



**ST PREX FESTIVAL  
OF SONG, MUSIC AND BALLET**  
21.08 - 29.08.2009

**PRESS KIT**

**ST PREX FESTIVAL  
SONG, MUSIC AND BALLET**

**ROMANESQUE CHURCH  
AND OLD TOWN OF ST PREX**

**4<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

**21.08 - 29.08.2009**

**S T P R E X F E S T I V A L**

[www.stprexfestival.com](http://www.stprexfestival.com)

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## Press release

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### ST PREX FESTIVAL 2009, A UNIQUE CONCEPT - EXCEPTIONAL ENCOUNTERS - ARTISTS AT THE PEAK OF THEIR ART

*From August 21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, the medieval town of Saint-Prex is hosting the fourth edition of the St Prex Festival of Song, Music and Ballet*

#### Saint-Prex, a medieval town bearing witness to unique moments.



The magic weaves its spell. The medieval town on the shores of the lake serves as a backdrop for scenes that will be experienced once and once only. A singular and ‘crazy’ project invented by Hazeline van Swaay-Hoog, in tribute to her late father.

*“My father introduced me to music at an early age. When he passed away, I wanted to share this heritage by creating this festival, which powerfully reveals the radiance of this magnificent village of Saint-Prex. Today, it’s even more beautiful than I imagined it”,* admits Hazeline van Swaay-Hoog.

#### Dream encounters...

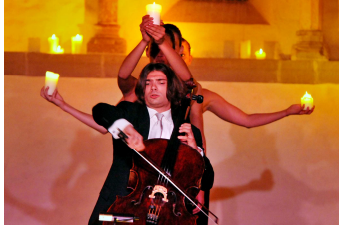
Imagine artists at the peak of their art, on stage and communing with youthful talents... They should logically never have met, yet Hazeline van Swaay-Hoog has gone beyond merely dreaming of it - she has made it happen! The result is countless exceptional moments that will remain vividly imprinted on spectators’ hearts and minds.

In the St Prex Festival at the end of August, all the shows are truly unique. They embody the encounter between song, music and ballet through choreographies and productions created exclusively for this festival.

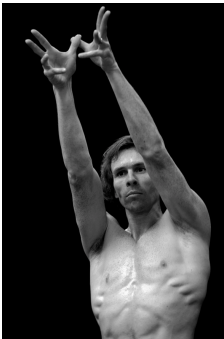


Starlit nights, a scene that offers a fascinating window onto the world of classical and contemporary art... For a festival designed to retain an intimist character, the picturesque historical market town of Saint-Prex opens up its streets and its historical sites to internationally renowned artists and promising young talents. The Romanesque church and the Grand’Rue main street are transformed into theatres and opera houses welcoming musicians, dancers and other virtuosos from around the world.

## A programme infused with elegance and passion



The vaulted arches of the Romanesque church will once again be welcoming some great names from the world of song, music and ballet. These three forms of art will be worthily represented by a number of professionals such as the Wanderer Trio, Paris opera house étoile dancers Nicolas Le Riche and Clairemarie Osta, and sopranos Rachel Harnisch and Emilie Pictet... The Grand'Rue turns into an international stage and will sweep the audience off to Verona for three performances of a legendary tragic passion, revisited by Serge Prokofiev, Charles Gounod and Nino Rota, as well as Leonard Bernstein's contemporary reprise of this romantic tale in *West Side Story*. From Italian accents to the streets of the Bronx, the festival will thus eloquently proclaim its universal vocation.



## Special guest of the St Prex Festival

For the St Prex Festival, artist Anne Deniau will exhibit photographs taken from the magnificent album she has devoted to Nicolas le Riche. Displayed along the quaysides of Saint-Prex, with the lake as a stunning backdrop, these unique photos will highlight the career of this brilliant performer.

## Programme

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### Friday August 21<sup>st</sup>, Romanesque church

#### 19H00 SACRED MUSIC

STABAT MATER (GIOVANNI BATTISTA PERGOLÈSI)

Soprano: Rachel Harnisch

Mezzo-soprano: Majdouline Zerari

Strings: Girard Quintet

Organ: Touve R. Ratovondrahety

Soloist: Bridget Breiner (étoile dancer, Stuttgart Ballet)

Soloist: Itziar Mendizabal (étoile dancer, Leipzig Opera Ballet company)

Choreography: Uwe Scholz

EXCERPTS FROM "THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST" (JOSEPH HAYDN)

Strings: Girard Quintet

JAUCHZET GOTT IN ALLEN LANDEN (JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH)

Soprano: Rachel Harnisch

Strings: Girard Quintet

Organ: Touve R. Ratovondrahety

### Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Romanesque church

#### 19H00 TRIO WANDERER AND DANCE

Piano: Vincent Coq

Violin: Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabédian

Cello: Raphaël Pidoux

Soloist: Clairemarie Osta (étoile dancer, Paris Opera)

Choreographer: Nicolas Le Riche (étoile dancer, Paris Opera)

### Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Romanesque church

#### 11H00 RECITAL (HAENDEL, PURCELL, SCHUBERT, DUPARC, BERLIOZ)

Soprano: Emilie Pictet

Piano: Christian Chamorel

**Monday August 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>, Grand'Rue, Old Town**

**20H45 ROMEO AND JULIET (S. PROKOFIEV, ARRANGED BY VADIM BORISOVSKY)**

Piano: Elena Bonnay

Viola: Mikhail Bereznitsky

2<sup>ND</sup> Viola: Mayeul Girard

Romeo: Nicolas Le Riche (étoile dancer, Paris Opera)

Juliet: Clairemarie Osta (étoile dancer, Paris Opera)

Thybalt: Jean-Sébastien Colau (étoile dancer, Leipzig Opera)

Mercutio : Massimo Garon (étoile dancer, Rome Opera)

Choreography: Paul Chalmer, Director, Leipzig Opera Ballet company

**SONATE FOR CELLO AND PIANO, OPUS 119 (S. PROKOFIEV)**

Cello: Gautier Capuçon

Piano : Elena Bonnay

**Friday August 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, Grand'Rue, Old Town**

**20H45 ARDENT PASSIONS**

**WEST SIDE STORY (LEONARD BERNSTEIN, ARRANGED BY IRV KOSTAL)**

Piano: André Desponds and Mischa Cheung

Vibraphone, percussion: Thomas Dobler

Double bass: Rätus Flisch

**ROMÉO ET JULIETTE (GOUNOD, BELLINI)**

Piano: André Desponds

Soprano: Emilie Pictet

**ROMEO AND JULIET (NINO ROTA)**

Piano: André Desponds and Mischa Cheung

Romeo: Yoel Carreño (Soloist, Cuba National Ballet)

Juliet: Yolanda Correa (Soloist, Cuba National Ballet)

Choreography: Igor Piovano, director/choreographer of the Ikogat dance company and former Premier Dancer and ballet master at Béjart Ballet Lausanne

## Original dialogues - Exclusive creations

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### Friday August 21<sup>st</sup>

#### Sacred music

The Girard Quintet - composed of 5 brothers and sisters aged between 18 and 25, all First Prize winners from the *Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique de Paris* - is to perform music from the score of Stabat Mater by Pergolesi, with the young mezzo-soprano Madjouline Zerari, along with famous Swiss soprano Rachel Harnisch.

The latter, a former student at the Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg, Germany, has recorded for Deutsche Grammaphone under world-famous conductor Claudio Abbado.

The score will be enlivened with choreography by Uwe Scholz, choreographer for the Zurich Opera Ballet company and later Director of the Leipzig Ballet until his death in 2004, performed by Bridget Breiner (étoile dancer at the Stuttgart Ballet) and Itziar Mendizabal (étoile dancer at the Leipzig Ballet), transforming this living tableau into a genuine conversation between dancers and musicians.

Organist Touve R. Ratovondrahety, tenured organist of the Grand Organ of the Saint-Eugène-Sainte-Cécile Church in Paris, will contribute to this new musical version of the work. The second part of the concert will be performed by the Girard Quintet, and Rachel Harnisch will then bring the evening to a splendid end.

### Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### Wanderer Trio

Pianist Vincent Coq, violinist Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabédian and cellist Raphaël Pidoux make up this trio well accustomed to performing on the world's big stages.

A unique creation for the St Prex Festival will enable the world-exclusive encounter between musicians who are three-time winners of the French *Victoires de la musique classique* awards and two étoile dancers from the Paris Opera, Clairemarie Osta and Nicolas Le Riche. On this occasion, the latter will create an exceptional choreography for the soloist performing beneath the vaulted arches of the Romanesque church, pervaded by an inimitable blend of power and emotion.

### Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup>

#### Recital (Handel, Purcell, Schubert, Duparc, Berlioz)

Pursuing this theme of sharing and encounters, the St Prex Festival has decided to once again provide an opportunity for young Swiss artists, in this case Emilie Pictet (soprano) and Christian Chamorel (piano) to perform and share the bill with established artists.

## Monday August 24<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>

### Romeo and Juliet (S. Prokofiev, arranged by Vadim Borisovsly)

On a transcription for two violas and a piano by Borisovsly that is notoriously difficult to perform, Paul Chalmer will create a choreography especially for the St Prex Festival. The main street of the old town will be entirely transformed for this first night into a passionate encounter between musicians, dancers and a poet.

The first viola, Mikhail Bereznitsky - a student of Yuri Bashmet and First Prize winner at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow - will travel especially from there and will be accompanied by Mayeul Girard as second viola and pianist Elena Rassadkina Bonnay winner of the feared international Voronej competition and Director of Musical staff at the Paris Opera since 1983. For two magical evenings, Clairemarie Osta as Juliet, Nicolas Le Riche as Romeo, Jean-Sébastien Colau as Tybalt and Massimo Garon as Mercutio, will turn Saint-Prex into the home of the world's most famous lovers.

For a single performance, Gautier Capuçon will replace viola player Mikhail Bereznitsky for a dialogue between his cello, the piano playing of Elena Bonnay - winner of the formidable Voronej international competition in 1978 and vocal coach at the Paris Opera since 1983 - and some exceptional dancers. This world-renowned French cellist is thrilled at the idea of joining with Nicolas Le Riche in creating a unique moment for a resolutely singular festival.

## Friday August 28<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>

### Fervent Passions

#### West Side Story (Léonard Bernstein, arranged by Irv Kostal)

In a more contemporary style, four Swiss musicians André Desponds, Mischa Cheung, Thomas Dobler et Rätus Flisch, revisit a dramatic modern-day love story. Two pianos, a vibraphone, percussion instruments and a double bass will resound through the streets of Saint-Prex during this enchanting evening.

#### Roméo et Juliette (Gounod, Bellini)

Pianist André Desponds accompanies soprano Emilie Pictet performing airs from the most romantic opera of them all. This soloist, a graduate from the *Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Hochschule Leipzig*, will be borne on the wings of music by Charles Gounod, one of the greatest ever French composers.

#### Romeo and Juliet (Nino Rota, arranged by André Desponds)

Igor Piovano, dance teacher and Premier Dancer at Béjart Ballet Lausanne from 2001 to 2005, will create a choreography for two promisingly talented young dancers from the Cuba National Ballet, Yoel Carreño and Yolanda Correa. This evening dedicated to ballet and piano is composed of arrangements by André Desponds specially written for the St Prex Festival. This performance will round off the classical interpretation of fervent passions.

## St Prex Festival team

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### Association

Hazeline van Swaay-Hoog, Founder and President

Jean-Pierre Althaus, Secretary-General

### Art Director

Hazeline van Swaay-Hoog

### Art Committee

Renée Auphan

Jill Gomme

Jean-Pierre Althaus

Ricardo Castro

Michel Dami

Pierre-Alain Killias

Pascal Nicod