

Benoît MENUT

Biography

Energy in sounds, driven by meaning.

This is how Benoît Menut likes to define his work. Passionate about the infinite world of instrumental and orchestral colors, and deeply inspired by the connection between music and words, the latter serves as a constant source of inspiration for him.

For the stage, he composed *Fando et Lis* (2018), based on Fernando Arrabal's work, which earned him SACD New Talent Award in 2019 and the Charles Oulmont Prize the same year. This marked the beginning of a rapidly ascending career. His subsequent works include *Micromégas*, an opera based on Voltaire, commissioned by Ars Musica Festival in Brussels (2023), the adaptation and orchestration of Pierre Lacotte's ballet *Le Rouge et le Noir* for Paris Opera (2021), *Beethoven Celtique*, a symphonic project with Sir Bryn Terfel and Carlos Nunes (2023), and the opera *Stella et le Maître des Souhaits*, commissioned by Paris Philharmonie (2020). Always open to new adventures, he is currently preparing *Un Match*, a new opera set in the world of football, scheduled for 2025 (Paris, Opéra de Reims), *Circe*, Philharmonie de Paris (2026), as well as a Choral and Orchestral work, tribute to Beethoven, commissioned by Festival Présences 2027.

Benoît Menut's interest in multidisciplinary collaborations has led him to work with renowned ensembles such as Musicatreize, Radio-France and Notre-Dame de Paris children's choirs, Les Cris de Paris, and others. His extensive catalog, with over 160 opus numbers, spans almost all forms of instrumental and vocal expression, making him one of the most prominent French composers of his generation. While chamber music holds a special place in his work, this graduate of the Paris Conservatory has increasingly ventured into orchestral compositions, with international collaborations (Japan, Belgium, Ukraine) for concertos and symphonic pieces, often intertwined with other art forms such as photography, dance, painting, and video.

His commitment to blending rigorous, lyrical composition with a deep connection to both performers and the public is at the core of his artistic philosophy, often likening himself to a "director of emotions." His first three monographic albums—*Monologue[s]* (recorded by Ensemble Accroche Note), *Les Îles* (featuring Emmanuelle Bertrand, Maya Villanueva, and Ensemble Syntonia, released by Harmonia Mundi), and *Chants de l'Isolé* (with Trio Karénine, awarded the 2023 Diapason d'Or) have all been critically acclaimed.

Menut's works have been commissioned and performed by prestigious artists such as Bryn Terfel, David Kadouch, Trio Karenine, Tana Quartet, and major orchestras including Orchestre de Paris, Orchestre national d'Île de France, Orchestre national de Bretagne, Washington Orchestra, as well as international ensembles from Kiev, Kanazawa, and Wallonia.

Three times nominated for the Victoires de la Musique Classique, Benoît Menut won the Florent Schmitt Prize from the Institut de France (2022), the SACEM Grand Prize for Symphonic Music (2016), and the Grand Prix Lycéen des Compositeurs Professors' Award (2021). He is also a laureate of the Banque Populaire Foundation (2008) and the Francis and Mica Salabert Foundation (2014).

Edited by Éditions Musicales Artchipel, Benoît Menut has been made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Éditeur : <https://www.artchipel.net/compositeur/menut-benoit/>
www.benoitmenut.com

Awards and Distinctions

- 2022: Florent Schmitt Composition Prize from the Institut de France
- 2021 and 2020: Twice nominated in the "Composer of the Year" category at the Victoires de la Musique Classique
- 2021: Teachers' Prize at the *Grand Prix Lycéen des Compositeurs*
- 2019: SACD's *Nouveau Talent* Prize for the opera *Fando et Lis* (2018)
- 2019: *Charles Oulmont Prize* for composition
- 2016: SACEM Grand Prize for Symphonic Music (Young Composer), for the two concertante works *Un Poème* (violin and orchestra) and *Die Sensucht nach dem Glück* (cello and orchestra).
- 2016: CEFM (Musicora 2016) Music Teaching Prize for the publication of *L'Ouverture à la Musique*, Vol. 2 and 3, Henri Lemoine editions.
- 2015: Selected by the International Community Arts Academy, a European artistic academy organized by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, and the Aix-en-Provence Festival (under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle).
- 2014: SACEM Prize from the Francis and Mica Salabert Foundation for the monographic album *Le Monologue d'Anna* (Sonogramme editions), which also includes the first trio for violin, *Le Baiser de Marbre Noir*, performed by Ensemble Accroche-Note.
- 2008: Laureate, composition section, of the Natexis-Groupe Banque Populaire Foundation, for choral works.
- 2007-2009: Composer-in-residence at the Abbaye de La Prée
- 2007: *Trois Fables de Monsieur de La Fontaine*, for mixed choir, contemporary work prize at the Arezzo international choir competition, performed by the National Youth Choir, conducted by Valérie Fayet.

Some Residencies and Personal Projects

- Composer-in-residence at the *Festival de l'Épau* 2022-2024
- Residency at the 2022 International Chamber Music Competition in Lyon
- Composer-in-residence at the 2021 *Festival des Arcs*
- Composer-in-residence at the Novara Conservatory (Italy) 2020
- Associate composer and composer-in-residence with the Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne from 2014 to 2020. Creation of about ten works, four symphonic ones (including *Symphonie pour une Plume*, premiered at the Rennes Opera in 2016).
- Laureate of the Ministry of Culture's "Composer-in-Residence" program at a multidisciplinary stage from 2020 to 2022 (Théâtre conventionné in Rethel, Ardennes).
- Composer-in-residence at the 2018 *Piano Campus* festival
- 2018-2022: Associate composer at the *Espace Culturel de Chaillol*, National Stage
- 2006-2026: Composer-in-residence at the following festivals: *Piano à Saint-Ursanne* (Ch) (2022-2026), *Choralies de Vaison-la-Romaine* (2006), *Musique en Brocéliande* (2011), *Belle-Ile en Mer* (2015 and 2022), *Musique à la Ferme* (2016), *Musique à Hourtin* (2010), *Musicales de Saint Cézaire* (2019), *Musique à Sanary* (2020)

Discography (excerpts)

- *Chants de l'Isolé*, in duet with Philippe Hersant, Trio Karénine, Royal Chamber Orchestra of Wallonia, conducted by Vahan Mardirossian, including *Trio II* and *Depuis le Rivage*, Mirare label, release in September 2023, awarded a *Diapason d'Or*
- *Les îles*, monographic album, Emmanuelle Bertrand, Romain David, Patrick Langot, Maya Villanueva, Stéphanie Moraly, Harmonia Mundi label (released April 2020)
- *Stèles*, for piano quartet, performed by Ensemble Gustave, Klarthe label, released January 2020
- *Le Petit Garçon qui avait envie d'Espace*, by Michael Dian (piano) and Cécile Brochoire (narrator), musical tale, Chaillol label, released December 2019
- *Le Guerrier Combattant* (by Maxime Zecchini), Ad Vitam Records (2019)
- *Postlude*, for solo cello, by Patrick Langot, Klarthe label, released March 2019
- *Ys*, for saxophone and piano, by Ronan Baudry (sax) and Romain Hervé (piano), BTA label (2019)
- *Fando et Lis*, opera DVD, Opéra de Saint-Etienne label (2018)
- *Micro-Suite*, for solo cello by Patrick Langot, Grands Prix SACEM 2016 label
- *Le Sel de la Terre*, for viola and cello, Sylvain Duranton, Polymnie label (May 2016)
- *Un Grand Vent s'est levé*, for children's choir and organ, Maîtrise de Notre-Dame de Paris, conducted by Lionel Sow, MSNDP label (released 2015)
- *Monologue[s]*, disque monographique, ensemble Accroche-Note, Sonogramme (2013)
- *Trois Fables de M de La Fontaine en forme d'études*, chœur National des jeunes, dir. Valérie Fayet, label A Choeur Joie (2011)

Ensembles, Orchestras, Soloists, Conductors, Theater Artists, Authors, and Labels in Past, Current, or Future Collaborations Orchestras / Choirs

Paris Opera Orchestra / National Orchestra of the Loire Region / National Orchestra of Brittany / National Orchestra of Île-de-France / Paris Orchestra / Orchestra of the Savoie Region / Accord Chamber Orchestra (Washington) / Kanazawa Orchestra (Japan) / Kiev Orchestra (Ukraine) / Royal Chamber Orchestra of Wallonia (Belgium) / National Orchestra of Nancy Lorraine / Saint-Etienne Opera Orchestra / Paris Mozart Orchestra / Ensemble Orchestral 41 / Orchestra and Choir Les Surprises / Radio France Choir / Musicatreize / National Youth Choir / Les Cris de Paris / Notre-Dame de Paris Choir / Spirito / Britten Choir / Mikrokosmos / National Choir of Riga / Mikrokosmos Choir / Jeune Choeur Spirito.

Ensembles

Ensemble Ars Nova / Ensemble Musique Nouvelle (Belgium) / Ensemble Accroche-Note / Ensemble Calioptée / Le Concert Idéal / Paris Wind Ensemble / Ensemble Trombamania / Ensemble Hélios / Tana Quartet / Agate Quartet / Stanislas Quartet / Ensemble Syntonia / Trio Karénine / Smoking Joséphine / The Haunted Reeds Quartet / Duo Ermitage / Ensemble Gustave / Trio Barockissimo.

Soloists

Bryn Terfel / Mathias Vidal / François Le Roux / David Kadouch / Lise Berthaud / Marie-Laure Garnier / Emmanuelle Bertrand / Ludmila Berlinskaja and Arthur Ancelle / Philippe Muller / Ophélie Gaillard / Jean Ferrandis / Dana Ciocarlie / Célia Oneto Bensaïd / Nathan Mierdl / Arnaud Thorette / Clément Saunier / Jérôme Conte / Eric Crambes / Xavier Gagnepain / Léo Marillier / Guillaume Latour / Célimène Daudet / Marianne Piketty / Vincent Lhermet / Romain David / Jean-Baptiste Fonlupt / Laurent Camatte / Françoise Gnéri / Juan-Miguel Hernandez / Nicolas Royez / Nicolas Prost / Maxime Zecchini / Patrick Langot / Paloma Kouider / Ronan Baudry / Armand Angster / Françoise Kubler / Maya Villanueva / Juliette di Bello (USA) / Kurt Nikkanen (USA) / Sandrine Chatron (Netherlands).

Conductors

Grant Llewellyn / Darrel Ang / Sora Elisabeth Lee / Pierre Dumoussaud / Léo Margue / Noam Zur / Jonathan Darlington / Nicolas Chalvin / Daniel Kawka / Claire Gibault / Jane Latron / Vahan Mardirossian / Louis-Noël Bestion de Camboulas / Nicolas André / Julien Bénichou / Aurélien Azan-Zielinski / Jean-Paul Dessy / Denis Comtet / Nicole Corti / Lionel Sow / Loïc Pierre / Geoffroy Jourdain / Valérie Fayet / Nicolas Krauze.

Theater Artists, Authors:

Elissa Aloula (Comédie Française) / Daniel Mesguich / Marie-Christine Barrault / Michael Lonsdale / Erik Orsenna / Laurine Roux / Christian Bobin / Pascal Quignard / Catherine Anne / Florence Lavaud / Fernando Arrabal.

Labels, Collaborations:

Harmonia Mundi (since 2019) / Deutsche Grammophon (2023) / Mirare (2023) / Klarthe (since 2017) / Sonogramme (since 2013).

Musicological and Educational Publications

- By Caroline Barbier de Reulle: "Combinatorics of Intertextuality in *Fando et Lis* by Benoît Menut," *Enterpe*, No. 37, "Opera in France Since the Liberation: Evolutions and Revolutions," July 2021, pp. 26-36.
- 2013: *Olivier Greif*, in collaboration with Brigitte François-Sappey and Jean Michel Nectoux, Aedam Musicae Editions.
- 2011: *Quelles Clés pour mes notes*, biography of Pierick Houdy, in collaboration with the composer, Aedam Musicae Editions.
- 2005: *Joseph-Guy Ropartz, ou le Pays inaccessible*, *Mélophiles* collection, Papillon Editions (CH), in collaboration with Mathieu Ferey.
- 2006: *Pour jouer Ropartz*, an annotated catalog, published by Musiques et danses en Bretagne.
- 2002-2009: *La Dictée en Musique*, (Henri Lemoine Editions), in 7 volumes.
- 2013-2016: *L'Ouverture à la musique*, a complete musical training course, five volumes (Henri Lemoine Editions).

Teaching

- 2015-2025: Lecturer at CNSM Lyon and Paris in pedagogy, CA training.
- 2010-2014: Professor of composition, writing, analysis, and academic advisor at the Claude Debussy Conservatory (Paris 17th), responsible for the specialized cycle in music training.
- 2005-2015: Instructor for teacher training organizations in writing (CEFEDM, ARIAM).
- 2000-2008: Coordinating professor of writing, composition, and music training at the Conservatory of the 13th arrondissement of Paris (creation of specialized cycle classes).
- 2003-2006: Professor of music training and analysis at the Notre-Dame de Paris Choir School.
- 2000-2002: Professor of music training at the CRR of Paris.