

Little Blue Something

The program Little Blue Something focuses on the music of musician and composer Bryce Dessner. The Ragazze Quartet is convinced of Dessner's importance as one of the most interesting emerging composers of the moment. For this project, the quartet surrounds itself with a local youth choir (to be decided with the venue) and an ensemble of the most adventurous musicians in France.

Rooted in pop/rock music - Dessner is a guitarist in the world-famous band The National - he is quickly making a name for himself as a contemporary 'classical' composer. His music is characterised by tight rhythms, catchy melodies and a hint of minimal music. He composed for famous ensembles and orchestras such as Kronos Quartet, BBC Symphony Orchestra and Ensemble Intercontemporain. He has worked with composers such as Steve Reich, Philip Glass, David Lang and many others. In addition, Dessner is a sought-after film composer and has written soundtracks for films and series such as The Revenant and The Two Popes.

Aheym, or homeward, is inspired by Dessner's grandmother's stories about her journey to America. It refers to his roots as Jewish immigrants from Poland and Russia. Little Blue Something is based on Czech folk music, and Tenebre is about celebrating light. Dessner composed Tour Eiffel especially for the Brooklyn Youth Choir.

The program is supplemented with two beautiful works for youth choir by composers Caroline Shaw and Richard Reep Parry, and a new commissioned work for string quartet and piano by the Greek/Dutch composer Calliope Tsoupaki. She draws inspiration for this quintet from an important element of her homeland: the sea.



Bryce Dessner and Calliope Tsoupaki

Repertoire:

Bryce Dessner: Aheym (string quartet)

Bryce Dessner: Little Blue Something (string quartet)

Bryce Dessner: Tenebrae (string quartet)

Bryce Dessner: Tour Eiffel (youth choir, string quartet, percussion, piano, electric guitar)

Calliope Tsoupaki: New work voor piano quintet (commission)

Caroline Shaw: Anni's Constant (youth choir, string quartet, percussie, piano, electric guitar)

Richard Reed Parry: Their Passing in Time (youth choir, string quartet, percussion)

Performers:

Ragazze Quartet, Vanessa Wagner (piano), Christelle Sery (electric guitar), Eriko Minami (percussion) and a local youth choir (to be decided with the venue).

Availability: September 2025 - April 2026

If you would like to invite the Ragazze Quartet or if you have any questions, you can contact Coline Vandenberghe (coline.la.musica.artists@gmail.com).

Biographies



The **Ragazze Quartet** plays both classical and modern string quartet repertoire: inspired and on the highest level. With attractive but unconventional programmes the quartet has come to be one of the most fresh and leading voices in the world of classical music. In innovative programmes it embarks on collaborations with the most original voices in theatre, dance and literature. With performances that speak to all senses they succeed in securing an audience for the rich classical music tradition. In this way they warm the hearts of both the die hard listener and the novice for the string quartet repertoire of the past and of our present day.

Described by the daily newspaper Le Monde as “the most delightfully singular pianist of her generation”, **Vanessa Wagner** pursues a career in her image, original and committed, mixing classical recitals, contemporary creation, the practice of ancient instruments, chamber music, as well as transversal encounters with other artistic practices.



Christelle Séry evolves as a guitarist in the world of creative music. Classically trained (CNR of Nice and CNSM of Paris), her encounters with free electrons of the French free electrons of the French jazz/ improvised music scene have encouraged her to the boundaries between her written, oral, acoustic and electric practices. For 20 years, she has been passionately exploring the expressive possibilities of her instruments in solo as well as in ensembles.

Eriko Minami studied piano at the Yamaha Music School and at the Lycée Musical de Yuhigaoka in Japan, before completing her training in France.

A member of the Les Siècles orchestra and the Ensemble Musica Nigella as a percussionist and sometimes pianist, she regularly collaborates with other groups such as the Orchestre de l'Opéra National de Lyon, the Opera de Rouen, Ensemble O and I Giardini. She has also been a guest at La Philharmonie de Paris since 2015 and at the Atelier Lyrique de Tourcoing since 2021. Eriko has been a pianist for the Trio Journal Romantique since 2016.

