

Concert a Trois (2003)

Jean-Jacques Werner

Jean-Jacques Werner (born 1935, Strasbourg, France) studied harp, horn, and conducting at the conservatory in Strasbourg and then went to the Schola Cantorum in Paris where he worked with Léon Barzin. For composition and orchestration, he was the student of Daniel Lesur and Pierre Wissmer.

Werner began his career at the French Radio where he conducted the regional radio orchestras as well as the major Paris orchestras. In 1970, he founded the Ensemble Instrumental du Val de Marne, a group of renowned soloists for which eminent composers wrote works. From 1976–1989, he was the director of the Europäische Musikschul Union Orchestra. He taught conducting from 1978–1982 at the Reims Conservatoire and was a guest professor at the Paris Conservatoire. In 1981, he founded the Jeune Philharmonie du Val de Marne which took the name of Orchestre Léon Barzin in 1994. As permanent conductor and artistic director, he has appeared in concert with this orchestra all over Europe and in broadcasts, festivals, and on CDs.

From 1982, Werner has received numerous invitations to conduct and teach abroad, particularly in Taiwan and the United States. He was awarded one of the SACEM Prix de Printemps and the Pierre and Germaine Labolfe Prize in 2008; the following year he was named Officier des Arts et Lettres.

“Jean-Jacques Werner’s biculturalism, resulting from his Alsatian origin as and supported by his music training first in Strasbourg and then in Paris, became enriched in the course of his active professional development as an instrumentalist, conductor, and creator. For him, music is inscribed in the domain of humanism, which his spirituality, his love of literature, and his complicity with the poets nourish. These latter generate cantatas and lyrical works. They also engender a contemplation of which all his instrumental scores bear the mark: the movements of the soul—its impulses, desires or disruption—are felt within them. The cries of the self, its anxieties or its groans, are translated into a vigorous language, colored with incisive strokes and persuasive flights of fancy. His catalog’s diversity gives an account of the emotions of humankind, its opulence of the ambitions of artisan.” (Pierrett Germain in the catalog *Éditions Delatour*.)