A scenic landscape featuring a lighthouse on a hill in the background, a bay, and a stage in the foreground where a man is playing a grand piano and a woman is singing. The text 'LYRIQUE EN MER' is overlaid in white with red bird icons.

# LYRIQUE EN MER

Festival International de Belle-Ile

Creator : **RICHARD COWAN** / Artistic director **PHILIP WALSH**



# PASSIONATELY LYRICAL!

For nearly 25 years, every summer, Belle-Ile-en-Mer has heard the sound of cheers and applause during the Festival Lyrique International.

**As one cannot do without art and beauty, the festival is a source of emotions to be shared by all in a unique and natural place. It has become a reference for the public of Belle-Ile as well as for its visitors.**

After its creation by Richard Cowan, an American who fell in love with the island, British artistic director and conductor Philip Walsh took over its direction and managed to preserve its original spirit, transmitting values of excellence, rigor and simplicity:

**“Come as you are”, as its creator used to say!**

Every season the festival brings together artists from all over the world. In an enchanting site it offers a lyrical program generously dedicated to discovering and promoting young talent.

**From the beginning the emphasis has been placed on the collaboration between exceptional international professional artists, young artists and a Belle Ile amateur choir, thus giving its originality to the festival.**

Despite some obstacles and the current difficult times, one festival has followed the other thanks to all our support: private donors, territorial, institutional and economic partners, volunteers, artists... as well as our dear public.

Thanks to all of them, dream and magic have been renewed every year.

**Wishing to follow its two main aims, «supporting and promoting», Lyrique-en-mer sees its future only for and with you.**

Together, with your support, for new lyrical trips, between discovery and contemplation...

**Anne Germain**

President of Lyrique-en-mer



# A WILD AND UNSPOILED NATURE

## AN ECO-FRIENDLY FESTIVAL

Well aware that the festival and the other cultural events have a role to play in preserving the island's ecological resources, **the team of Lyrique-en-mer wishes to increase its actions towards sustainable development through the following :**

- Expand printing on recycled paper
- Reduce paper documents in favour of dematerialized ones
- Re-use sets, costumes and stage equipment in a logic of circular economy (favouring the island's « ressourcerie »)
- Abandon single-use plastic

**In January 2020, The New York Times ranked Belle-Ile the 45th world destination and the 2nd French destination after Paris: "A pristine artistic haven inspires a new wave of visitors" ("52 Places to Go in 2020", January 10th, 2020).**



# BELLE-ILE A LAND OF ARTISTS

## A FESTIVAL IN HARMONY WITH AN EXCEPTIONAL LOCATION

Since the end of the 19th century, many artists looking for quiet and inspiration have stayed in Belle-Ile.

**The first one was the great Sarah Bernhardt** who stayed every summer in her famous Fort des Poulains surrounded by her friends Georges Clairin, Reynaldo Hahn, Louise Abbéma, Sacha Guitry... she left her mark on the island forever.

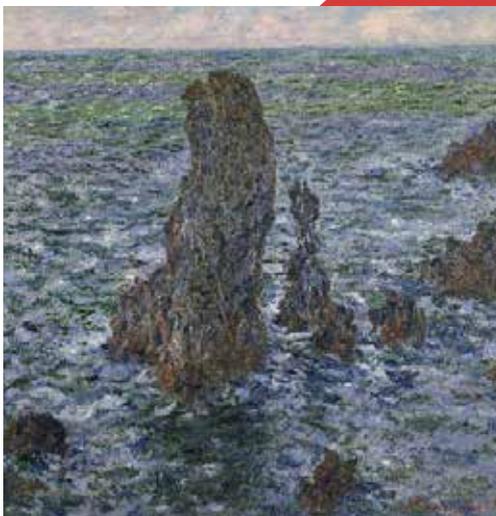
**Monet, Matisse, Vasarely or John Peter Russell** also stayed there, as did **Flaubert, Proust, Honegger, Varèse, Florent Schmitt and Albert Roussel.**

**Arletty**, (the actress whose name was given to our concert hall) discovered Belle-Ile while shooting *La Fleur de l'âge* (1947), an unfinished film by Marcel Carné. She bought a small fisherman's house in Bangor.

“Taking in the smell of waves, we breathed, we conjured up visions of colours, rays and whispers. We rolled our spirits in this profusion of splendours, we fed our eyes, we dilated our nostrils, we opened our ears ».

**Gustave Flaubert,**

excerpt from *Par les champs  
et par les grèves*  
- voyage en Bretagne



Claude Monet, Port Coton,  
«the Needles»,  
Sarah Bernhardt in Belle Ile,  
«Les Poulains», the fort



# A CREATIVE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Led now by the internationally renowned conductor Philip Walsh (who has become bellilois at heart), the festival creates and produces on site an opera, a piece of sacred music prepared during the year by the local lyrical choir, as well as several other collaborative music events. For a few weeks it becomes a unique place where French and international young talents can share their knowledge and experience.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

LEFT

*Tosca, Lucia Di Lammermoor*

RIGHT

*Requiem in the church in Le Palais,*

*Elixir d'amour*



It has been my pleasure to be part of the artistic life of Lyrique-en-mer for the past 20 years, and to be its artistic director since 2017.

**This is a festival like no other, where everything is built and nurtured in this most beautiful of islands. For more than 2 decades we have offered to artists, young artists, and amateur singers an outlet to explore creativity, to learn and to pass on knowledge, all in the pursuit of excellence.**

Each summer we arrive on Belle-Ile from countries far and wide, and **from scratch we put together an opera, choral concerts, recitals and an entire training programme for student singers. Everyone is involved in this great endeavour, and the results have been incredible.** It is easy to see why people become so devoted and committed to the festival, because everyone has a role to play – it's a true team experience.

**This cooperation and participation of people from all walks of life, of all ages, and of all abilities is what makes this festival so special.** And the support we receive from our public is palpable. Emotions run high, on-stage and off, and it's with real passion that we produce performances of real quality.

**In theatres and concert halls around the world you will find an impressive array of artists who began their musical careers on Belle-Ile.** Our task now is to seek out new talent and enable opportunities for the performers of tomorrow.

**Our pride in what has been achieved in the past is matched by our ambitious plans for the future.** A festival like this evolves with the times, and we're constantly pursuing new endeavours, without losing sight of the incredible experiences which have driven our success to this point.

We hope very much that you will consider joining us on this stimulating journey!

**Philip Walsh,**  
artistic director of Lyrique en mer

# A CREATION WITH DEEP LOCAL ROOTS

At a local level the Festival plays a role in the island's cultural life. Its lyrical choir brings together 60 passionate chorists all year round. Participative, educational and cultural actions are also implemented.

**2018 saw a new initiative, the so-called « Venez chanter » collaborative large choral ensemble events. 200 singers get together in the church of Le Palais. This includes amateur singers invited to join the lyric choir of Belle Ile, the soloists and the orchestra conducted by Philip Walsh. This experience of breaking down geographical barriers and sharing music and singing resulted in presenting Mozart's Requiem in 2018 and Gabriel Fauré's Requiem in 2019.**

**The Festival develops musical learning and awakening for our younger spectators, through various educational actions such as :**

- . intervening in schools
- . lending musical instruments for music classes
- . a choral singing workshop for children
- . educational concerts
- . creating a children choir

**Thanks to a partnership with Belle Ile Hospital the Festival creates social link for the so-called « impeded ». Special concerts are regularly organized in the Hospital and its living spaces (EHPAD, nursing home, ...)**

**Lyrique en mer widens its public every year with cultural actions such as :**

- . implementing a preferential insular price
- . broadcasting the Metropolitan Opera season's operas at the cinema Le Rex
- . offering free and live broadcast of "on screen(s) opera".



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
LEFT

Young audience concert  
Choral singing workshop  
at school

RIGHT

Concert at the hospital  
de Le Palais,  
Concert Come and sing

# EXCELLENCE. SIMPLICITY. TRANSMISSION. DURABILITY

## VALUES PROMOTED BY THE FESTIVAL

On the eve of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Lyrique-en-mer relies on its fundamentals for its future.

**True to its original spirit, the festival's main focus is to provide guidance for future generations.** It is a lab which gives young artists from diverse backgrounds time to learn and progress with experienced singers and musicians.

**It fosters excellence in an alliance between professionals and amateurs.**

**This taste for perfection allows everyone to give the best, whether they be a singer, a musician, a choir member, an administrator, a volunteer, a donor...** Everyone plays his part in the collective work.

**Over the years, Lyrique-en-mer has been able to pass on its passion** and forge a lasting bond between the people from Belle Ile and artists from around the world.

**The festival has become a must for all those who love strong emotions** on this so aptly named « beautiful » island where nature and culture intermingle easily.



**Volunteers acting for the festival : in 2019, Victor Tribot Laspierre, a special correspondent for France Musique, underlined the involvement of an army of volunteers in a report entitled "In Belle-Ile, the festival works small miracles with the means at hand".**

"A festival created by and for the people of Belle-Ile: you can quickly understand it when you look at the festival's volunteers. The Bellilois are involved and do everything to make their festival work. They are the ones who house the artists, but also those who help out designing the sets, who lend old chairs with aesthetics in line with the director's wishes, or lend white shirts to the artists."

# TEACHING AND PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE

## THE “YOUNG ARTISTS” PROGRAM

“Learning by doing”: since 2002 the «young artists» program is at the core of the festival. It allows young American and European singers (who are still students) to have a stage experience under professional conditions. The soloists pass on their knowledge and allow them to strengthen their art and join the festival network, make themselves known and have access to new projects.



Masterclass  
with the soloists  
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
LEFT  
Jazmin Black Grollemund  
Michael Kuhn  
RIGHT  
Tyler Simpson  
Natalya Romaniw

**Every summer, some fifteen young singers are in residence for 4 to 5 weeks and practice the following :**

- They take part in the season's opera, in choirs, or as soloists
- They create an opera and / or operetta with a dedicated director in professional working conditions. Then they perform the whole piece publicly
- They contribute to the season's sacred music piece with the lyric choir of Belle-Ile for 4 performances in the 4 churches of the island
- Depending on the year a "young talents" recital may be devoted exclusively to them
- They can join masterclasses for a week. They are coached by the professional opera soloists of the festival
- They become involved in the festival's cultural activities

**These young talents are recruited through partnerships** namely with the Conservatoire de Rennes or the École Normale de Musique de Paris, as well as American universities such as Indiana University, the Manhattan School of Music, the Eastman School of Music, the University of Maryland, McGill University, the University of Southern California, Vanderbilt University and Tennessee and Furman University, or during high-level competitions such as the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

New French, European and international partnerships are currently being studied.

The young artists who took part in the festival now represent a vast network of "alumni" who are pursuing their career or training.



young artists in  
*Lucia di  
Lammermoor*

# WORDS FROM SOLOISTS

Lyrique-en-mer was privileged to receive the great violinist **Nemanja Radulović** for some exceptional concerts during the festival. He describes his experience below and so do French-American soprano **Jazmin Black Grollemund**, Welsh soprano **Natalya Romaniw** and American baritone **Tyler Simpson** who took part in the festival on special or recurrent invitations.

## **Nemanja Radulović**, VIOLONIST

"I have the most wonderful memories of my visits to the Festival Lyrique of Belle-Ile-en-Mer, one of the finest places I ever chanced to visit, but also of all the people who welcomed me to the island. I feel privileged I could take part as a musician on several occasions, and share music and creation with those wonderful artists. All this for an always enthusiastic and generous audience. One feels at home thanks to the artistic program conducted by Philip Walsh. Long life to you all and above all, don't change anything, keep it as it is !

## **Jazmin Black Grollemund**, SOPRANO

"My first summer as a young artist in the festival was full of life-changing experiences. I learnt a lot from the soloists, coaches and stage directors. Everything was a lesson. I left the island at the end of the summer knowing I definitely wanted to be an opera singer. Since then I have been living in Belle Ile where I met my husband thanks to the festival".

## **Natalya Romaniw**, SOPRANO, Lauréate 2020 du "Royal Philharmonic Society singer award"

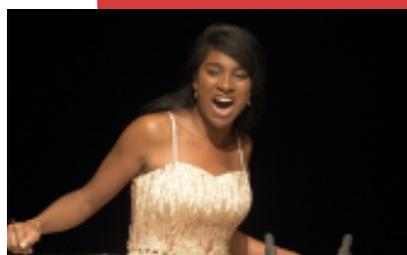
prizewinner 2020 at the « Royal Philharmonic Society Singer Award »

"Lyrique-en-mer is a wonderful place to perform singing! It is true for everyone : experienced singers wishing to explore new repertoires, as well as young artists who benefit from a short program perfectly organized with a lot of performances. It is also an opportunity for them to learn from more experienced artists and to perform on stage with them. It's a perfect place to « simply be oneself »."

## **Tyler Simpson**, BASS-BARITONE

Chorus artist at the Metropolitan Opera

Among my favorite musical moments, many took place in the festival. I especially felt great joy and emotion during the sacred music concerts : the local public hurry to the churches of the island to listen to Bach, Mozart, Beethoven... »



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM  
LEFT  
Nemanja Radulović  
Jazmin Black Grollemund  
RIGHT  
Natalya Romaniw  
Tyler Simpson

# REPERTOIRE

For several decades, the greatest works have been presented in Belle Ile in original productions created by and for the Festival.

## LYRICAL WORKS

*Le nozze di Figaro* Mozart  
*Bluebeard's Castle* Bartók  
*Rigoletto* Verdi  
*Dido and Aeneas* Purcell  
*Così fan tutte* Mozart  
*La Bohème* Puccini  
*Carmen* Bizet  
*Die Zauberflöte* Mozart  
*Orpheus and Eurydice* Glück  
*Don Giovanni* Mozart  
*Falstaff* Verdi  
*La Traviata* Verdi  
*Hoffmann's Tales* Offenbach  
*Il barbiere di Siviglia* Rossini  
*Tosca* Puccini  
*Madama Butterfly* Puccini  
*Don Pasquale* Donizetti  
*L'elisir d'amore* Donizetti  
*Otello* Verdi  
*La Cenerentola* Rossini  
*Pagliacci* Leoncavallo  
*Gianni Schicchi* Puccini  
*La Serva Padrona* Pergolèse  
*Acis and Galatea* Haendel  
*Lucia di Lammermoor* Donizetti  
*Passionately* Messenger  
*Reynaldo Hahn in Belle-Ile*  
Reynaldo Hahn

## ORCHESTRAL AND CHORAL WORKS

*Requiem* Mozart  
*Saint Cecilia Mass* Bartók  
*The Messiah* Haendel  
*Gloria* Vivaldi  
*Carmina Burana* Orff  
*Missa in Angustiis* Haydn  
*Te Deum* Haydn  
*Great Mass in C minor* Mozart  
*A German Requiem* Brahms  
*Little Solemn Mass* Rossini  
*Spatzenmesse* Mozart  
*Requiem* Fauré  
*Messa di Gloria* Puccini  
*The Creation* Haydn  
*St. John Passion* Bach  
*Vêpres solennelles* Mozart  
*Messe en ut majeur* Beethoven



LEFT  
selfie with  
the choir  
À DROITE  
concert of  
sacred music

# INFLUENCE

## A MEDIA COVERAGE

Regional, national and international media contribute to the reputation of the festival every year.

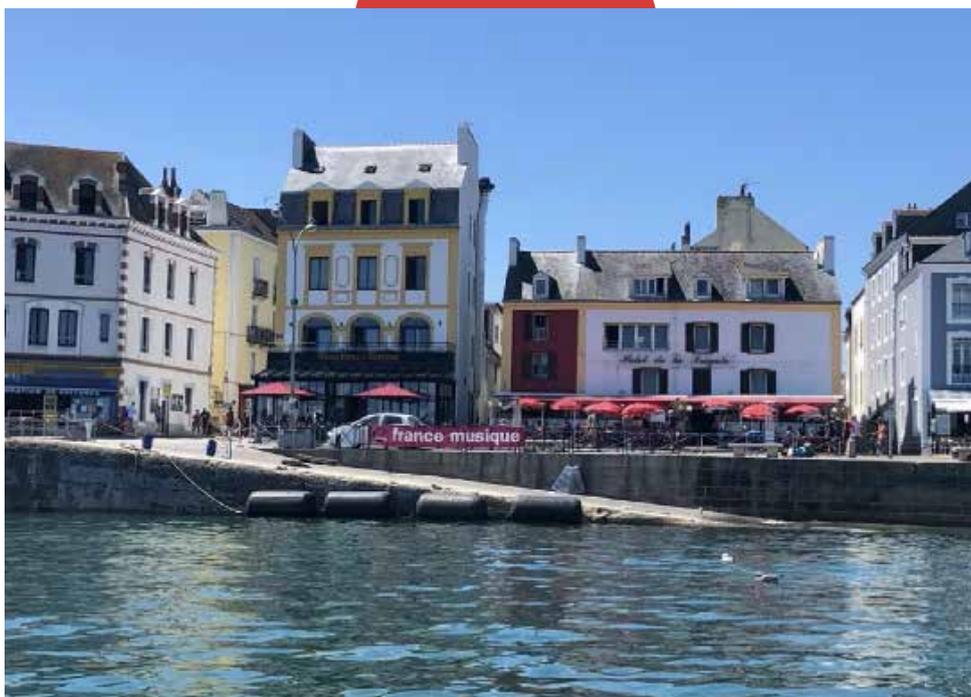
**France Musique**, as a partner of the festival, supports its concerts every year with dedicated programs and reportings, thus increasing its fame.

**Télérama** also a partner of the festival, gives it a prominent place in its columns.

Specialized media such as **Forum Opéra** and **Ôlyrix** provide reports on the festival's programs and national radio stations such as **France Inter** and **France Culture** organize radio shows with the Artistic Director and the artists.

Television reports are made by national television channels such as **France 2**, **France 3**.

**Ouest-France**, **Le Télégramme** and **France Bleu Armorique** follow the festival and report with presentations and interviews.



# REGULAR PARTNERS

Regular patrons and donors have accompanied the festival since its foundation in 1998. Florence Gould Foundation and Les Cars Bleus for example gave us their testimonies, as well as Judith Gurewich, a donor.

## AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

**Florence Gould Foundation, historical partner of the festival** : “From the very beginning of Lyrique-en-mer, Festival International of Belle-Ile, in 2001, and over the years, the American Florence Gould Foundation was seduced by the festival project created from scratch by Richard Cowan in Belle-Ile.

The Foundation’s support found its origin both in an American baritone singer’s charisma, namely Richard Cowan’s and in his project to create a summer festival of opera and sacred music in Belle-Ile. This festival calls on young artists from the United States, France and other backgrounds for a unique musical experience of music sharing and cultures interweaving, two approaches at the heart of the Foundation’s missions. **The festival’s success and the scale of its activities, including creating a local choir of its own, encouraged the Foundation to continue its patronage.** For the Foundation, the festival has been and will continue to be a great adventure. It is proud to be a part of it.”

**Freddy Dressen,**

Council of the Florence Gould Foundation in France

## AT A LOCAL LEVEL

**Les Cars Bleus, a skills sponsorship serving the festival** : “Les Cars Bleus” support cultural and sports associations that convey a positive and attractive image of Belle-Ile: such is also the case of Lyrique-en-mer which has enjoyed a skills sponsorship that has proved essential for the transport of its teams since 2014. A win-win partnership!”

**Pierrick Painvin,**

CEO of Les Cars Bleus

## COMMITTED DONORS

“The miracle achieved by the festival, at least for me, is that it renders possible an intimate relationship with music and also a special connection with what the opera says beyond the libretto. It was Richard Cowan really who made me understand how opera is more than the sum of all its parts. The opera touches the innermost emotions and that is harder to understand in a large hall where you are far away from the singers.

Here we are ‘with them’ – it is a wonderful experience. We share music, friendship, work just because we are all together and physically close to singers, musicians and excellent conductors.”

**Judith Gurewich,** Donor

# JOIN US AND SUPPORT THE FESTIVAL

Being a partner of Lyrique-en-mer means associating one's image with the values promoted by the festival and with Belle-Ile, an exceptional destination conducive to dream and inspiration, and supporting cultural and educational actions aimed at artists and audiences.

Join the circle of benefactors and donors of the festival!

**The festival of Belle Ile, an association ruled by the law of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1901 having a disinterested activity with a cultural purpose, is allowed to issue tax receipts to its donors residing in France thus giving them the possibility of deducting 66% of their donations from their Income Tax up to a limit of 20% of their taxable income** (this option does not apply to their Taxation on Real Estate Assets). Subject to confirmation by their usual tax advisers, donors residing in the United States or European Union countries may also benefit from tax reductions in their countries. Donors residing in other countries are advised to consult with their usual tax advisors in their country of residence.

**The festival may also issue tax receipts to its corporate donors residing in France, thus giving them the possibility of deducting from their taxable profits 60% of their donations – in cash or kind – within the limit of 5% of their turnover** (this turnover limit does not apply to donations up to €20,000). Generally speaking, comparable advantages (at least for cash donations) also apply to "legal person" donors located abroad, particularly in the United States for local foundations, but also in the Member States of the European Union.

**More legal information can be found on : [lyrique-belle-ile.com](http://lyrique-belle-ile.com)**

**By becoming a partner, you benefit from exclusive advantages:** personalised welcome, privileged meetings with the artists, access to rehearsals and /or dress rehearsals, invitations to events organised by the festival, visibility on the website and on the communication documents published by the festival...

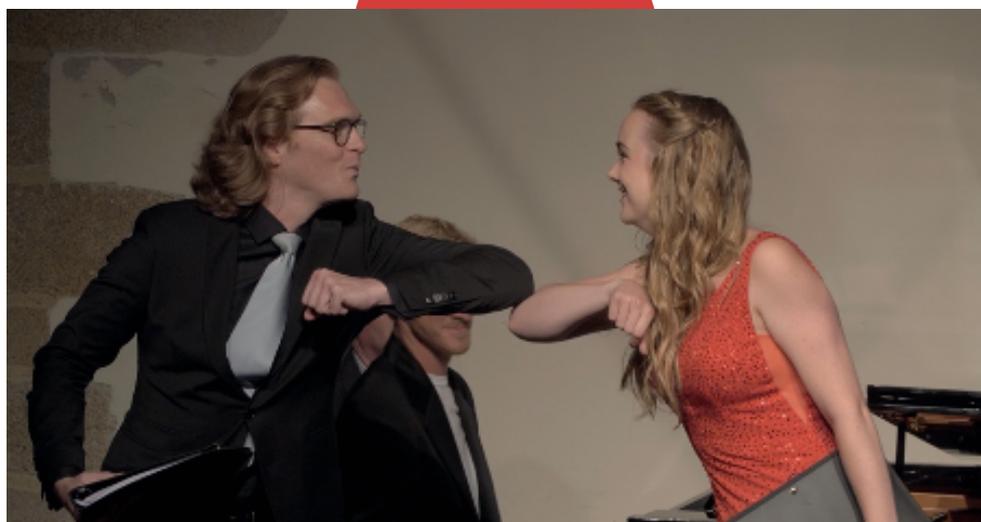
## A FEW EXAMPLES OF PARTICIPATION

### Individuals

| Amount of your patronage | Tax reduction (66%) | Real cost of your patronage |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| € 500                    | € 330               | € 170                       |
| € 1 500                  | € 990               | € 510                       |
| € 3 000                  | € 1 980             | € 1 020                     |
| € 5 000                  | € 3 300             | € 1 700                     |
| € 10 000                 | € 6 600             | € 3 400                     |

| Amount of your patronage | Tax reduction (60%) | Counterparts (maximum 25% of the donation) | Real cost of your patronage |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| € 1 500                  | € 900               | € 375                                      | € 225                       |
| € 3 000                  | € 1 800             | € 750                                      | € 450                       |
| € 6 000                  | € 3 600             | € 1 500                                    | € 900                       |
| € 10 000                 | € 6 000             | € 2 500                                    | € 1 500                     |
| € 25 000                 | € 15 000            | € 6 250                                    | € 3 750                     |

Become a partner of Lyrique-en-mer  
and make your donations on the website:  
[lyrique-belle-ile.com/](http://lyrique-belle-ile.com/)  
section "Support the festival"!



# A FEW FIGURES



## THE FESTIVAL

Since they have been created, the masterclasses organized each summer have contributed to the training of more than **300 young professional singers**.

Throughout the year, a choir of some **60 amateur singers from Belle-Ile** works with the Artistic Director and the Choirmaster. During the festival, some 30 professional soloists and musicians join them.

**Over 60 volunteers and technicians** are involved every year to ensure the smooth running of the festival.

**The annual budget tends to be balanced:** 40% come from partners (companies, foundations and individuals) and 12% from local authorities.

Every year, the festival represents **more than €100,000 of economic benefits for Belle-Ile**.

## BELLE ILE, A FEW FIGURES

Surface area : **84 km<sup>2</sup>**, 20 km long by 9 km large

**120 villages**, 4 municipalities

Population : **5200** permanent residents, **5100** secondary residents

Population during the summer : 40 000

Tourism : **380 000 visitors / year**

Tourist accommodation capacity : **30 000 beds**

Over **100 shops**

**8 hotels** with conference rooms for 10 to 300 persons

« Arletty » hall, multipurpose space, **322 seats**



Become a partner of Lyrique-en-mer  
and make your donations on the website:  
[lyrique-belle-ile.com/](http://lyrique-belle-ile.com/)  
section "Support the festival"!



LYRIQUE-EN-MER  
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