

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a bright pink sleeveless dress, is shown in profile from the waist up, playing a piano. She is illuminated by a bright yellow spotlight from above, creating a strong contrast with the dark background. The piano is partially visible in the lower right corner.

2023 *Annual Report*

FONDATION

— les arts
florissants

WILLIAM CHRISTIE

FONDATION

— les arts florissants

WILLIAM CHRISTIE

A RECOGNIZED PUBLIC INTEREST FOUNDATION, that boasts the Centre Culturel de Rencontre label

AN INTERNATIONAL ARTISTIC AND CULTURAL PROJECT to reveal, discover, and revive the Baroque spirit through music; preserve heritage and gardens; and pass down knowledge.

ROOTED IN THREE REGIONS

- Thiré (Vendée, Pays de la Loire), a unique heritage site - *Foundation headquarters*
- Philharmonie de Paris - *artistic residency since 2015*
- New York (USA) - *collaboration with the Juilliard School since 2007*

As well as international tours



Building the future of a collective and mindful project

In many ways, 2023 was an exceptional year, allowing us to put the memory of the pandemic behind us.

In addition to a large number of concerts and performances, we were delighted to be reunited with an audience we hadn't played for in a long time. We returned three times to New York, where our links with the Juilliard School give us an essential foothold on the other side of the Atlantic, and also to Asia, in Seoul and Tokyo. The Quartier des Artistes - our international campus in Thiré - has welcomed more artists than ever before, the Gardens of William Christie have received a record number of visitors, and our school initiatives in the Vendée have spread throughout the region.

But the exception cannot be measured in quantitative terms alone. The quality of the link we forge, through music and aesthetics, with the public, the artists and the regions: that's the real challenge.

And that's where the emotion comes from. This emotion has truly been felt this year, particularly during the 11th edition of the Jardin des Voix academy, which we can now say has made its mark in history.

Not only did we discover eight exceptional young singers on this occasion, but this very first collaboration with choreographer Mourad Merzouki and the dancers of his Compagnie Käfig was also an

opportunity to build new bridges between the arts, generations and cultures, by bringing together hip hop and baroque music. The show that came out of this encounter, *The Fairy Queen*, is one of those moments of grace that live performance can offer us.

Without doubt, the real lesson of 2023 lies in this openness to other worlds. The meeting of different aesthetics and sensibilities doesn't weaken the coherence of the project, quite the contrary: it only reinforces the 'Arts Flo spirit'. Over the years, this adventure, born of one man, William Christie, has grown and expanded to become ever more collective. And it is in this direction, that of a community of artists rooted in the present and in the sensitive expression of humanist thought, that the future of the Fondation Les Arts Florissants - William Christie project is being written.

To achieve this, the support of our institutions and our loyal patrons is as essential as ever. Without them, the future of the Foundation could not be invented with the same boldness and creative freedom.

WILLIAM CHRISTIE ET PAUL AGNEW
ARTS FLORISSANTS MUSICAL CO-DIRECTORS

MUSIC

A year of encounters between the arts, generations and cultures

AN INTENSE SEASON OF CONCERTS AND TOURS IN FRANCE, EUROPE AND AROUND THE WORLD

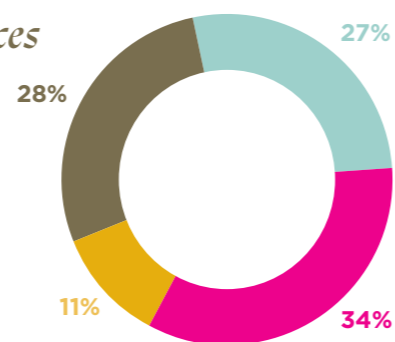
2023 will have seen the deployment of a wide variety of musical projects for Les Arts Florissants. In addition to a large number of concert and opera programs, this year has been marked by exceptional tours which reaffirm the central place of Les Arts Florissants in the dissemination of baroque music and performing arts throughout the world.

2 musical co-directors: William Christie et Paul Agnew

More than 280 artists from 23 countries

122 concerts and performances

- 41 outside of France
- 14 at the Philharmonie de Paris
- 34 in the Pays de la Loire region
- 33 in the rest of France



41 different concert programs, including 2 staged works

3 operas : *Dido and Aeneas* (Purcell), *Ariodante* (Haendel) and *The Fairy Queen* (Purcell)



Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*

A significant event, this creation with the winners of the 11th edition of the Jardin des Voix (see p.10), was enthusiastically received by the public and the press in no less than 7 countries during an international tour.



Exceptional tours and invitations

Key concerts at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center - New York (USA)

Asian tour - Incheon (Corée du Sud) and Tokyo (Japon)

3 concerts for « Christmas at Fontevraud » at the Royal Abbey of Fontevraud (France)

“Christie and his now legendary ensemble present an anthology production.”

EL PAIS (SPAIN), about the opera production *Dido and Aeneas*

“A singular and to this day unforgettable two hours of musical theater.”

MUSICAL AMERICA (USA), about the show *The Fairy Queen*



From top to bottom and from left to right

Titon et l'Aurore - Festival Dans les Jardins de William Christie
 Afternoons in the Gardens - Festival Dans les Jardins de William Christie
 Festival de Printemps
 Candlelight Concerts - Festival Dans les Jardins de William Christie

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS IN VENDÉE - PAYS DE LA LOIRE

Co-produced with the Département de la Vendée, the two festivals organized by Les Arts Florissants have reaffirmed their reputation locally, nationally and internationally, thanks to their high attendance and programming.

Spring Festival "Sacred walks: Henry Purcell"

With Henry Purcell as the featured composer, the 7th edition of the Festival de Printemps - Les Arts Florissants broke all its previous attendance records.

While the event remains firmly rooted in the Vendée, this year saw a turning point, with audiences from outside the Vendée exceeding 50% for the first time.

Nearly 1,500 tickets sold over 3 days

92% attendance rate
 (compared to 88% in 2022)

45% of the audience from the Vendée and
 55% from other departments and abroad

3 major concerts

2 Concerts & Café



"Sacred music at its most profound, noble and introspective."

OLYRIX (FRANCE)

Festival Dans les Jardins de William Christie

For its 12th edition, the Festival drew a large audience to a program that paid particular tribute to opera and dance.

The two productions on the legendary Miroir d'Eau (Reflecting Pool) stage showcased the talent of young singers from the Jardin des Voix and artists from the Juilliard School, who joined the ranks of the orchestra and the Compagnie Käfig dance ensemble. The Foundation continued its efforts to make the Festival even more welcoming and ecologically responsible (increasing the number of catering options, encouraging carpooling, reducing paper printing, ...).

125 performances and promenades musicales,

including 4 evenings of opera on the Miroir d'Eau

113 artists

Nearly 10,000 spectators

A strong local base: 44% of the audience came from the Vendée and neighbouring departments



"A heavenly experience (...) where even the trees seem to quiver in harmony with the protagonists, as in Fragonard's paintings where everything merges lovingly together."

FORUM OPERA (FRANCE)

Heritage & gardens

An active year for a forward-looking project in Thiré (Vendée, Pays de la Loire)

The 2023 year marked a turning point for the Quartier des Artistes, which is now sporting a new look thanks to the completion and launch of several major works in the heart of the village. The aim of these projects is to welcome artists and encourage interaction between residents and festival-goers, with the utmost respect for the village and its natural landscape.

SUSTAINING THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITY BY IMPROVING THE RECEPTION OF THE QUARTIER DES ARTISTES

255 days of works

Inauguration of the Salle de Bal, a new rehearsal space

- 4 renovation projects:
- The **Maison Polycarpe**, new accommodation being restored
 - The **Maison du Palmier** and its annex in the garden, new accommodation being restored
 - The **Maison du Lavoir**, conversion into offices
 - The **Bâtiment**, restoration work on the roof

There are also new prospects on the horizon, with the acquisition of a new plot of land in Saint-Juire-Champgillon, opposite the Festival parking area.



"Lignes de ciel: la Vendée en paysages"
(Sky Lines: Landscapes of the Vendée)

This exhibition by photographer Lionel Hug at the Quartier des Artistes brought together shots of Thiré and the surrounding countryside to mark the European Heritage Days.

PROMOTING THE VILLAGE'S RURAL HERITAGE

500 visitors during the European Heritage Days

- Restoration work around the Place de la Mairie, a historic focal point
- Support for the restoration of the church



Inauguration of the Salle de Bal

On August 26, a new venue was inaugurated in the heart of the Quartier des Artistes. The Salle de Bal will provide a new rehearsal space for artists.

PRESERVING THE VENDÉE LANDSCAPE AND PROMOTING GARDEN DESIGN

140 trees and shrubs planted on new land: the Bosquet de l'Allée d'Honneur (5,000 m²)

100 varieties of fragrant plants planted in a new educational kitchen garden: the "Clos des plantes parfumées"

WILLIAM CHRISTIE'S GARDENS, MORE ACCESSIBLE THAN EVER

73 days open to the public

3,170 visitors excluding festivals (+5% compared to 2022)

Connected gardens

Installation of interactive panels (flashcodes) in the Gardens to enhance the visit with digital - and sustainable - content.



PASSING ON The Baroque spirit

A vibrant year of emulation and sharing

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS REVEAL AND SUPPORT THE BAROQUE TALENTS OF TOMORROW

Le Jardin des Voix : a landmark event

Every two years, the Jardin des Voix academy brings together some of the most promising artists of their generation, selected from all over the world to provide them with unique, individualized support and reveal them to the public during an international tour.

In 2023, the 11th edition of Le Jardin des Voix featured a new production of Purcell's opera *The Fairy Queen*. Directed and choreographed by Mourad Merzouki, and conducted alternately by William Christie and Paul Agnew, this show drew connections between past and present, hip hop dance and the baroque repertoire and was defined by encounters and friendship between the arts and cultures.

8 young international artists from 6 different countries

6 dancers from the Compagnie Käfig and the Juilliard School in New York

11 performances on an international tour in 2023, following a premiere at the opening of the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie* (tour continuing in 2024)



“Merzouki’s staging
blew us away”

BACHTRACK (GERMANY)

Ever stronger links with the Juilliard School in New York

The collaboration with the Juilliard School in New York was reinvigorated in 2023, with the diversification of the masterclasses offered by Les Arts Florissants artists to students in the early music class and the extension of exchanges to the dance department of this prestigious American conservatory.

4 masterclass programs in New York with William Christie, Paul Agnew, Emmanuel Resche-Caserta and Théotime Langlois de Swarte

8 students invited to the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*



“This Fairy Queen weaves
together baroque and hip hop”

THE NEW YORK TIMES (USA)



2 student dancers from
The Juilliard School took part in
the premiere of *The Fairy Queen* at the
Festival *Dans les Jardins de William
Christie*, followed by an international tour.



The Fairy Queen with the winners of the Jardin des Voix academy



From top to bottom and from left to right
Masterclasses at the Quartier des Artistes
Arts Flo Juniors trainee musicians backstage
at the Philharmonie de Paris

The burgeoning of masterclasses in the Quartier des Artistes

5 masterclass programs in Thiré (Vendée, Pays de la Loire) with William Christie (musical director), Paul Agnew (voice), Sophie Daneman and Béatrice Martin (interpretation), Emmanuel Resche-Caserta (violin) and Emmanuelle de Negri (voice)

17 days of training in total

43 participants from 14 different countries

Arts Flo Juniors

5 young trainee musicians integrated into the orchestra for the *Mozart Symphonies* production conducted by Paul Agnew at the Philharmonie de Paris

BAROQUE FOR ALL PEDAGOGY AS THE PILLAR OF THE ARTS FLO PROJECT

Educational programs in the Vendée - Pays de la Loire region

During festivals and throughout the year, Les Arts Florissants works to bring the baroque arts to audiences of all ages, either at the Fondation in Thiré or throughout the region.

Nearly 1,600 people took part in workshops for children and families during the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

Collaborations with:

5 primary schools (10 classes)

2 nursery schools (2 classes)

2 Maisons Familiales Rurales (adults and high school students)

1 technical college and 3 recreation centres

10 teachers accompanied by 15 artists

130 children from 6 primary school classes accompanied as part of a music and dance school program in the Sud-Vendée

98 primary school pupils visited the Gardens of William Christie for gardening tours and workshops

Making music accessible in rural areas

5 performances and dress rehearsals open to the residents of Thiré (Vendée, Pays de la Loire)



Cultural events open to all

3 concerts with participatory encores: *Bach, a life in music II: Weimar* at the Philharmonie de Paris and Handel's *Messiah* at Fontevraud Royal Abbey and the Philharmonie de Paris

182 amateur participants in the preparatory workshops



“Combined with the musical and cultural training Christie and Co. provide at Les Jardins, this new generation of Baroque interpreters maintains a distinctive momentum, one that Christie launched in 1979 with the founding Les Arts Florissants, and, lucky for us, continues to perpetuate.”

MUSICAL AMERICA (USA)

Top to bottom and left to right

Performance following the learning path in Sud-Vendée
Training in plant pruning with students from Maisons Familiales Rurales
Preparatory workshop for the participatory concert *Bach, a life in music*



RÉSIDENCIES MAKING THIRÉ A MELTING POT FOR EXCHANGE AND CREATIVITY

2023 was particularly marked by the intensification of residencies for artists and cultural and gardening professionals at Thiré.

As well as adding a new dynamic to the year-round activities at the heart of Les Arts Florissants' cultural center, the development of these activities has enriched the network of artistic and cultural exchanges between Thiré, Europe, and the rest of the world.

171 days of occupancy in the Quartier des Artistes (workshops, rehearsals or residencies)

8 individual artists in residence

3 music ensembles in residence

6 trainee gardeners, including two Indian landscape gardeners

3 Odysée residencies (grants financed by the French Ministry of Culture to promote the international mobility of artists and researchers)



Residency with Somil Daga,
head gardener at the Jodhpur Cultural
Encounter Centre (India)

And also: partnerships with French Heritage Society (scholarships and exchange programs for foreign gardeners) and new collaborations under study with the Versailles Giverny Foundation, the Ambronay Cultural Encounter Centre (European EEEmerging+ program), the Association des Centres Culturels de Rencontre and the Abbaye aux Dames (Erasmus+ project)...



Ensemble Agamemnon in residence at the Quartier des artistes

DIGITAL & RECORDINGS DISCOVERING AND NURTURING THE LINK

While the return to a higher level of activity than before the pandemic has changed the relationship with digital technology, it continues to play a central role in nurturing links with a vast international audience, as well as enabling a culture often perceived as elitist to be discovered by a new audience.

The web to nurture links with the public on a daily basis

A YouTube channel that has become an essential part of our outreach and access to new audiences:

24K subscribers (+50%)

309 videos availables
including 35 new ones in 2023

1,2M views over the year (+65%)

An essential newsletter for sharing information with the public:

13,8K subscribers (+7%)

46% open rate on average

Social networks as dynamic as ever:

Instagram : 16,5K followers (+18%)

Facebook : 28K subscribers (+4%)

Twitter X : 7K followers

The arts-florissants.org website,
at the heart of the digital ecosystem:

78K unique visitors

+ 28%

Exclusive video content

7 original music videos produced during the Festival *Dans les Jardins de William Christie*

3 original music videos produced at the Philharmonie de Paris

Continuation of an audiovisual project based on lessons by William Christie (Amazing Digital Studios, FRA Productions)

Recording to share and relive music

New releases have made 2023 a particularly rich year for Les Arts Florissants and their harmonia mundi label.

6 audiovisual recordings

4 recordings and 6 new releases on the harmonia mundi label

5 radio recordings, broadcast on France Musique, ORF (Austria), SRG SSR idée Suisse - SRF2Kultur (Switzerland), Espace 2, Rete Due (Italy), NPO (Netherlands)



“In a breathtaking recording of George Frideric Handel with William Christie, the sparks fly. [...] A recording to take with you to a desert island.”

FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG
about *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*

Indicative percentages for the year 2022

A LOOK BACK AT 2023

The 2023 year was marked by a high level of activity, both in terms of musical programming and in terms of opening up to the public, educational initiatives, and heritage enhancement.

However, the year was also heavily impacted by inflation in costs - particularly those associated with national and international tours (travel and accommodation), and work on the houses and gardens of the Centre Culturel de Rencontre in Thiré.

As in previous years, the Foundation closed its accounts on 31/12/2023, and a final annual report for 2023 will be published in the first quarter of 2024.

Despite this situation, the 2023 financial year should see a deficit close to the projection made in January 2023, when the provisional budget was voted.

To pursue this activity with the high standards we set ourselves would be impossible without the strong and loyal support of our partners. First and foremost, our institutional partners, who have almost unanimously maintained public funding, enabling us to make a lasting contribution to our region and to its reputation. We can also count on our patrons and donors, who have been with us for many years and without whom we would not be able to develop our operatic, heritage and educational activities. Their support currently accounts for 39% of the Foundation's overall resources (annual budget) and 99% of the investment budget.

These donations and support constitute an essential resource for balancing our budget and an essential lever for development, creativity, and transmission. However, they are part of an annual and spontaneous process, which limits the Foundation's ability to plan for the medium and long term, whereas all our projects are initiated and built over several years.

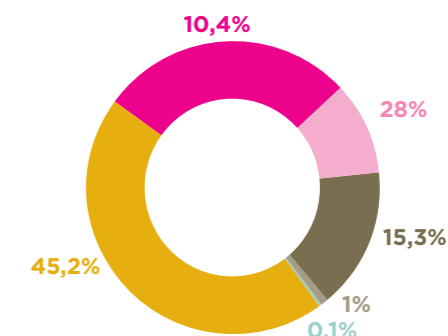
The search for multi-year funding, which we set out to achieve in 2023, remains just as necessary in 2024 if we are to maintain the level of excellence embodied by Les Arts Florissants.



Forecast figures

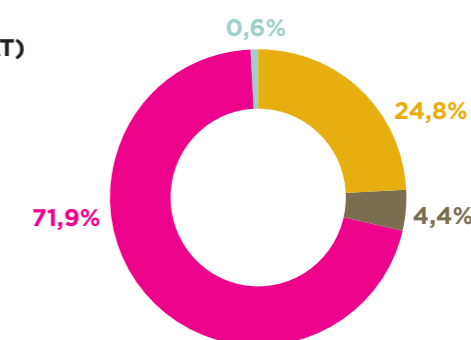
BREAKDOWN OF RESOURCES 2023 (€ EXCL. VAT)

Own revenue (concert sales, etc.)	3 673 248 €
Sponsorship	2 274 439 €
Earmarked sponsorship	847 500 €
Project-related subsidies	1 239 235 €
Support earmarked for investment	80 000 €
Miscellaneous	11 200 €
Total	8 125 622 €



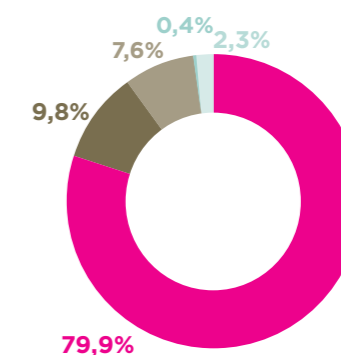
BREAKDOWN OF 2023 OPERATING COSTS (€ EXCL. VAT)

Production and activities (A)	5 845 288 €
Operating costs	2 014 831 €
Assets (excluding investment)	355 900 €
Contributions and sponsorship expenditure	50 310 €
Equity financing	-140 708 €
Total	8 125 622 €



(A) INCLUDING DETAILS OF THE PRODUCTION AND ACTIVITIES BUDGET (€ EXCL. VAT)

Concerts and performances	4 671 444 €
Festivals and preludes	572 423 €
Teaching / pedagogy	445 434 €
Residencies	22 367 €
Publishing and multimedia	133 620 €
Total	5 845 288 €



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American Friends of Les Arts Florissants is an American 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 2012 to strengthen the ties between Les Arts Florissants and the American public and to raise funds in the United States to support all of Les Arts Florissants' activities.

We extend our warmest thanks to our generous American donors.

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