

Denis Raisin Dadre

Artistic director

After his musical studies – recorder, oboe and musicology – Denis Raisin Dadre formed the ensemble Douce Mémoire in 1989, with the aim of presenting music that could have been heard by brilliant artists of the Renaissance period such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael. His keen interest in history, literature, and the arts in general, as well as music, leads him to devise programmes that are set in a historical context to do with cities ('Venice, gateway to the East', 'The Carnival in Florence'), political events ('Requiem for the Kings of France', 'The wedding of Henry IV') or famous painters ('Music for Leonardo da Vinci', 'The Age of Titian'). Using the same approach – Renaissance music seen in its artistic, social and political environment – Denis Raisin Dadre also produces programmes for radio (France Musique).

After twenty-five years of intense activity, with memorable achievements both in concert and on CD, his love for the Renaissance has never weakened. As Denis Raisin Dadre studies the material found in European libraries, transposes manuscript scores or tries out various instrumental possibilities, he questions preconceived ideas and sometimes even the vocabulary of music – and not only that of the Renaissance, for he often works with stage directors and choreographers on the creation of original types of performance.

Denis Raisin Dadre appears with his ensemble Douce Mémoire at major venues in France and all over the world – Théâtre de Chaillot in Paris, Montpellier Opéra, the Villa Médicis in Rome, Santiago Opera House (Chile), the festivals of Utrecht (Holland), Fès (Morocco), Boston (United States), Bergen (Norway), and so on.

He is regularly invited to take part in academies organised for the training of young musicians. Denis Raisin Dadre has taught, for example, at those of Gijon (Spain), Chiquitos (Bolivia), Prague (Czech Republic) and Havana (Cuba). He also teaches in the Department of Early Music at the Conservatoire in Tours, and since 2003 he has been director of the International Academy *Le Droit Chemin de Musique* for talented young singers.

Denis Raisin Dadre was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture in 1999.

Douce Mémoire is supported by the Regional Council of the Centre Region, the Indre-et-Loire general Council, the Ministry of Culture - DRAC Centre, the City of Tours and the Institut Français - Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its foreign tours. Douce Mémoire is a member of Fevis and Profedim.