

A Timeless Musical Rediscovery

Benjamin Alexandre, *Tenorist* - Herre Hiemstra, *piano*

01. H. Purcell - Oedipus, Z 583: II. Music for a while, Act III	03:22
02. H. Purcell - King Arthur, Z 628: XXII. The Cold Song, Act III. Scene 2	04:20
03. A. Vivaldi - Nisi Dominus, RV 608: IV. Cum Dederit	03:35
04. A. Vivaldi - Stabat Mater, RV 621	03:10
05. G. F. Handel - Rinaldo, HWV 7a: Lascia ch'io pianga	03:41
06. J. S. Bach - Matthäuspassion, BWV 24 Pt. 1: VI. Buss und Reu	03:54
07. F. Schubert - String Quartet No.14, Der Tod und das Mädchen	02:00
08. F. Schubert - Litaneu auf das Fest Aller Seelen	05:41
09. C. Franck - Mass, Op.12: V. Panis Angelicus	03:24
10. R. MacGimsey - Sweet Little Jesus Boy	03:07
11. Anonymous - Amazing Grace	03:07
12. Anonymous - Let Us Break Bread Together	02:52
13. G. Gershwin - Summertime	02:25

Total Time: 44:43

Recorded at the studio S.S.S. Cayenne Nov. 95

Photo IMAGE + / Yvan Marcou

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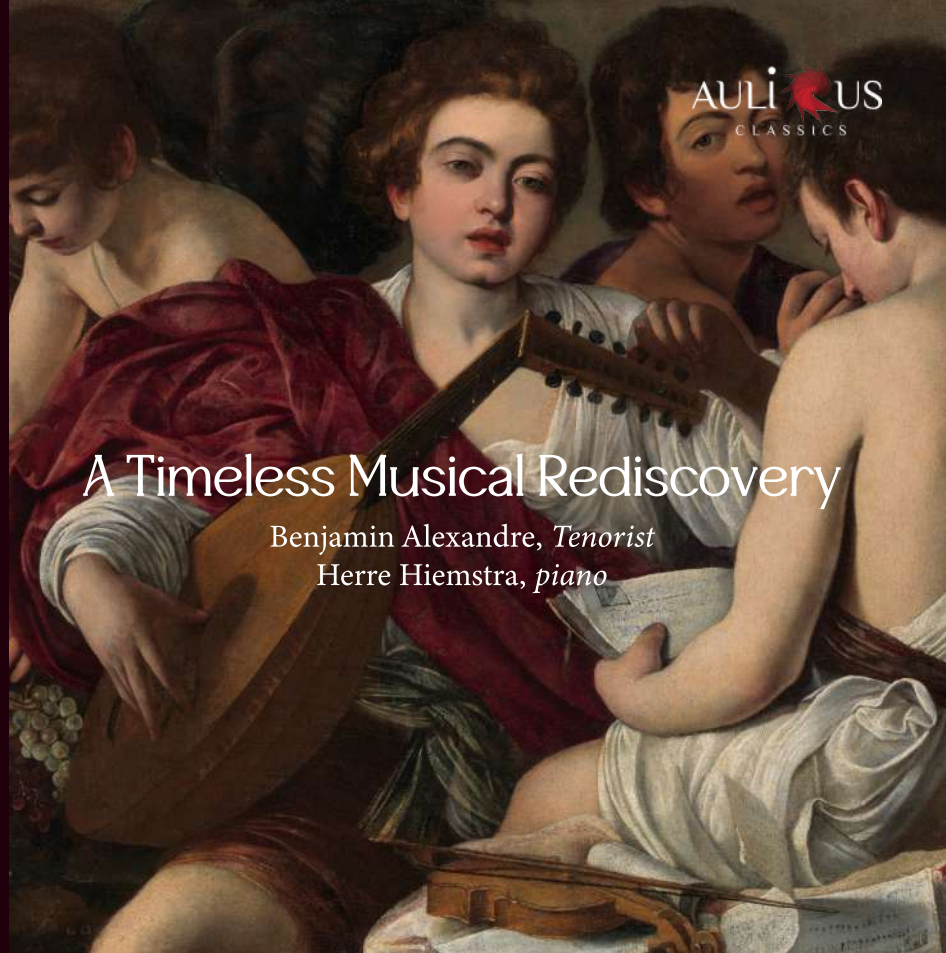
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A Timeless Musical Rediscovery: Benjamin Alexandre, Soprano Thirty years ago, in the heart of French Guiana, soprano Benjamin Alexandre made a unique recording that captured the very essence of classical and spiritual music. This project is now resurfacing with a meticulously restored reissue, offering the public the opportunity to rediscover an exceptional voice and unforgettable interpretations. Benjamin Alexandre, known for his crystalline soprano register and captivating expressiveness, has masterfully explored an eclectic and demanding repertoire. This album brings together works by the greatest composers, spanning three centuries of music, from the Baroque to the modern era. These recordings demonstrate a rare artistic depth and vocal mastery that transcend eras.

A journey through eras and styles - The album opens with two masterpieces by **Henry Purcell**, *The Cold Song and Music for a While*, where Benjamin Alexandre's voice evokes both human fragility and the timelessness of the English Baroque. This is followed by the contemplation of **Vivaldi's** *Cum dederit and Stabat Mater RV 621*, where spirituality rises with moving intensity. The nuances of the Baroque continue with **Handel's** *Lascia ch'io pianga*, a lament of heartbreaking purity, and **Bach's** *Buss und Reu*, imbued with piety and resilience. The transition to Romanticism is marked by the works of **Schubert**, with *Der Tod und das Mädchen* and *Litanei*, which reveal a rich and introspective emotional palette. Great sacred arias such as **Cesar Franck's** *Panis Angelicus* and anonymous spiritual pieces (*Amazing Grace, Let Us Break Bread Together*) resonate with universal depth, while **Gershwin's** modern touch with *Summertime* adds an elegant lightness, highlighting the soprano's vocal versatility. This reissue is a celebration of the timeless power of music. These recordings, made in natural acoustic conditions in French Guiana, restore a sonic purity and authenticity that resonate even more deeply today, in an era where musical productions are often dominated by technology. This reissue aims to breathe new life into an artistic treasure that has been overlooked for too long. Benjamin Alexandre's voice, at the crossroads of classical and spiritual influences, transcends geographical and temporal boundaries, touching the heart of the modern listener. The album is an invitation to slow down, listen, and reconnect with universal human emotions.

A legacy to rediscover - By bringing these recordings back to life, we honor not only Benjamin Alexandre's unique talent but also the importance of preserving and transmitting the cultural riches of yesterday. This record is much more than a collection of classic tunes: it is a bridge between generations, a vibrant testimony to the human soul and its timeless musical expression.



Benjamin Alexandre, Tenorist - The first piece Benjamin ALEXANDRE remembers singing in public is GOUNOD's AVE MARIA, when he was just eight years old. It was in Provence, in Manosque, home of the great Giono. As a soloist at churches and events, he quickly won hearts. He began singing at the age of nine, as a member of the 'petits chanteurs à la croix de bois'. It was the start of what would become more than a career for him, a vocation. I'm grateful that my path wasn't blocked from the start,' he says in tribute to his first teacher André Meurant, who saw in him a range of exceptional breadth. During his 4-year stay in Rome, he became a pupil of Marisa Beryson at the Rome Conservatory. He gave several performances at the Vatican and Villa Medici under the direction of Françoise Legrand. There he continued to perfect his skills under the guidance of Natasia Francesca. He has toured extensively in France and abroad (Antilles, Italy, Greece, Japan, South America, etc.), performing a wide repertoire of early, classical and romantic works. Benjamin ALEXANDRE has composed this varied programme with particular care. He remains a performer who speaks to the heart, and the secret of his immense success with everyone is his ability to establish direct emotional contact with the audience during recitals, which remain his favourite form of concert.

Herre Hiemstra, pianist - After studying with Maria Stroo, Herre Hiemstra was awarded first prize for piano and first prize for harmony and counterpoint at the Netherlands Conservatoire. He then studied with M. Feuchtwanger and M. Kammerling. He has taken part in numerous solo concerts in France, the Netherlands and Germany, and has discovered a passion for accompaniment.