

Michel Garcin-Marrou

A native of Grenoble in the south east of France, Michel Garcin-Marrou earned his Baccalaureate of Philosophy and a first prize in horn at the Conservatoire de Grenoble. He continued his horn and chamber music studies at the Conservatoire Supérieur de Musique de Paris where he studied with the late Jean Devémy. After two years of required service in a military band, he won a first prize at the Geneva International Horn Competition in 1965. He then joined the Orchestre de l'Opéra-Comique as fourth horn, playing with distinguished colleagues in the horn section Georges Barboteu, Daniel Bourgue and Gilbert Coursier. This famous section also served together as members of l'Orchestre des Concerts Lamoureux. In september 1967, the Orchestre de Paris was founded by conductor Charles Munch who chose Michel Garcin-Marrou for the position of first and third horn. After two seasons, Michel Garcin-Marrou became principal horn. He has played with all the outstanding conductors of the past thirty-five years including Herbert von Karajan, George Solti, Daniel Barenboim and Christoph Eschenbach, who along with Munch, have served as music directors of the Orchestre de Paris. He is actively involved in research into the performance and practice of historical instruments of the baroque and classical periods and he owns a collection of horns that is the envy of every museum. He guests with many of the leading European period instrument orchestras including the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, the London Classical Players, the Academy of Ancient Music and La Chapelle Royale. Well known as an educator, he used to be Professor of Horn at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Lyon and Professor of Natural Horn at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Paris where he reinstated the hand horn class which had been disbanded a hundred years ago. He is currently researching a book on the history of the French horn and the horn players of France.

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