

Les Cornets Noirs

The ensemble "Les Cornets Noirs" is made up of musicians who came together during their studies at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. The primary group consists of two cornets, two violins, violoncello and organ and may also, at times, include singers and other instrumentalists. The principal interest of the group is to present repertoire, which features the cornet, hence the name of the ensemble. It became a favoured solo and ensemble instrument from the middle of the sixteenth to the end of the seventeenth century, especially in Italy and Germany.

The repertoire played by "Les Cornets Noirs" is drawn largely from Italian and German composers of the seventeenth century, including Heinrich Schuetz and Claudio Monteverdi, and also music by lesser known composers. The aim of the group is to present this repertoire with a lively interpretation, developed through a thorough knowledge of the important source material of that time including treatises on ornamentation, continuo playing and other performance-practice issues. The group is particularly interested in discovering and presenting hitherto unknown repertoire from this period.

"Les Cornets Noirs" were prize-winners in the "Concours musica antiqua" at the "Festival van Vlaanderen Bruges 2000".