featuring varying combinations of the quintet's instruments to create captivating yet radical musical landscapes.

Lush and virtuosic, *Ensemble intercontemporain – The Wind Quintet* will lead you into a fascinating period of experimentation from the turn of the century.

Journey with SIFA

Jens McManama, horn player of *Ensemble intercontemporain*, shares: "This is the first time the soloists of *Ensemble intercontemporain* will be performing in Singapore, and we are naturally very happy. For our participation at this great festival, we have put together a special spectacular programme that showcases the contrasting styles in the wind quintet from the 20th century to today".

Festival Director Gaurav Kripalani says: "*Ensemble intercontemporain* from France are probably one of the most virtuosic musical ensembles in the world. I am delighted they are going to have their Singapore premiere as part of SIFA 2020. If you are a music lover, you are going to be blown away by this quintet who are going to perform a variety of music from the 20th century ranging from Debussy to John Cage. This is a very special evening that will take place in the Chamber at The Arts House, so it is something not to be missed".

Interviews:

Jens McManama and Artistic Director Matthias Pintscher, will be available for an email interview to share more on the following topics (proposed topics):

- The use of multiple instrumental techniques to showcase 20th century music
- What audiences can expect from their special Singapore debut performance

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About Ensemble intercontemporain

In 1976, Pierre Boulez founded the Ensemble intercontemporain with the support of Michel Guy (who was Minister of Culture at the time) and the collaboration and Nicholas Snowman.

The Ensemble's 31 soloists share a passion for 20th-21st century music. They are employed on permanent contract, enabling them to fulfill the major aims of the Ensemble: performance, creation and education for young musicians and the general public. Under the artistic direction of Matthias Pintscher, the musicians work in close collaboration with composers, exploring instrumental techniques and developing projects that interweave music, dance, theater, film, video and visual arts.

In collaboration with IRCAM (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique/Musique), the Ensemble intercontemporain is also active in the field of synthetic sound generation. New pieces are commissioned and performed on a regular basis, for some of them with the support of the Fondation Meyer.

The Ensemble is renowned for its strong emphasis on music education: concerts for kids, creative workshops for students, training programs for future performers, conductors, composers, etc.

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