

Mondonville – Isbé (Budapest 2016)

Written by bluesever

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1. *Isbe* Katherine Watson - Isbé Reinoud Van Mechelen - Coridon Thomas Dolié - Adamas Chantal Santon-Jeffery - Desire / Charite Alain Buet - Iphis / Third hamadryad Blandine Folio-Peres - Fashion / Céphise Rachel Redmond - Ámor / A shepherd / Clymène / A nymph Artavazd Sargsyan - Tircis / First hamadryad / Forest god Komáromi Márton - Second hamadryad Purcell Choir Orfeo Orchestra Conductor - György Vashegyi 6 March 2016, Béla Bartók National Concert Hall Concert opera performance

Premiered in 1742, *Isbé* is the first opera by Jean-Joseph Cassanéa de Mondonville, and the only one of nine which did not bring its composer wide success in the genre of musical theatre although it is true that at that time, he was not yet an admired maestro in the French royal court, nor a favourite of the arts-loving king's mistress Madame de Pompadour. While the large-scale motets he later composed as an established master became an everyday feature in the royal chapel, his instrumental music was also highly regarded in the France of Louis XV. Mondonville also garnered great prestige as principle choirmaster of the royal chapel and as violinist and main composer of the first concert series in music history, entitled *Concert Spirituel*.

This concert performance at Müpa Budapest promises to be another significant, and possibly sensational event in the series by György Vashegyi and his ensembles aimed at rediscovering and presenting works of the 17th and 18th centuries. ---mupa.hu

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