

Concert offer

of an international tour promoting the album SEMELE

2026

2027

2028



PENTATONE



LE SOMMEIL



The concert programme and the album are based on three operas titled Semele: John Eccles (1707), Marin Marais (1709), and Georg Friedrich Händel (1742).

Three distinct musical languages, three aesthetics, and three perspectives on the same story.

The programme brings together selected arias and instrumental excerpts into a dramaturgically shaped, contemporary narrative arc.

The album SEMELE will be released on 20 November 2026 by Pentatone. The concerts form an integral part of the album's release and promotional strategy.

Semele, the lover of Jupiter, lives among the gods. She feeds on divine nectar, falls asleep in the arms of the almighty. And yet she feels a sense of emptiness

If a god must take on human form in order to be close, can he truly be known? The desire for truth outweighs fear.

When Semele compels Jupiter to reveal himself in his full divinity, they can no longer remain together. A human being cannot survive the sight of a god. She burns in his radiance, returning to the earth from which she was born. Yet this is not annihilation, but transformation.

From Eve to Pandora, female figures have, for centuries, reached for knowledge, rejecting the illusion of safety. Today, this gesture can be read not as a surrender to temptation, but as an act of courage and resistance against illusion.

One cannot live in light without accepting shadow. Paradise is not a place, but a choice. Semele does not perish. She chooses her own truth.



Concert format

duration:
approx. 70 minutes

without intermission
(with optional flexibility)

ensemble:
9 musicians

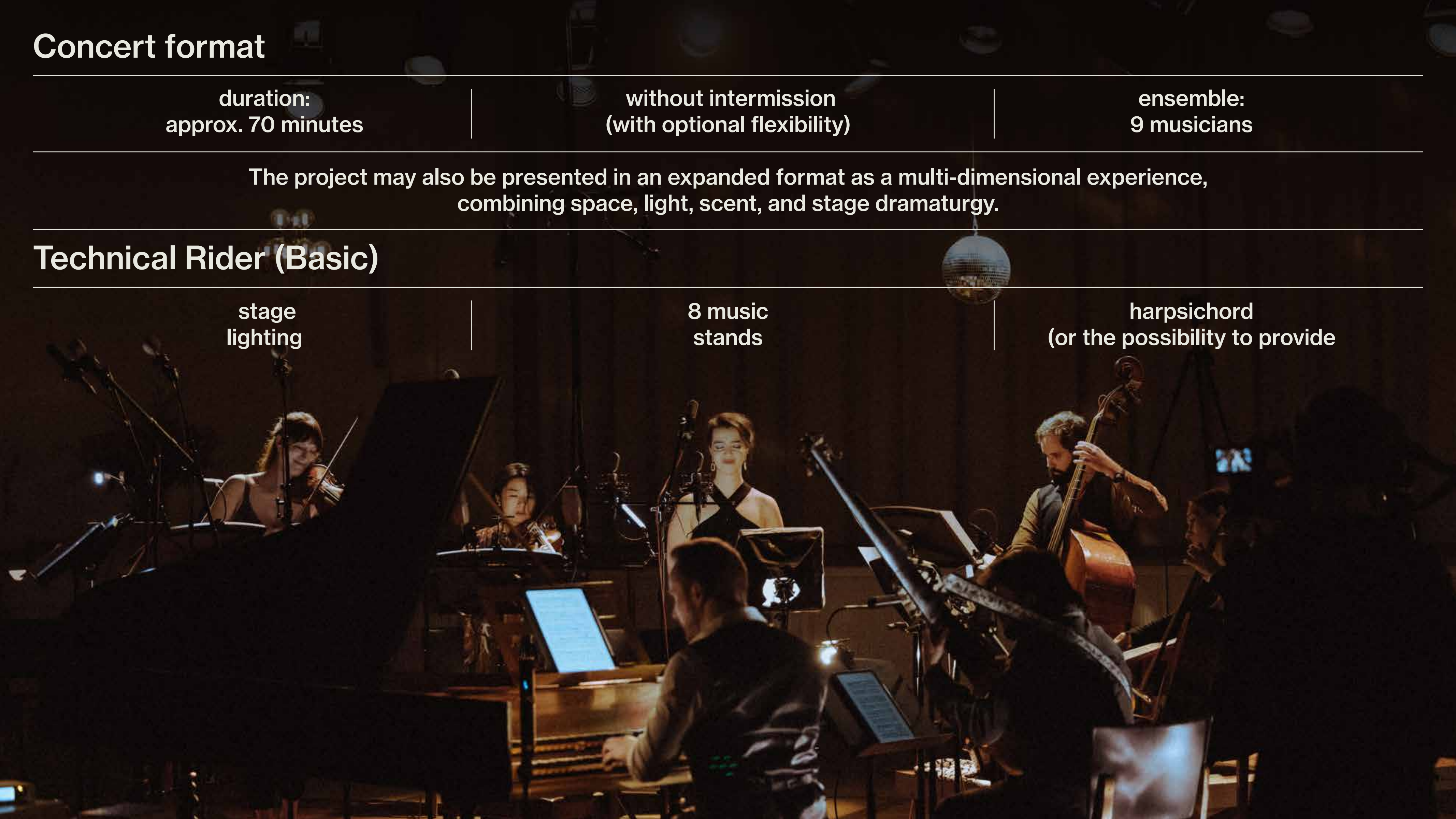
The project may also be presented in an expanded format as a multi-dimensional experience, combining space, light, scent, and stage dramaturgy.

Technical Rider (Basic)

stage
lighting

8 music
stands

harpsichord
(or the possibility to provide



Merch/Public Engagement

LE SOMMEIL

**SEMELE album available
on CD, vinyl, and cassette**

**original Le Sommeil perfume,
created in collaboration with the brand
SorryBardzo (50 ml / 10 ml)**

**original art book –
project booklet**

**satin eye masks (also used as part of the
concert experience)**

**original Le Sommeil
temporary tattoos**

**accompanying materials
available to the audience: stickers and
postcards**

*Our
merch* →



Formats & artefacts

The project extends beyond the concert into a physical world of objects.

SEMELE will be released as a multi-format edition: CD, vinyl, and cassette, accompanied by a series of tactile artefacts developed as part of the project's expanded universe.





Le Sommeil is an award-winning international early music ensemble and artistic project, founded by mezzo-soprano, artistic director, and curator **Margarita Slepakova** together with a group of outstanding soloists from the younger generation of the European early music scene, associated with the **Schola Cantorum Basiliensis**, the **Conservatorium van Amsterdam**, and the **Royal Conservatoire The Hague** – among Europe's leading institutions specialising in historically informed performance.

At the core of Le Sommeil's work lies an exploration of the relationship between **myth, dream, and archetype**, and the search for their **contemporary resonance**.

In 2025, the ensemble became a laureate of the anniversary competition at the **60th International Festival Wratislavia Cantans** at the **National Forum of Music**, where it premiered the programme **SEMELE** under the patronage of the **Institut Français**.

In the same year, **Le Sommeil** signed a contract with the international label **Pentatone** for its debut album **Semele**. Previously, the single *Sur une mer* was released by **Universal** and featured on the soundtrack of the film *Wolf*. The ensemble's members have recorded as soloists and collaborate with leading European early music ensembles such as **Il Giardino Armonico**, **Il Pomo d'Oro**, **Monteverdi Choir & Orchestras**, **Les Talens Lyriques**, **Le Consort**, **The English Concert**, **Irish Baroque Orchestra**, and **Holland Baroque**, performing under conductors including **Sir John Eliot Gardiner**, **Giovanni Antonini**, **Christophe Rousset**, and **René Jacobs**.

They are also laureates of prestigious competitions, including the **MA Festival Competition in Bruges** and the **Van Wassenauer Competition at the Oude Muziek Utrecht Festival**, and recipients of major recording awards such as **Diapason d'Or** and **Choc Classica**.

The ensemble's founder, **Margarita Slepakova**, was selected for the **REMA Remarkable** programme, and from 2026 **Le Sommeil** is a member of **REMA (Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne)**.

Le Sommeil seeks a contemporary resonance for early music, drawing on **Jungian theories of archetypes** and dreams. Its performances are interdisciplinary, combining music with light, text, scenography, and scent to create a multi-dimensional artistic experience.



Founder & Curator



Margarita Slepakova

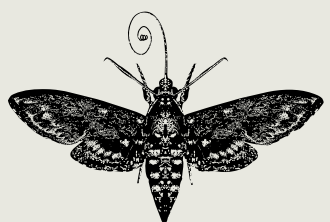
Margarita Slepakova is an award-winning mezzo-soprano, acclaimed for the warmth of her voice, coloratura virtuosity, and charismatic stage presence. She performs internationally as an opera, concert, and recital soloist, and is also the founder and curator of the ensemble **Le Sommeil**.

Her career began under the guidance of **Sir John Eliot Gardiner**, leading to performances in venues such as **Carnegie Hall** and the **Royal Albert Hall**. She has received critical acclaim for roles including **Dido (Dido and Aeneas)**, **Cecilio (Lucio Silla)**, **Poppea (L'Incoronazione di Poppea)**, **Erissena (Poro)**, **Lucinda (Moro per Amore)**, and **Ariel (The Tempest)**, as well as for her interpretations of oratorio and recital repertoire. She has collaborated with conductors including **Sir John Eliot Gardiner**, **Philippe Pierlot**, **Alessandro Moccia**, **Dirk Vermeulen**, **Bart Naessens**, **Andrea de Carlo**, **René Jacobs**, **Alessandro Tampieri**, **Giovanni Antonini**, and **Paul McCreesh**.

She has performed with leading ensembles including **English Baroque Soloists (UK)**, **B'Rock (Belgium)**, **Ricercar Consort (Belgium)**, **Capella Cracoviensis (Poland)**, **Arte dei Suonatori (Poland)**, **Mare Nostrum (Italy)**, **La Cetra (Switzerland)**, **Freiburger Barockorchester (Germany)**, **El Gran Teatro del Mundo (Spain)**, **Barcelona Ars Nova (Spain)**, **Springhead Constellation**, and the **Lublin Philharmonic Orchestra (Poland)**. She is the recipient of numerous international vocal and chamber music awards, including the **Wratislavia Cantans** competition during the festival's 60th anniversary edition, as well as the **REMA Remarkable 2025 (Réseau Européen de Musique Ancienne)** programme, recognising outstanding artistic personalities in the early music field.

In 2025, she signed a contract with **Pentatone** for her debut album *Semele*, scheduled for worldwide release in autumn 2026. She has previously recorded for **Universal Music**, **Arcana / Outhere Music**, **Soli Deo Gloria**, and **Denovali Records**. She completed her vocal studies and specialisation in historical performance at the **Schola Cantorum Basiliensis** in Switzerland and at the **Fryderyk Chopin University of Music**. She also holds a degree in cultural studies from the **Institute of Polish Culture** at the **University of Warsaw**.

She also works as a **curator, artistic director, and author of texts and sound installations**. She was previously also active as a dancer.



Team Le Sommeil

Margarita
Slepakova

mezzosopran
& curator

Anna Jane
Lester

violin

Soko
Yoshida

violin
and viola

Rachel
Heymans

oboe
and recorders

Pablo Gigosos Rico /
David Westcomb

traverso

Thomas Chigioni /
Rebecca Krieg

cello

Giulio
Tanasini

viola da gamba /
double bass

Pablo
FitzGerald

archlute

Gabriel
Smallwood

harpsichord



Programme

LE SOMMEIL

Georg Friedrich Händel
Semele, HWV 58: Ouverture (tutti)

John Eccles
Semele, Act III, Scene 1: recitative “Somnus, Awake”, aria “Leave Me, Loathsome Light”

Georg Friedrich Händel
Semele, HWV 58, Act III: “No, No, I’ll Take No Less”

John Eccles
Semele, Act II, Scene 4: Symphony

Marin Marais
Sémélé, Act III, Scene 4: air “Amour, régnez en paix, régnez charmant vainqueur”

Georg Friedrich Händel
Semele, HWV 58, Act II, Scene 3: “With Fond Desiring”

Marin Marais
Sémélé: Ouverture

John Eccles
Semele, Act II, Scene 2: “O Sleep, Why Dost Thou Leave Me?”

John Eccles
Semele, Act II, Scene 3: “Sleep Forsaking”

Henry Purcell
“Fourth Act Tune” (The Fairy Queen)

Marin Marais
Sémélé, Act IV, Scene 3: Passepied

Marin Marais
Sémélé, Act V, Scene 1: air “Descendez, cher amour, quittez les cieux pour moi!”

Georg Friedrich Händel
Semele, HWV 58, Act III: “O Sleep”

Marin Marais
Sémélé, Act V: Earthquake scene

Georg Friedrich Händel
Semele, HWV 58, Act III, Scene 7: “Ah me! Too Late!”

Encore:
Thomas-Louis Bourgeois (1676–1751) cantata Ariane: “Déserts où m’abandonne un ingrat”

Total duration:
approx. 70 minutes
(without intermission)



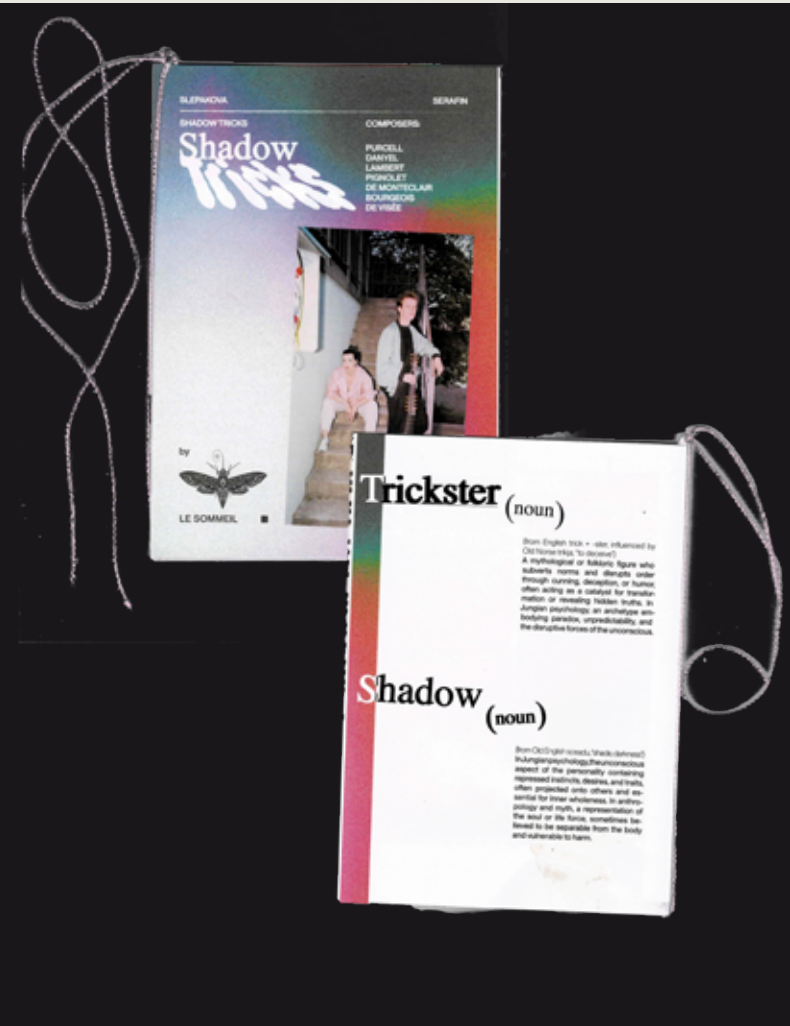
Synestezja

Le Sommeil extends beyond sound, into a world of sensory correspondences

Our signature scent accompanies the concert as an integral part of the narrative.

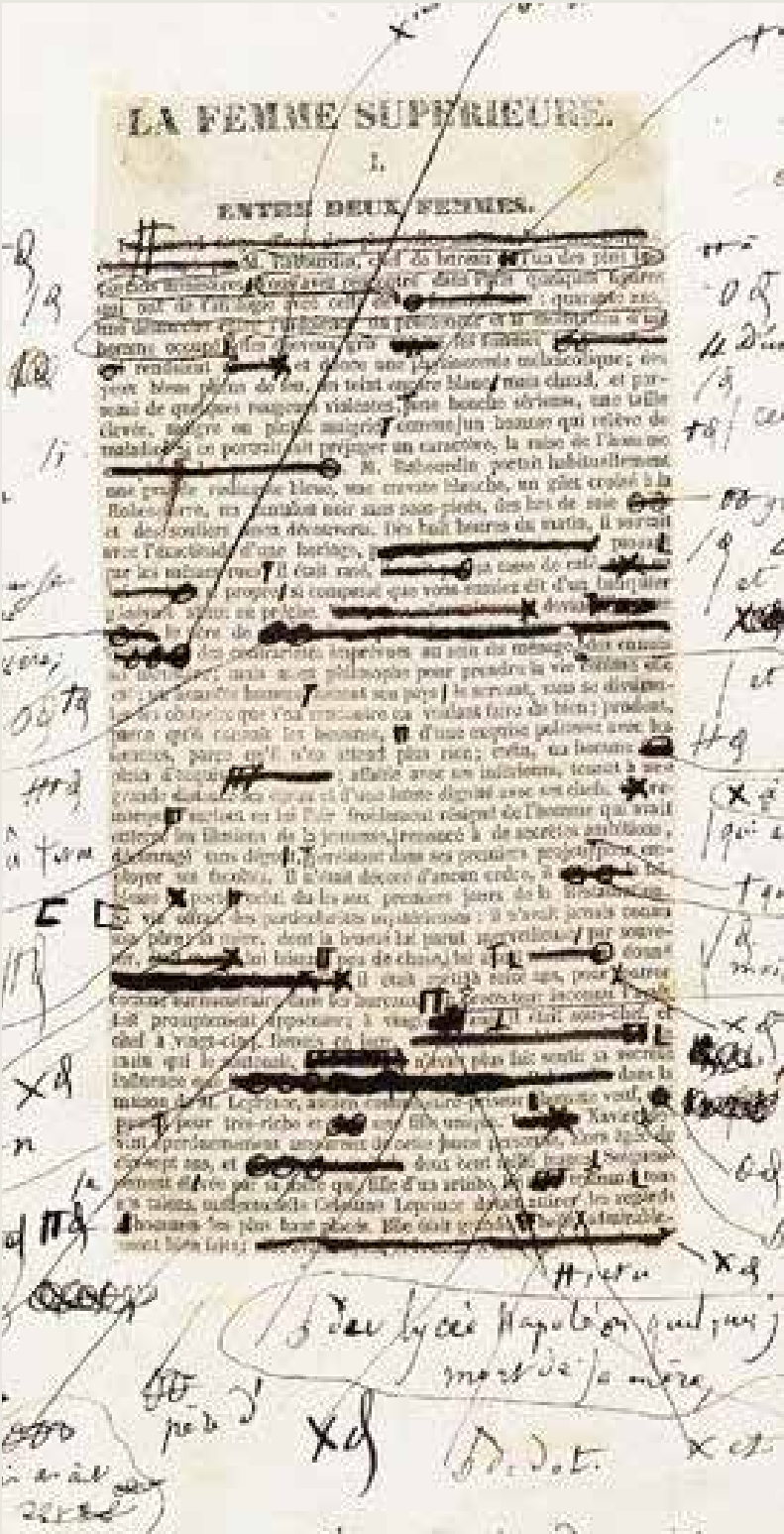


We invite the audience to close their eyes.



Our art books (available for purchase or loan) are intuitive guides to the concert's narrative, open to the audience's notes and reflections; once returned, they become shared palimpsests – layered impressions, a parallel artistic process that connects our performances while remaining environmentally conscious :)

Light guides us into and beyond sleep.



Collaboration with artist and graphic designer Ania Jeglorz.

art booklet

text

fragrance

stage light

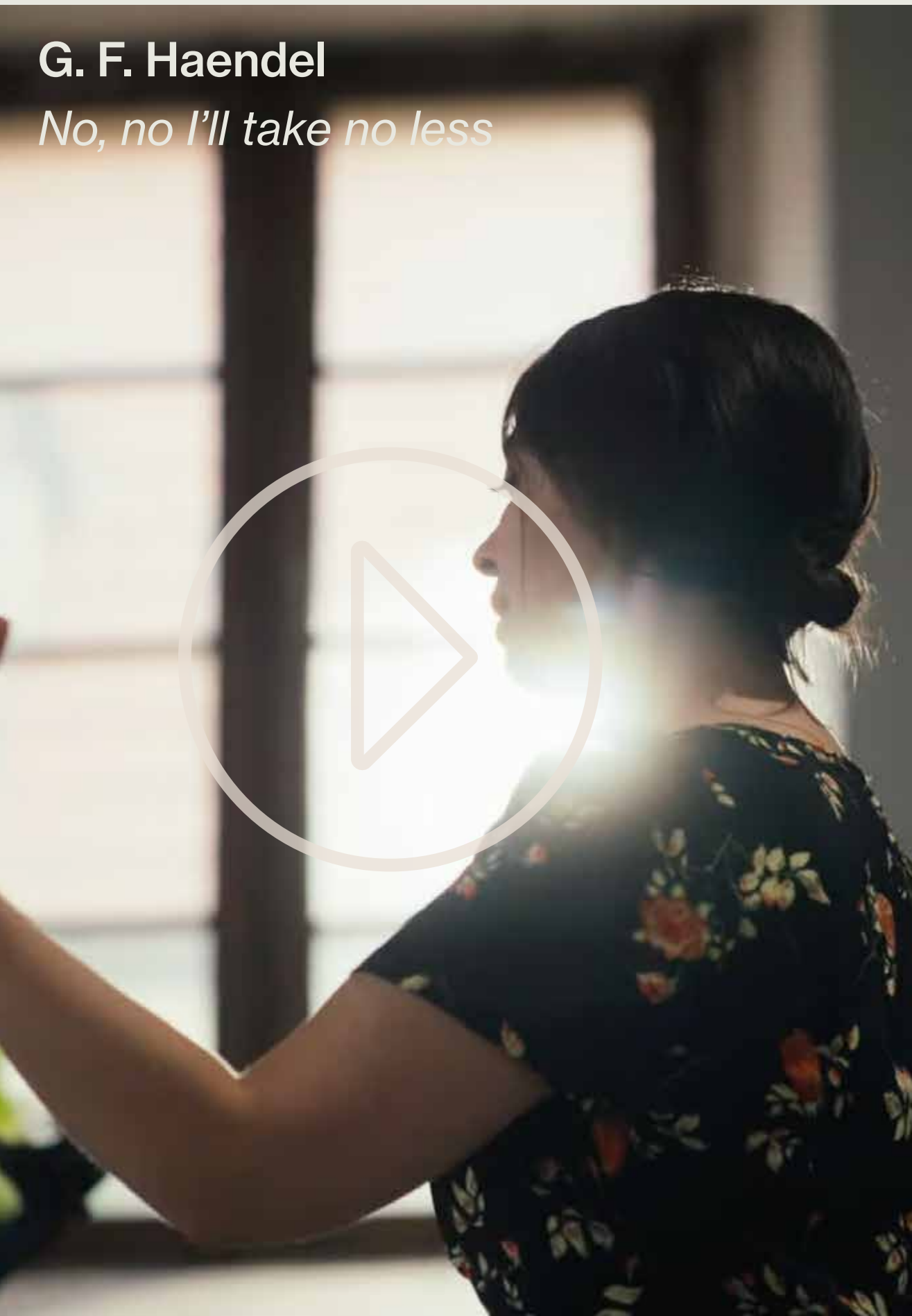
myth

dream

reflection

memory

Recordings:



Contact & Booking

@lesommeilbaroque

For booking, questions, or further information,
please feel free to contact our team.
We would be glad to tailor the project
to your space and audience.

Booking

Katarzyna Gawęska
lesommeilbaroque@gmail.com

Curator

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