



ROSSINI'S PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE

PERFORMERS

David Fray *piano and conductor*
17 singers
2 pianos and harmonium

DURATION

1:30

The Ensemble la Sportelle and David Fray present Rossini's *Petite Messe solennelle* in its original version for two pianos and harmonium, a masterpiece that combines devotion, humor, and virtuosity.

Written in 1863, the *Petite Messe solennelle* is one of Rossini's most fascinating farewells to sacred music. The composer of *The Barber of Seville*, long retired from the stage for over thirty years, blends sincere faith, humanity, and subtle humor in this work. Scored for four soloists, mixed choir, two pianos, and harmonium, it showcases Rossini's melodic genius and his unique ability to unite religious fervor with operatic lightness.

"Good Lord. Here it is finished this poor little Mass. Is it really sacred music that I have just written, or just plain music that's sacred? I was born for the opera buffa, you know that well! Little science, a bit of heart, that's all there is. So be blessed and grant me Paradise", he wrote in his dedication to the work's commissioner, summing up the piece's spirit, at once devout and free.

Renowned for the clarity, depth, and intensity of his playing, David Fray will also conduct the seventeen singers of Ensemble la Sportelle, along with a second pianist and a harmonium, preserving the original balance envisioned by Rossini.

Chamber music
Major work
Romantic

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Broadcast in 2027

PROGRAM

Gioachino Rossini (1792 - 1868) *Petite messe solennelle*