

# The School of Notre Dame

(XII-XIII C.)

A 3 day masterclass in London

with

## Marcel Pérès



27, 28, 29 November 2021

*in collaboration with*

St John's Schola Cantorum (Fulham, London)

Centre International d'Études Liturgiques (France)

St John's Fulham Music Association

# St. John's Church

North End Road. SW6 1PB

(Parking available)

*Fulham Broadway*

*underground Station*

The workshop will include  
two performances on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

Price per person: 50 £

Students: 30 £

Supporters: 70 £

*Arrangements will be made for those who can only attend part or just one day of the course*

Info and registration:

[musicasacra@ciel.ac](mailto:musicasacra@ciel.ac)

Phone: 07473 445551

*Please register by Monday, the 22nd of November*



Marcel Pérès studied the organ at the Nice Conservatory, followed by postgraduate work at the Royal School of Church Music, London and the Studio of Ancient Music in Montreal. Upon his return to France in 1979, he studied under the expert in Medieval Music Michel Huglo who at that time taught palaeography and history of medieval music at the *École pratique des hautes études*.

Also in association with Michel Huglo, he later devoted his efforts to the study and performance of various ancient repertoires; paying particular attention to existing aural traditions seeking to blend musicological, theoretical and performative perspectives to vivify the music of a particular place and time.

In order to take these into practise, Marcel Pérès founded *Ensemble Organum* in 1982 with the objective to revive forgotten repertoire. The endeavour is to connect with living traditions, deeply renew action and cultural practices (especially improvisation and ornamentation practices), using the discoveries that emerge to fundamentally rethink the processes of creation and transmission

This activity was supported by research: in 1984 Marcel Pérès founded the ARIMM (Workshop for Research on the Performance of Medieval Music) and in 1994 it became the CERIMM (European Centre for Research on the Performance of Medieval Music). In 2001, this was relocated to the old abbey of Moissac where Marcel Pérès founded CIRMA, (Itinerant Centre for Early Music Research) which is still active.

Each year, the efforts of the ensemble are focused on several specific research programs in conjunction with musicologists and historians from France and globally. A

particular manuscript or aspect of the repertory is studied in depth. Thus by being in contact with the most recent historical and musicological discoveries, the ensemble is constantly expanding its repertory.

The results of its research programs are presented in concert tours, and in its recordings. Each of Ensemble Organum's recordings is an illustration of its thoroughly historical and at the same time experimental approaches, which are a conjunction of a study of the musical and theoretical sources and the practice of oral traditions e.g. Byzantine chant and Corsican chant which, from a historical point of view were originally linked to Western repertoire.

Within almost forty years, Ensemble Organum has released thirty three recordings, most of which have been awarded the highest distinctions: *Diapason d'or*, *Classical Awards*, “*Choc de l'année*” of *Le Monde de la Musique*. And his version of Machaut's *Messe de Notre-Dame* was considered one of the « *100 essential Recordings in the Classical Music Canon* » by the New York Times' Guide.

Sometimes considered an iconoclast in the early music movement, Marcel Pérès has developed a robust, vibrant, expressive and energetic style of singing plainchant; challenging audiences and fellow scholars and performers to reconsider how to approach ancient repertoire from throughout the Christian world.

#### **More about Marcel Pérès**

<https://www.mediafire.com/file/nohki47xi30f4at/Marcel+Pérès.pdf/file>

#### **Discography**

<https://www.mediafire.com/file/at60ks6tb49opg6/Discography+Organum+.pdf/file>

This **article** provides a technical analysis of the musical and historical basis of Pérès' interpretation of ancient music in order of verify his legitimacy.

<https://www.mediafire.com/file/xdbpm6r42dnpldw/Marcel+Pérès'+Ensemble+Organum+and+the+Medieval+Sound.pdf/file>

**A Critic's Guide to the 100 Most Important Recordings** by Allan Kozinn. *The New York Times Essential Library, 2004*. Chapter two « Guillaume de Machaut, Messe de Notre Dame. Ensemble Organum, Marcel Pérès, conducting ».

<https://www.mediafire.com/file/pdyzm9aesqk8lxq/Peres+NewYorkTimes-Classical+Music+.pdf/file>

Based in St John's Church, Fulham, *St John's Schola Cantorum* is an ensemble of eight singers; students and graduates of London's major conservatoires and universities. They sing a repertoire spanning from Gregorian Chant to Rossini, Brahms and Poulenc. They also perform works by contemporary composers and enjoy exploring the Medieval sound world.

They regularly sing in liturgical offices during the academic year and take part in concerts, recitals, charitable events, as well as tours across Europe and the UK.

The *CIEL, Centre international d'Études liturgiques* (International Centre for Liturgical Studies) founded in 1994, has organised thirteen conferences in Paris, Versailles, Rome, London and Oxford where researchers delivered their reflections on the different theological, canonical, historical, artistic and spiritual aspects of the various liturgical traditions.

From its origins, the CIEL has been marked by the international character of its speakers who have been welcomed from France, Great Britain, Germany, USA, Italy, Australia, Austria, Argentina, Switzerland, etc. The proceedings of the symposiums were published both in French and English. The forthcoming publication of a book is planned to include a selection of the most significant works of the twelve volumes of conferences published by the CIEL over 25 years.

As a "Centre of studies" promotes studies and research following an organic plan. One of them is the "Sancta Sanctorum Project" which began in 2020 with a workshop of "Old Roman Chant" under the direction of Marcel Pérès crowned by a performance in the *Sancta Sanctorum*, the chapel of the Medieval Papal palace in the Lateran, Rome.