

**W**hich Vespers would Monteverdi have chosen to perform at the end of his life under Titian's dazzling Assumption in the "Frari"? In 1643 it was in this very place, the Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, where Monteverdi would be buried some time later. The famous Vespers of 1610 are now considered to be his masterpiece, but it should not be forgotten that this work is merely a photographic snapshot of an ephemeral form par excellence, which owes its posterity purely to its publication. Monteverdi's Vespers are in fact as numerous as the number of occasions on which the Virgin was celebrated...

Following the traditional sequence of Marian vespers, emblematic of the religious fervour of a Venice still scarred by the great plague epidemic of 1631, this concert features several works from his great collection of *Selva morale e spirituale* of 1641 - a moral and spiritual «forest» - and also forms the testament of a composer at the height of his fame and maturity. More intimate works, such as the antiphons and instrumental motets, are followed by monumental, exhilarating pieces such as the psalm *Dixit dominus* and the canticle *Magnificat*, building from the principle of the double choir and the use of the concertante style, emblematic of musical style in Venice at the time. A jewel in this musical testament is the *Pianto della Madonna*, in which Monteverdi repeats note for note the deeply moving lamento from his opera *Ariadne*, changing only the text, as an adoration in these new Vespers to the Virgin.

Teaser : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CamhRYJCyf8>

# MONTEVERDI TESTAMENTO

With

perrine devilliers

eva zaïcik

paco garcia

cyril auvity

romain bockler

victor sicard

choir and orchestre Poème Harmonique

vincent dumestre direction

TEAM : 48 PEOPLE

6 soloistes - 24 choristes - 14 instrumentalists - 1 conductor

1 production - 1 technician - 1 admin

Orguan et double bass to be provided + tuning

PREMIERING  
2024

VESPRO DELLA  
MADONNA 1643

  
LE POÈME HARMONIQUE  
Vincent Dumestre