



EUROPEAN
HUNTING HORN
ENSEMBLE

INTRODUCTION

The European hunting horn ensemble is the brainchild of the Académie trompes et cors (ATC), a recently established French hunting horn academy. Together with the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), the ATC has managed to bring together hunting horn players from across Europe under the umbrella of a European ensemble. As of September 2021, the members originate from 7 different countries.



The inaugural performances of the ensemble are scheduled for the One with Nature – World of Hunting and Nature Exhibition and the General Assembly of the CIC on 25 and 26 September 2021 in Budapest, Hungary. The above countries are among the founding members of the ensemble. This is not intended to be an exhaustive country grouping. We strongly encourage any new country groups interested in joining the ensemble, or anyone wishing for the ensemble to perform at events in their county, to contact either the CIC or ATC.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this newly established European Hunting Horn Ensemble is to:

- Better acquaint the general public with hunting horns
- Celebrate the rich cultural heritage and art of hunting horns
- Showcase the diversity of hunting horns and cultures
- Present both historical and modern elements of hunting horns

BACKGROUND

The idea for the ensemble stems from the Académie trompes et cors (ATC). This academy of French origin seeks to bring together horn players, with the aim of promoting specific musical pieces dedicated to them, exploring in particular the theme of hunting. The music includes both old and contemporary compositions, showcasing both national and international perspectives. As part of their aims, they are seeking to develop, promote and enrich the heritage of music for hunting horns through fresh new musical and cultural creations.

The ATC aims to inform the wider public about the art of hunting horn music. They are looking to do this in a participative and inclusive way. This involves the participation of writers, researchers, and university specialists, among others, as they seek to showcase both historical and contemporary materials.

HISTORY OF HORNS AND HUNTING

The historical and cultural links between horns – as musical instruments – and hunting is well-established. Some of the first written records of horn music were prepared specifically as hunting-horn signals. Among these records are some dating back to the fourteenth century.

Before horns became an established musical instrument, they were already being used for signalling during a hunt. They are linked to hunting traditions dating as far back as 500 AD. Strong cultural links between horns and hunting have continued to evolve over time. Today, hunting horns and music are deeply linked to various traditional and culturally engrained hunting practices. This includes the signals that are sounded when paying respects to the harvested game, to the dogs and to the hunters. Various uniforms and attire have also developed alongside horn instruments. Today, many of these uniforms form an integral part of the image of hunting horn music and musicians.

A CULTURE THAT DESERVES RECOGNITION

It is no surprise that finally in 2020 the “musical art of horn players” was added to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of UNESCO – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This followed a proposal submitted to UNESCO by France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy.

However, the musical art of horn players and their links to hunting extend beyond just these four countries. One may hear references being made to the German or Vienna horn, both equally important and representative of the musical art of horn players. Indeed, there are many more horn instruments that warrant appreciation and recognition. This European hunting horn ensemble aims to help showcase the rich variety of horn instruments, cultures and arts.

Moreover, hunting, which is part of all cultures, is a theme widely explored by renowned musicians of all eras. For example: JS Bach (1685 - 1750) - Hunting Cantata; Leopold Mozart (1719 - 1787) - Sinfonia da Caccia for 4 horns; Nicolas Paganini (1782 - 1840) - Caprice No. 9, "The Hunt"; Carl Maria von Weber (1786 - 1826) - The Huntsmen's Chorus from the Romantic Opera Der Freischutz (The Marksman); Hector Berlioz (1803 - 1869) - Les Troyens, Chasse Royale and Orage; Charles Koechlin (1867 - 1950) - Sonneries pour trompes, Pièces pour cors; Ottorino Respighi (1879 - 1936) - Fêtes Romaines. Through their works, they have allowed this music to gain international recognition.



CIC Headquarters
Email: office@cic-wildlife.org
Tel: +36 23 453 830



Académie trompes et cors
Email: contact@atc-trompe-cors.org