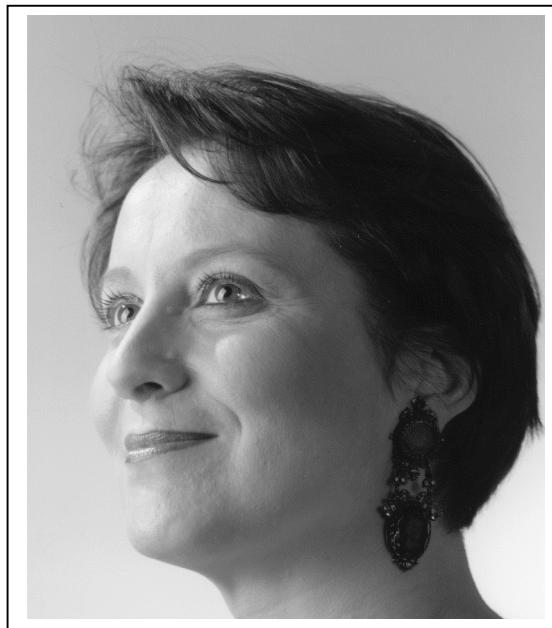


Agnès Mellon, soprano



In 1981, Agnès Mellon successively joined the Chapelle Royale under of P. Herreweghe and the Arts Florissants under W. Christie. As a soloist, she has had the opportunity to sing under the direction of many conductors: Gardiner, Malgoire, Koopman, Leonhardt, Kuijken and Jacobs, to name a few. She has sung in such prestigious venues as the Opéra de Paris, the Théâtre des Champs Élysées, Salle Pleyel, Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw and the Amsterdam Opera, as well as in several halls in Tokyo. Some of Ms. Mellon's opera roles: Sangeride in Lully's *Atys* (in Paris and Montpellier), Téléaire in *Castor et Pollux* by J.P. Rameau (in Aix en Provence), and Creüse in *Médée* by M.A. Charpentier.

In 1997, she founded her own ensemble, **BARCAROLE**, in order to concentrate on the Baroque chamber music repertoire, which includes both sacred and profane works of infinite richness. In 2005, Barcarole released *Les déesses outragées* with ALPHA Productions (featuring cantatas by Clérambault, de Blamont and Courbois). TV Channel MEZZO will broadcast for 3 years, starting in 2007 Barcarole's concert *Mater beata, Mater dolorosa* performed at the Souvigny Festival. Zig-Zag Territoires will release album *Parole e querelle d'amore*, love duets with counter tenor Dominique Visse in 2010.

In addition to performing works from the Baroque repertoire, Agnès Mellon also gives recitals with pianist Christian Ivaldi. She creates Recital-spectacles (staged by Mireille Larroche) with the pianist François Kerdoncuff: *Esquisses de la vie d'une femme* and, for family audiences, *Chante-moi une histoire*.

In 2005, she founded an association called **Accanto** (a play on words meaning "[singing] alongside") to combine all her artistic and teaching projects.

Agnès Mellon's discography — which includes over sixty recordings — covers a large repertoire, from the great lyric tragedies of the Baroque era to French *mélodie*.

In 2003, her recording entitled *Maria, Madre di Dio* with the Ensemble Arion (label early-music.com), was awarded Best album of the year - Early music (OPUS MAGAZINE, Toronto, March/April 2004).

Holder of a CA teaching certificate, Agnès Mellon also devotes a great deal of time to another of her passions: teaching. She has participated in many master classes, including those organized by the Académie de musique française de Kyoto and the CNSM de Paris, McGill University in Montreal, and many others in France.

www.agnesmellon.com



The many careers of soprano Agnès Mellon

In the past few years, critics have been talking so much about "the return of Agnès Mellon" and "emotional reunions" that one would be forgiven for thinking that she had embarked on a second career! As far as she is concerned, however, she has never left. She has always remained true to the music she loves.

But let's talk about careers, if you insist!

Agnès Mellon's "first" career was centred primarily around William Christie's Arts Florissants and Philippe Herreweghe's Chapelle Royale. She made many recordings during that lengthy period, performing not only in small chapels, but also in great concert halls in London, New York, San Francisco, Tokyo, Amsterdam and, of course, Paris. She worked under the direction of such conductors as Gardiner, Malgoire, Koopman, Leonhardt, Kuijken, Jacobs... In short, for the former young violinist, it was quite a change to find herself propelled onto the international scene as a professional baroque singer!

Then, when called on give master classes (at the Academy of French music in Kyoto, for example), she discovered a passion for teaching. So, although she had already proved her mettle at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique (CNSM) de Paris, she went back to school to get her CA teaching certification. Now it was official: she was a teacher!

At the same time, she founded her own baroque music ensemble so that she could perform the works she wanted and continue focusing on chamber music, a genre she particularly enjoys. *Barcarole* (the name of her group) launched its first recording, *Les déesses outragées*, with Alpha Productions. The enthusiasm with which the press has received the CD has been (virtually) unanimous! The second album *Parole e querelle d'amore*, which are love duets with counter tenor (and husband !) Dominique Visse will be released in 2010 by Zig-Zag Territoires. TV Channel MEZZO is broadcasting regularly since December 2007 concert program at Souvigny Festival *Mater beata, Mater dolorosa*. It is also possible to watch video excerpts of Barcarole Ensemble on YouTube and on Agnès' web site.

Apart from baroque music, Agnès loves giving recitals. She has had the good fortune to work with her favourite accompanist, Christian Ivaldi.

With François Kerdoncuff (another incredibly talented pianist) she has created an unusual performance vehicle, halfway between a recital and a play: *Esquisses de la vie d'une femme*, staged by Mireille Larroche.

Would you like to know more?

Well, for the past several years, Agnès Mellon has been developing another fascinating aspect of her career: working with young audiences. She created, in collaboration with stage director Mireille Larroche and pianist François Kerdoncuff, a show based on the lyrical repertoire *Chante-moi une histoire* totally dedicated to Family and/or children.

During the year 2005, she also created a new concert concept where she communicates story telling and music to the children: *Le voyage de Pablo Fado* relating the musical journey of a musician across Europe during the Baroque period, and *La Légende d'Orphée*, a commissioned work from Opéra de Lille to initiate children to opera.

So, when would you say the "second" career started? If you ask Agnès, she'll just laugh and tell you that nothing is constant but change !

Agnès Mellon, soprano

She likes, she doesn't like

She likes to sing, she doesn't like trivial texts.

She likes taking breaks with musicians.

She doesn't like divas. She hates tension.

She likes to tackle a vast repertoire. She doesn't like labels.

She likes teaching.

She adores certain sports.

She doesn't like days that are too short (or nights either, for that matter).

She likes thinking up new programs and finding a common thread.

She doesn't like tapioca, but she adores chocolate.

She likes sewing, gardening, cooking...she likes silence!

She likes getting right into her characters.

She likes...she doesn't like...whatever way, she sings.