

## **The Choir of Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris, France**

From the earliest times, music has been an integral part of the life of Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. While the pointed arches of the new gothic style rose up to the heavens to form the chancel, the new Notre-Dame Choir School, with its magnificent polyphony, was born. The voices of the choristers responded in virtuosity to that of the builders. Since that time, the musical tradition at Notre Dame has been upheld to the highest degree and each generation in turn, has added a stone to the prestigious edifice, which is that of the Cathedral's musical history.

Perfectly aware of the centuries-old inheritance, the influence of its activities both at home and abroad, and the high quality of musical education provided by the Maîtrise Notre-Dame de Paris, the State, the City of Paris and the Parisian Diocesan Association decided together in 1991 to found an association of sacred music at Notre Dame de Paris.

Responsible for the coordination at both administrative and artistic levels of all musical activities in the Cathedral, Musique Sacrée at Notre-Dame de Paris has, first and foremost, the task of teaching music, training singers, organizing the musical accompaniment of the liturgy, proposing concerts and recitals, and carrying out research into the rich musical inheritance of Notre-Dame. It also plays an important role in the creation of new musical works and in their circulation.

Throughout the annual concert season, the various choirs perform different programs – ranging from Gregorian chant to the great classics of choral repertoire. They perform in Paris itself, in other cities around France and in other countries abroad. On occasion the groups perform with Baroque or Symphony orchestras. The Choir School takes pride in its partnerships with other large institutions.

Several recordings document the many projects of the Notre-Dame Cathedral Choir and showcase the choir's stylistic diversity, from early to contemporary music.

Musique Sacrée à Notre-Dame de Paris is supported by the DRAC Ile-de-France, the City of Paris, the Parisian Diocesan Association, the Fondation Notre Dame, the Fondation Bettencourt-Schueller and several others.