

**D**ecember 1723. Johann Sebastian Bach has just taken up his position as Cantor at St Thomas's Church and is celebrating his first winter in Leipzig. For December 25th, he composes the first version of what will become one of his most famous masterpieces: his Magnificat.

Some 400 years later, the sequence of events during these vespers which enchanted the Nikolaikirche on Christmas Day, is now well known. And it is precisely this that Vincent Dumestre recreates, in line with the Cantor's wishes: Bach regularly introduced the Leipzig audience to new works of his own composition, such as his original version of the Magnificat, composed for the occasion, and Cantata BWV 63, «Christen, ätzt diesen Tag». But he combined them in keeping with the long tradition of the Leipzig Cantors, inserting these new works among the motets, chorales and hymns that appeared in the Florilegium Portense collection, arranged and edited by Erhard Bodenschatz – a century earlier! – or by Gottfried Vopelius in his Gesangbuch. And to conclude these vespers on the late afternoon of 25 December 1723, the simple yet moving hymn «Gott sei uns gnädig und barmherzig» was sung - an epilogue to the very first performance of the Magnificat, a masterpiece that still resonates today on all stages.

# BACH MAGNIFICAT

“A WINTER IN LEIPZIG”

Erhard Bodenschatz, Alleluia

JS Bach, Christen, Ätzt diesen Tag, BWV 63

Gottfried Vopelius, Ein Kindelein so löblich

JS Bach, Magnificat BWV 243a

JoS Bach, Gott sein uns gnädig BWV 323

chœur et orchestre du Poème Harmonique  
vincent dumestre direction

ON TOUR IN  
2025- 2026

TEAM : 42 PEOPLE

5 soloists - 15 chorists - 21 instrumentalists - 1 conductor

1 production - 1 technician - 1 admin

Harpsichord, organ, double bass and timpany to be provided +  
tuning

  
LE POÈME HARMONIQUE  
Vincent Dumestre