



Doulce Mémoire

Biography

Doulce Mémoire represents above all the spirit of the Renaissance – a time of voyages and discovery, inventiveness and creativity. For almost twenty-five years now, this faithful, close-knit team of musicians and singers has been involved in artistic ventures of a constantly innovative nature, with the regular participation of actors and dancers. The ensemble's productions range from the very serious Requiem for the Kings of France to the racy, bawdy and festive L'Honnête courtisane. One of the recent additions to the repertoire is a reconstruction of the Mass for the encounter of the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

Since it was founded, Doulce Mémoire has appeared at national theatres, opera houses and festivals all over France, as well as in many major cities abroad (Brussels, Rome, Riga, New York, Mexico City, Brasilia ...). Always game for new challenges, the ensemble has also performed at more unusual venues: in front of a UGC cinema in the heart of Paris, for instance, and at the prestigious National Museum of Taipei; in the grounds of the Sultans' Palace in Istanbul, or precariously balanced on a barge in the Tahiti lagoon.

Doulce Mémoire has established some fine artistic and personal relationships in the course of its travels: with the Hang Tang Yuefu Music and Dance Ensemble of Taiwan, for example, the fado singer Antonio Zambujo, the Iranian singer Taghi Akhbari, and the Turkish ney player Kudsi Ergüner. Such encounters provide an opportunity to show how Renaissance music can travel and create exchanges and interactions with the music of other cultures. Programmes such as La Porte de Félicité (The Gate of Happiness) and Laudes (Brotherhoods of East and West), both of which have also been recorded, are fine illustrations of this.

Through its concerts and shows, Doulce Mémoire enables audiences to discover the music that could have been heard by great men of the Renaissance such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rabelais, François I and others, some of whom left their mark on the Loire valley and some of its fine Renaissance châteaux. For the past fifteen years the ensemble has been particularly active in Centre Region of France, with which it has developed a privileged relationship. Amongst other events, Doulce Mémoire organises Le Droict Chemin de Musique, an academy for young professional singers, launched in 2003 and held in the wonderful setting of the royal château at Chambord.

Doulce Mémoire records for Zig-Zag Territoires, Naïve and Ricercar, and regularly receives top ratings in the specialised music press. The ensemble has taken part in several documentaries for the cultural TV channel Arte.

Doulce Mémoire is supported by the Centre Region and subsidised by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication / DRAC-Centre. It also receives support from the Indre-et-Loire General Council, the French Institute–Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the City of Tours. Doulce Mémoire is a member of FEVIS (Fédération des Ensembles Vocaux et Instrumentaux Spécialisés) and of PROFEDIM (Syndicat professionnel des Producteurs, Festivals, Ensembles, Diffuseurs Indépendants de Musique).