

# INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY OF FLAINE (FRANCE)

ACADEMIE INTERNATIONALE DE MUSIQUE DE FLAINE

First Half of August

## FLAINE AND CLASSICAL MUSIC...

### The origins of classical music in Flaine

The ski resort of Flaine in France (Haute-Savoie) was created by Eric and Sylvie Boissonnas, a couple of sponsors, whose intention was to develop an example of modern architecture and arts in France. So, Flaine is born under the pencil of the world famous architect of the Bauhaus Marcel Breuer and is still a place where sports and arts are encountering.



Rémi Boissonnas, Eric oldest brother, was part of the initial Flaine project team too. Very good alpinists, both brothers were also talented amateur pianists and they wished that the resort should become a place welcoming music and young musicians.

Since 1969, Rémi had the idea to invite musicians, young or already famous, to Flaine. In order to get a free week of skiing, they had to play a concert. So, talents like Michèle Boegner, Augustin Dumay, Eric Heidsieck, Frédéric Lodéon, Pascal Rogé and many others played in the movie theatre (its acoustic had been already planned to host concerts).

Later, Eric and Rémi, who became president of the Normal Superior School of Music in Paris, have proposed to a teacher of that school to create music training courses in Flaine.

During the day, the students were practicing their musical instrument and in the evening attending concerts. Rémi named those sessions “Bain de Musique” (Musical Bath), as they were a proper immersion in music. All the favourable conditions were available, so each student could progress: numerous training rooms with pianos, an orchestra and all the leisure facilities of a mountain resort.

Rapidly 300 trainees and around 30 teachers were attending. But Eric Boissonnas wanted to give those “musical bathes” another dimension. In 1984, he mandated the architects Daniel Chiquet and Mario Jossa, in association with Marcel Breuer’s office, to design a concert hall with 500 seats. The grand opening of the hall was celebrated in 1986.

In 1987 Laurent Petitgirard took over the management of the training sessions and music festival from his father, with Bruno Latouche, the actual manager, as deputy.

### **Flaine, a particular atmosphere**

In Flaine the studying and teaching conditions are ideal. The musical areas are within walking distance the one from the others. The students are often living in the same building than their teachers, maximising interaction possibilities.

The master classes are using big lobbies in the hotels or the chapel so a large public attendance is welcomed. The academy guarantees to each student the use of a practice room for at least six hours per day, equipped with a piano for the pianists.

The 500 seat concert hall is very comfortable with an exceptional acoustic.



On top of that, there is the mountain atmosphere, with hiking trails, views on the mountains of the Mont Blanc area. The feedback common to many students is that the sessions in Flaine are providers of happiness.



## Today, the passion is still at the top!

During the first half of the month of August, the “International Music Academy of Flaine” is continuing the tradition of delivery a high level musical teaching within an ideal studying framework for students and teachers.

The academy is managed by Bruno Latouche and José Alvarez (teacher at the National Music Academy of Paris (Conservatoire) under the chairmanship of Serge Kaufmann (composer). Laurent Petitgirard (Member of the French Academy of Arts) is the honorary chairman.

The teachers are coming from the best French and international music schools. The sessions are open to students already starting a professional musical career or preparing international musical contests, but even to amateur musicians or motivated young beginners.

The disciplines and musical instruments taught are piano, wind instruments, strings, singing, chamber music and improvisation. Since 2011 a jazz class was added. The students have the possibility to perform on the stage of the concert hall. Numerous master classes and auditions are accessible to everyone, who are on average 200 students, 25 teachers and 100 to 150 relatives.

At the end of the session a prize is awarded, the “Grand Prix de l’Académie” (with the sponsorship of the Association Flainoise). The prize is composed by a cash amount and a contract to perform in a concert as a soloist during the next session. Of course, the jury reserves the right not to award the prize if the level is not high enough.

A piano tuner is available during the whole session. A stringed-instrument maker and a bow-maker have their workshop in Flaine during that time.

The cultural centre of Flaine welcomes the « Small Concerts » at 18h00 for the youngest musicians of the academy. Some outdoor concerts are performed on various places like on the golf course or at the top of the gondola.



Free concerts are performed by the best students of the Academy and their teachers in the "Eric & Sylvie Boissonnas" Concert Hall.

The International Music Academy of Flaine is recognized and supported by professional French musical organizations. It is realized with the help of the resort of Flaine and its tourist office and sponsored by local economic actors.

## TO GIVE A LARGE ACCESS TO THE ACADEMY

The actual times represent a period of budget restrictions. Until a recent past, the academy was granted a budget to allocate a few scholarships, in order to grant an access to those very formative sessions to young talents without sufficient financial resources. This budget is no longer available, therefore, some young people, who deserve to come to Flaine and develop their talent, won't be able to attend.

So, should you like to support those young musicians and give them, even partially, an access to the academy, your sponsorship will be very welcome.

The full scholarship for a student represents 400 Euros, but every small amount can help a young musician.

You can send a bank cheque with your support, bearing the mention "AIM-Scholarship" to the address below:

ACADEMIE INTERNATIONALE DE MUSIQUE DE FLAINE  
114, rue des Moines, 750017 PARIS (France)

Or by bank wire transfer, using the bank details below:

Bank: LCL, Paris  
Beneficiary: Association de l'Académie Internationale de Musique  
IBAN: FR 80 3000 2005 7800 0000 5784 Q87  
SWIFT: CRLYFRPP

**The International Musical Academy of Flaine thanks you for your attention and we look forward to welcome you in our Concert Hall in Flaine.**