

## Marcel Pérès

After studying organ and composition at the Nice Conservatory, Marcel Pérès continued his training in Great Britain and Canada. Returning to Europe in 1979, he specialized in medieval music. In 1982 he founded the Ensemble Organum, and undertook with them a methodical exploration of medieval liturgical repertoires, which resulted in international acclaim.

He recorded about fifty discs - most of which have received the highest awards: the *Diapason d'or*, Classical Awards, *Choc de l'année du Monde de la Musique*, and the New York Times' Essential Records of the 20th Century.

In 1984 he founded a research program on the interpretation of medieval music with the Royaumont Foundation, then called the CERIMM (*Centre Européen pour la Recherche sur l'Interprétation des Musiques Médiévales*), which he directed until 1999. In 2001 he created CIRMA (*Centre Itinérant de Recherche sur les Musiques Anciennes*) at the ancient Abbey of Moissac, whose aim is to use music to explore the circulation of musical personalities, ideas, and performance practice over the centuries, and to build vital bridges between living traditions, musical archaeology, and sciences of memory.

Marcel Pérès is also a composer of over thirty works, including “*Mysteria Apocalypsis*” (2000), “Contemplation,” a musical paraphrase of the Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead (1978), the music for Kaj Munk’s play *Ordet*, premiered at the Avignon Festival in 2008, the “Missa ex tempore,” created in Katowice on May 16, 2015 for the inauguration of the new auditorium of the Polish Radio and commissioned by the Camerata Silesia, and *Mysteria Apocalypsis II* for choir and orchestra, created in December 2019 in Chorzów and Katowice, commissioned by the Schola Minorum Chosoviensis and the Orkiestra Musyki Novej.

Every year since 2017 Marcel Pérès has composed for the *Diagonales d'Été de Moissac* one part of a monumental mass dedicated to Saint James and the mystery of the Transfiguration. The work was completed in July 2022. Marcel Pérès also composed a work for choir, piano and dance, *Le Crépuscule Transfiguré*, which premiered at the cloister of Moissac on July 24, 2021.

Marcel Pérès’s international reputation was recognized in 1990 by the award of the Leonardo da Vinci Prize of the French *Secrétariat d'Etat aux relations culturelles internationales*. The French Ministry of Culture awarded him the distinction of Chevalier in 1996, and then in 2013 raised him to the rank of Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters. He is also the godfather of the bell “Marcel”, built in 2012 and blessed on February 2, 2013 on the occasion of the 850th anniversary of the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris. In 2014, he received in New York the prestigious Axion Estin Foundation award for his work on the cultural interactions between the Byzantine East and the Latin West during the first millennium. He is also an honorary citizen of the city of Jaroslaw in Poland, a corresponding member of the culture commission of the French Bishops Conference.

For the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of ensemble Organum, Marcel Pérès wrote: “...Beyond a historical and technical approach to music of the past, the practice of forgotten repertoires reveals to us the metaphysical function of music, the architecture of sounds being the sign of a relationship between man and his own destiny. Here the social and even cultural dimension of musical art is overcome. It is the deep man who is challenged by the image of his supernatural destiny. The different musics should be perceived as so many sound icons, vibrating entities that invite the listener to immerse himself in the experience of the emotional flow whose words and sounds are only the sign. Thus was born around 2011 the formula that became like the roadmap of the Organum ensemble:

***To explore the underlying dynamic of our cultural heritage.”***

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