



les arts *florissants* —
AMERICAN FRIENDS



The **American Friends of Les Arts Florissants**, a 501(c)3 charitable corporation, was established in 2012 to strengthen the ties between Les Arts Florissants and American audiences, musicians and singers.



Les Arts Florissants

By raising funds in the United States, the American Friends of Les Arts Florissants supports the full range of activities of Les Arts Florissants, including international and U.S. tours, concerts, recitals, recordings, events such as the Dans les Jardins de William Christie festival held annually in the Vendée region of France, and the development of a permanent artistic venue in the Vendée. The American Friends also help to provide training and education through various initiatives — including the annual Jardin des Voix program for young singers and the partnership with The Juilliard School in New York — to preserve and disseminate European music of the 17th and 18th centuries.

Based in France, the internationally acclaimed Baroque vocal and instrumental ensemble Les Arts Florissants was founded in 1979 by Franco-American conductor William Christie. Under Christie's extraordinary leadership and unparalleled artistic vision, Les Arts Florissants has played a pioneering role in rediscovering and reenergizing France's Baroque repertoire, developing new French and American talent, and bringing exciting and fresh musical performances to a wide range of audiences on both sides of the Atlantic.



From left to right:

William Christie
Musical Co-director and
Founder of Les Arts Florissants

Paul Agnew
Musical Co-director

Photo Credits

Top: Julien Gazeau
Above: Oscar Ortega
Front Cover Top/Bottom:
Les Fêtes d'Hébé, Vincent Pontet

Highlights 2026

107 **performances** in 17 cities in France, and international tours in 24 cities in the United States and Canada, Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

More than 30 different **programs** (concerts, semi-staged performances, and full productions) including Handel's *Concerti Grossi* and Opera Arias, *Acis and Galatea*, *Rinaldo* and *Riccardo Primo*; Scarlatti's *Messa di Santa Cecilia*, and his oratorio *Il Giardino di Rose* with Le Jardin des Voix; U.S. tours of Monteverdi's *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*, led by William Christie and Paul Agnew, Charpentier's *Les Arts Florissants* and *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers*; *Gesualdo Passione*, with a cappella singers and dancers; *Concerto Danzante*, led by Théotime Langlois de Swarte and featuring urban/contemporary dance; and Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*.

Since 2015, Les Arts Florissants has been a **Resident Ensemble at the Philharmonie de Paris**, allowing the orchestra to rehearse and perform in the prestigious venue.

On April 24–26, 2026, the Ensemble presents its **Spring Festival**, taking place in churches, in South Vendée, France. The 15th season of the festival **Dans les Jardins de William Christie** is held from August 22–29, 2026 with performances in William Christie's gardens.

Facts about Les Arts Florissants



The Ensemble has pioneered, researched, presented and expanded the audience for French Baroque music through more than **3,000 concerts, recitals and fully staged opera performances over 45 years**. 205 of these have taken place in the United States, including approximately 100 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Lincoln Center.

The Ensemble takes its name from the short opera by **Marc-Antoine Charpentier**, *Les Arts Florissants* (*The Flourishing Arts*).

A key ambassador for French culture, Les Arts Florissants is one of the most renowned and respected early music groups around the world.

Performances range from chamber music to full orchestra and opera featuring more than 70 musicians, singers, soloists and dancers.

Dedicated to performance on period instruments, the Ensemble is largely responsible for the resurgence of interest in 17th century French repertoire as well as in European music of the 17th and 18th centuries, and its research team regularly unearths and publishes lesser known 17th and 18th century French scores.

More than **130 recordings** and **23 DVDs** are available.

Les Arts Florissants is led by a duo of experts: celebrated harpsichordist, conductor, musicologist and teacher **William Christie** is Co-director and Founder; and renowned tenor and conductor **Paul Agnew** is Co-director.

William Christie's Thiré estate and gardens, the Thiré Quartier des Artistes and related projects in the Vendée region were recognized in 2017 as a **Centre Culturel de Rencontre** (Cultural Center). The **Fondation Les Arts Florissants–William Christie** unites all of Les Arts Florissants and its activities into a vibrant resource for future generations.

Photo Credits

Above & Following Page: Julien Gazeau



Dans les Jardins de William Christie

American Friends of Les Arts Florissants

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Why you should become a friend



Les Arts Florissants needs the additional support of generous donors like you to pursue its artistic and educational mission and strengthen its ties to the United States.

Becoming an American Friend is an investment in the future. It allows you to take a significant role in the organization's activities and become part of a unique musical adventure. As an American Friend, you contribute to a vital cultural heritage, providing Americans — and performing arts lovers the world over — the opportunity to discover and enjoy the world-class performances of Les Arts Florissants and exquisite Baroque music. You support young talents and watch them grow into tomorrow's rising stars, and ensure that the Ensemble continues to flourish, as its name suggests.

Where your donation goes

Your donations will fund Les Arts Florissants' mission and outreach, along with its education programs, including:

- Ongoing **touring** across North America and throughout the world, and creation of new concert programs and opera productions.
- Les Arts Florissants' unique **collaboration with The Juilliard School**, which builds bridges between Europe and the United States.
- Development of **a new generation of singers** through **Le Jardin des Voix**, a coveted training **program for young professional singers**. Since 2002, it has provided 69 singers from 16 countries with their first major performing experience.
- Assistance to **Les Arts Flos Juniors**, a program that enables students from conservatories in the U.S., Europe, and Asia to join selected performances with the Orchestra or Chorus each season.
- The festival **Dans les Jardins de William Christie** and development of the **permanent artistic venue in the Vendée**, which was granted the title of Centre Culturel de Rencontre. Since 2012, the summer music festival brings together Les Arts Florissants, students from The Juilliard School, Arts Flo Juniors and Le Jardin des Voix in the lush greenery of William Christie's gardens, a French "Monument Historique."

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of Les Arts Florissants

Every gift helps!

Make yours today and keep the passion for Baroque flourishing!

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- 4 Customized service in planning annual visit to the Festival
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- 6 Invitation to concert rehearsals
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For further information, please call Pascal Nadon at **646-234-7088** or email **pascal@pascalnadon.com**

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☐ Tours ☐ Education ☐ Quartier des Artistes

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Please return this form by mail to the address below or email it to **pascal@pascalnadon.com**

American Friends of Les Arts Florissants
c/o Paul LeClerc
1170 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10129

**Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law*

The Maestro's Circle

The Maestro's Circle was launched for Les Arts Florissants' 40th Anniversary in 2019. Circle members pledge three years of support with annual donations of at least \$5,000 (a total of at least \$15,000 over three years which includes special events support). These gifts help Les Arts Florissants maintain artistic excellence over a multi-year horizon.

In appreciation, Maestro's Circle members receive the benefits outlined below.

1. Acknowledgement in all American Friends public materials.
2. Priority invitations to American Friends special events and activities.
3. Invitation to a dinner each year with William Christie and/or Paul Agnew.
4. Customized service in ticketing and in planning visits to the Festival.
5. Performance of Les Arts Florissants dedicated annually to Members of The Maestro's Circle.
6. Invitation to a "Rehearsal and Reception" annually.

THE MAESTRO'S CIRCLE MEMBERS

Noreen Buckfire, *Chair,
The Maestro's Circle*

Susan Baker and
Michael Lynch

Mercedes T. Bass

Marina Couloucoundis

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