

La Grande Chapelle

curriculum

La Grande Chapelle is a vocal and instrumental early music ensemble with a European outlook whose main objective is to apply new readings to the great vocal works of the 16th to 18th centuries with special emphasis on the polychoral productions of the Baroque period. At the same time it aims to contribute to the urgent task of reviving forgotten works from the Spanish musical repertoire.

La Grande Chapelle has taken part in the most important Spanish music seasons and performed at the festivals of Haut-Jura, Musica Sacra in Maastricht, Laus Polyphoniae in Antwerp, Rencontres musicales in Noirlac, the Cervantino Festival in Guanajuato, Radio France, Ribeaupillé, Saint-Michel en Thiérache, Saintes, Île de France, Van Vlaanderen, Lyon, Herne, Cremona, Stockholm, La Valletta (Malta), Resonanzen in Vienna as well as the Cité de la Musique season in Paris, UNAM in México (at the Nezahualcóyotl auditorium), deSingel (Antwerp), Teatro Mayor (Bogotá), Gran Teatro Nacional de Lima, amongst others.

Upon its foundation in 2005, fired by a desire to spread Spain's musical heritage, La Grande Chapelle set up its own independent record label, Lauda, which specialises in recordings of great musical and musicological interest. It has focused on two principal areas: an exploration of the relationship between the music and literature of the Spanish Golden Age and the revival of works by the most outstanding Spanish renaissance and baroque composers through first-time recordings, particularly those that set a particular work or composer within a specific context.

In 2010 La Grande Chapelle received the inaugural FestClásica (the Spanish Classical Music Association Awards) Prize for its contribution to the performance and recovery of previously unrecorded Spanish music. Recordings by La Grande Chapelle on the Lauda label have received several prestigious national and international awards and prizes for their quality and artistic rigour, including two "Orphées d'Or" (Académie du Disque Lyrique, Paris, in 2007 and 2009), "Label of the Year" in the "Prelude Classical Music Awards 2007" (The Netherlands), "5 of Diapason", "Excepcional" in the magazine *Scherzo*, "Choc de Classica", "Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik" (PdSK) - and the "Editor's Choice" and "Critic's Choice" in the celebrated British magazine *Gramophone*.

Albert Recasens

Upon finishing his music studies in Tarragona, Barcelona, Bruges and Ghent he took a degree in musicology at the Catholic University of Louvain where he graduated with a doctorate on 18th century stage music in Madrid. Since the beginning of his career he has combined performance, management and musicological research with the conviction that an interdisciplinary approach and total commitment are necessary for the promotion of forgotten musical heritage. He has published musicological studies in various journals and encyclopaedias, both nationally and abroad, and has been involved in different research projects (UAM, UB). His musical recovery project "Pedro Ruimonte in

Brussels” was a beneficiary of a BBVA Awards Foundation grant for Researchers and Cultural Creators in 2016.

In 2005 he began an ambitious project for the recovery of forgotten or overlooked Spanish music with the founding of La Grande Chapelle and the Lauda record label. This brought to light unreleased works from some of the great composers of the 17th and 18th centuries (A. Lobo, J. P. Pujol, C. Patiño, J. Hidalgo, C. Galán, J. García de Salazar, F. Valls, J. de Nebra, A. Rodríguez de Hita, F. J. García Fajer, J. Lidón, etc.) in the form of premieres or first-time recordings.

In 2007 he took over the reins as artistic director of La Grande Chapelle. Since then he has conducted numerous concerts of both polyphony and baroque music. Outstanding among the modern-day premieres of theatre music are the auto sacramental *Universal Peace* by Calderón de la Barca (with Juan Sanz and Ana Yepes), Ramón Garay's opera *A Concise Compendium of the Spanish Revolution* (1815) and the *Fortunes of Andromeda and Perseus* (1653) by Calderón and Hidago (atrib.).

He remains absolutely committed to releasing music on the Lauda label which gathers together the research carried out for La Grande Chapelle's musical recoveries.

Since september 2019 he is Creativity and Cultural Heritage researcher at the Institute for Culture and Society (ICS) of the Universidad de Navarra.