

## Jean-Christophe Spinosi – English biography

For some, he is the ‘enfant terrible’ of classical music. For others, he is a true musician-choreographer endowed with an extraordinary sense of rhythm and physical elation.

Originally a violinist, his passion for all kinds of musical expression led him to study conducting at a young age. From his very first concerts, he sought to decompartmentalise the different types of music: he became a “period instrumentalist to the modernists, and a modernist to the period instrumentalists”. Passionate about chamber music and ensemble music, he founded the Matheus Quartet in 1991.

For this Corsican musician adopted into Brittany, his regional presence is of the greatest importance. It was at the Quartz in Brest that the Matheus Quartet became the Matheus Ensemble.

In 2005, his passionate research into period music led him to make a series of recordings with the Ensemble Matheus of Vivaldi’s previously unrecorded works. They released a number of albums and four opera recordings which quickly became legendary, receiving great critical acclaim around the world.

Over the course of a variety of engagements, Jean-Christophe Spinosi has embarked on musical collaborations with like-minded artists who also wanted to breathe new life and passion into classical music; artists such as Cecilia Bartoli, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Natalie Dessay and Philippe Jaroussky, with whom he recorded the Double Gold-selling album ‘Heroes’ for EMI-Virgin Classics.

In founding the Ensemble Matheus, Jean-Christophe Spinosi created the only specialised ensemble of international standing to be born in the region of Brittany, and the ensemble is in residence at the Quartz in Brest, its ‘town of birth’. Since 2007 Spinosi has conducted his ensemble in a new production each year at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris.

Spinosi has worked with some of the most imaginative directors on the international scene, such as Pierrick Sorin (Rossini’s *La pietra del Paragone* in 2007), Oleg Kulik (Monteverdi’s *Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary* in 2009) and Claus Guth (Handel’s *Messiah* at the Theater an der Wien in 2009). For his production of *Orlando Paladino*, Jean-Christophe is once again reaching out to new audiences by teaming up with Director Kamel Ouali.

His productions at the Opéra de Paris and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées have been met with similar critical acclaim, the most recent being his well-researched performances of Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*.

Italian mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli invited Jean-Christophe Spinosi and the Ensemble Matheus to perform a series of concerts with her in June 2011. Their fruitful collaboration grew into a European tour of concerts in Munich, Prague, Baden-Baden and at the Château de Versailles.

Jean-Christophe Spinosi works regularly with many orchestras, among them the Wiener Staatsoper, the Deutsches Symphonie Orchester at the Berlin Philharmonie, the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestre du Capitole de Toulouse, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the New Japan

Philharmonic, the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, the Rundfunk Sinfonie Orchester Berlin, the Orquesta de Castilla y Leon, the Wiener Symphoniker or Spain's Orquesta Nacional, and collaborates with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover, the Mozarteum Orchester Salzburg, the Verbier Festival Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestre de Paris.

Jean-Christophe Spinosi will once again conduct for the 2018-2019 season his indefatigable Ensemble Matheus, for a concert Fauré-Ravel at the Royal Chapel of Versailles and in Lyon, and for Haendel's Rinaldo with Filippo Mineccia at the Royal Opera of Versailles, in Lyon, at the Theater an der Wien and in Moscow. He will also be at the head of the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra for the second consecutive year, in a program that celebrates dance, mixing Tchaikovsky with Brahms and Strauss. As a guest conductor, he continues his collaboration with the Wiener Staatsoper by directing two Rossini operas, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *La Cenerentola*, this season, and will also be leading the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin for a concert in January 2019.