

CHAPLIN'S BEGINNINGS

WITH STEPHANE ORLANDO

SYNOPSIS



You know them, those black-and-white 'mute' films from the beginning of the last century, appearing in shimmering light! It's a real window into our past.

Musical accompaniment is an essential aspect of the silent film experience. In the absence of synchronisable sound recordings, silent films were shown in cinemas with live musical accompaniment. Pianists, organ players and even small orchestras were hired to provide the soundtrack during the screening. Improvisations, original compositions or arrangements of existing pieces sought the right tone for the action. Although musical accompaniment was useful at first to drown out the noise of the projector, and then that of the audience when the projector was put in the booth, we soon understood how important music is to understanding the film, as it helps emphasise visual elements and emotions.

With composer Stéphane Orlando, the Ataneres ensemble returns to the golden age of cinema. "Chaplin's Beginnings" presents three short films from Charlie Chaplin's early career: The Kid Auto Races at Venice, The Vagabond and The Immigrant. Stéphane Orlando has written an enchanting original film score especially for this production, played live on the film and conducted by the composer himself.

Just like the good old days...



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PROGRAM

Kid Auto Races (1914)

The Vagabond (1916)

The Immigrant (1917)

Charlie Chaplin

with music by Stéphane Orlando



Composer **Stéphane Orlando** was winner of the SABAM for Culture Award for Contemporary Music in 2020 and regularly collaborates with various musicians, ensembles and orchestras. He does so in various capacities: as a composer, pianist, conductor or sometimes even as a musicologist.

Orlando draws his inspiration from classical, traditional and jazz music, as well as from his own practice of piano playing improvisation. He composes for all kinds of ensembles, sometimes with electronics. In general, he likes to compose in a rich narrative context, such as for film, opera or dance.

Stéphane Orlando has already produced music for more than 500 silent, documentary, fiction and animated films. He has also composed three operas, two film operas and five musicals.

MORE INFO



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