



CAMAC HARPS
FRANCE

Press Release - December 2017

2390 characters with spaces

New Camac Concert Grand Harps: Canopée and Art Nouveau

Fifteen years ago, Jakez François and the Camac engineers began to dream of a new acoustic for their concert harps, with a specifically French timbre. In order to offer soloists and orchestras a rich, round, powerful and well-defined sound, Camac had to be innovative - and continue the French tradition of fine harp making. This is the inheritance of the renowned Sébastien Erard, the Parisian inventor of the modern harp at the end of the eighteenth century.

During long years of research and experimentation, Camac Harps worked in secrecy, before launching their new generation of concert grand instruments in 2017. In addition to the acoustic and mechanical innovations, the new harps are also the work of two artists with exceptional savoir-faire in inlay and sculpture.

Jocelyne Réal, a graduate of the prestigious Ecole Boulle and now a Meilleur Ouvrier de France ("master craftsman of France"), has turned the Canopée model into an inlaid masterpiece. It is the first harp to be realised within this pure artisan tradition, with a motif of flowers and plants. It takes almost six months to make the instrument, and over five thousand pieces. Rare woods and mother-of-pearl evoke the soul of this unique creation.

The Art Nouveau harp, sculpted by Jean Bernard Jouteau, pays homage to the Belle Epoque, with a sonority inspired by Impressionist music, and a decorative vocabulary of flowers, tendrils and undulant garlands. This harp is available in European cherrywood (*Cerasus avium*), with inlay strips in American walnut and the option of 24-carat water gilding.

Having astounded the professionals present at the World Harp Congress in Hong Kong (July 2017), and then at the Camac Festival in Washington, DC (November 2017), the Canopée and the Art Nouveau were officially presented to the French public, on the occasion of a concert by the concert harpists Isabelle Moretti and Sylvain Blassel at the Salle Cortot, Paris.

The programme of presentations will continue in 2018 with events in Russia, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Singapore, South Korea and China.

Photos (free rights): <https://www.camac-harps.com/download/canopee-art-nouveau/>