

High tech – Hearing voices

You dreamt of it? Laurence Equilbey, charismatic French choir Conductor of Accentus made it: a revolutionary tuning fork.

During the concert, singers listen to their tuning forks before throwing themselves into a perilous part of the score.

Even though a tuning fork is reassuring and reliable, it cannot protect them from intonation accidents: it invariably sounds an A and requires a strong mental process to find the right note. And yet, nowadays composers like to multiply obstacles and are expecting interpreters to be trained like athletes. It's for this reason that Laurence Equilbey created the e-tuner.

Barely more bulky than a compact camera (12,8 x 6,7 x 3,3 cm), supplied with a thirteen key keyboard, able to cover three octaves, to define an accurate frequency for each note, and to play 1/3 or 1/4 tone, the e-tuner fits on every singer's music stand and can be listened to either by earphones or directly by an integrated speaker. *"In some contemporary scores, it happens that after a booming tutti, singers have to attack on a single note, the choir conductor explained. Usually, they are scared to death, worried to know what sound is going to come out. Reliability reaches 70%. With the e-tuner, they will be quieter but also more confident."*

The electronic device also allows, during a cappella concerts, to check regularly the tune and to avoid pitch variations. *"Some major pieces from Richard Strauss summoning the choir for twenty minutes always cause great stress. It can be good to have some established checkpoints to be sure the tune has not moved."*

Partner of the project, the Orange Foundation has generously distributed 250 units to vocal ensembles as Sequenza 9-3, Clément Janequin, Les Cris de Paris, and, obviously, Accentus, Laurence Equilbey's choir.

Translated according to M. Ph. Venturini 's article, from Le Monde de la Musique (Feb 2008)



e-tuner from Boreal Concept

Price: 179.40 €

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