

Maxime Pascal, conductor

Maxime Pascal (b.1985) grew up in Carcassonne where he began learning the piano and violin at the age of nine. After his initial musical studies in Tarbes and Bayonne, Maxime was accepted in 2005 at the National Paris Conservatoire. He studied conducting with Francois-Xavier Roth and Nicolas Brochot, and received further tuition from Pierre Boulez and George Benjamin. In 2011 Maxime was selected to attend the academy of the Ensemble Modern and directed numerous concerts at the 'Schwaz Festival' in Austria.

In 2008, Maxime Pascal founded 'Le Balcon', an ensemble that is dedicated to performing a wide variety of repertoire on amplified instruments. He frequently premieres works by composers of his generation and collaborates with composers such as Pedro Garcia-Velasquez, Juan-Pablo Carreño, Marco Suarez, Arthur Lavandier, Benjamin Attahir, Fernando Fiszbein, and Michael Lévinas. In 2012 he premiered Arthur Lavandier's opera 'De la Terre des hommes', Fernando Fiszbein's opera 'Avenida de los Incas 3518', and the opera 'L'Enfer Musical d'Alejandra Pizarnik' by Marco Suarez Cifuentes.

Maxime soon realised his desire to perform Karlheinz Stockhausen's scenic music with the soloists of his ensemble, and performed in March 2012 'Michael journey around the earth' in collaboration with the Stockhausen foundation in Kürte, the flutist Kathinka Pasveer, and clarinettist Suzanne Stephens. He also produced, under the guidance of Pierre Boulez, the first amplified version of the composer's 'Marteau sans Maître' and the world premier French version of the radio play 'Words and Music' by Morton Feldman/Samuel Beckett (staged by Damien Bigourdan).

Maxime Pascal has been invited to conduct in the 'Mostra Sonora Festival' in Valencia, 'Tempo Liszt Festival' in Madrid, the 'Cordes-sur-Ciel Festival', Florida International University in Miami, the 'Ars Musica Festival' in Strasbourg, Stuttgart Musikhochschule, 'Folle Journées' in Nantes, 'Ars Musica Festival' in Brussels, the 'Deauville Pâques Festival', Villa Medici in Rome, 'Paris Quartier Summer Festival', as well as the 'Salines Royales d'Arc et Senan Festival'.

Since September 2007 he has also been the musical director of the 'Impromptu Orchestra', a symphony orchestra of eighty musicians, with whom he gives about ten concerts a year.

Maxime Pascal will be performing this year in the 'Nostri Temporis Festival' in Kiev (Ukraine), the 'Bouffes du Nord Theatre', 'Coeur de Ville' in Vincennes, the 'Meije Messiaen Festival', 'Stockhausen Festival' in Kürten (Germany), 'Berlioz Festival' in the Côte Saint-André, and 'Melbourne BIFEM Festival' (Australia).

He will also be conducting 'Ariadne auf Naxos' by Strauss, Britten's 'The Rape of Lucretia', and 'Le Balcon' by Peter Eötvös at the 'Athénée Louis-Jouvet Theatre' in Paris, and recording the 'Quatre chants pour franchir le Seuil' by Gérard Grisey with French soprano, Julie Fuchs.

Since 2012 Maxime Pascal is sponsored by the 'Orange' foundation. He is also artist in residence at the 'Singer-Polignac' foundation since September 2010. In November 2011 the French Academy of Fine Arts awarded Maxime the music prize from the 'Simone and Cino del Duca' foundation at the 'Institut de France' to acknowledge the promising start to his career.

He won the Young Conductors Award at the Salzburg Festival 2014 with a jury led by conductor Ingo Metzmacher and had his debut at the Salzburg Festival 2014 in a concert with the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester and Marianne Crebassa.

Recently he conducted in Paris a new production of Le Balcon by Peter Eötvös and concerts with SWR Orchester in Mannheim and Freiburg.