



Presse release

Composer Christian Mason and the Orchestre national Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Release of *Voix Terrestre* live recording on April 11, 2025

British composer Christian Mason, born in 1984, has recently been crowned winner of the 2025 Grawemeyer Award from the University of Louisville (Kentucky, USA): one of the most prestigious prizes on the contemporary music scene.

Christian Mason has been composer in residence at the Orchestre national Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (ONARA) since 2020. He has built a close collaboration with the orchestra in Clermont-Ferrand, composing both orchestral music (*Tuvan Songbook*, *Voix terrestre*, *Voix céleste*) and chamber pieces (*Sai Ma / Racing Horses*, *Sardinian Songbook*, *Shadowy Fish*). Now, his residency continues with a newly commissioned concerto for double bass, which is set to première during the ensemble's 2025/2026 season.

In celebration of the young composer's talent and the 2025 Grawemeyer Award ceremony on 10 April, ONA Live is releasing a live concert recording of the world première of *Voix Terrestre* for string orchestra, performed by the orchestra back in 2023 on 23 February at the Opéra-Théâtre de Clermont-Ferrand, under the baton of Adrien Perruchon.

Christian Mason reflects on the origins of *Voix Terrestre*: "*This piece was born from one of my recent song cycles, Hölderlin's Madness, which sets poetry by German Romantic poet Friedrich Hölderlin and 20th-century English poet David Gascoyne to music. Through their words, Hölderlin and Gascoyne evoke a consciousness that goes beyond the human, giving nature a voice of its own.*

My inspiration came from this poetic imagery of song emerging from the Earth in different ways – at times rich and resonant, at others light and dancing. The music weaves together irregular ostinati with a lyrical drive and an innate urge to sing.

The work is dedicated to Ricardo Delgado and Laurent Bécamel, the Orchestre national

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes' double bassists, who play a special role in the piece."

This digital release also offers a glimpse into an upcoming monographic album that will showcase several projects developed during Christian Mason's residency in Clermont-Ferrand.



[> Listen to the *Voix Terrestre* recording](#)

The Orchestre national Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is a passionate advocate for contemporary music, regularly programming and recording works by composers of our time, such as Jean-Baptiste Robin, Martin Matalon, Betsy Jolas, Thierry Escaich, and Pēteris Vasks. The ensemble has also recorded several major modern masterpieces, including Xenakis' *Aroua* and Ligeti's *Ramifications*.

The ONA Live catalogue currently comprises a total of 25 works, available on all digital platforms worldwide. To date, these recordings have been streamed and downloaded more than 630,000 times.

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