## A Symphony of Atoms, an Alchemy of Notes

## "The School of Athens" by Raphael

The show is the STEAM celebration of the 500th anniversary of RAFFAELLO's death. We meet the thinkers depicted in his fresco "The School of Athens", retracing the history of the science of matter, accompanied by a symphony of atoms and alchemy of notes. It is an experiment between art and technique, terms apparently, but not etymologically, dichotomous. We meet Pythagoras, father of music theory and creator of the doctrine of the four elements (fire, air, water, and earth). Chemistry interprets music sounds using the colours of fire: in fact, the electromagnetic waves of the red and violet flames are in the same frequency ratio of the sound waves of a note and its higher octave. We observe the flow of oxygen and nitrogen on the notes of the Vivaldi Wind and simulate the separation of the earth from the waters, typical of many cosmogonies, accompanied by ancestral rhythms. The show continues by letting the public "enter" the fresco to encounter other Philosophia Naturalis thinkers. Aristotle introduces the Quintessence of the heavens that produce the harmony of the Universe, then structured by Ptolemy. By syncretism, each planet is connected to a classical divinity and a metal, whose reactivity is intertwined with the notes written by Kepler for that planet in his "Harmonices Mundi". The macrocosm/microcosm relationship leads to the alchemist Averroè and Federico Gonzaga, who abdicated to embrace alchemy. There are spectacular reactions worthy of the Sorcerer's Apprentice celebrated with the notes of Paul Dukas. The praise of chemistry leads us to pay homage to Epicurus, the father of atomism, while we see spectacular chemical reactivity. We leave with the Lantern of Diogenes illuminated by a bright chemiluminescent reaction. His love for spontaneity and cosmopolitanism echoes in Beethoven's Ode to Joy (2020 celebrates the International Year of Sound and the 70th anniversary of our Europe). The purpose of the show is undoubtedly the aesthetic enjoyment of chemical reactivity and music. The charm of the beauty of chemical reactivity in an artistic setting makes this technical/artistic path unusual and pleasant.

## **CREDITS**

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