

Catherine Michel

Born in Amiens in 1948, Catherine Michel took her first piano and harp lessons with her mother. At the age of thirteen, she won a first Medal in specialised music theory at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris and two years later, a First Prize for the harp at the same establishment in Pierre Jamet's class. Then she prepared the International Competitions in Hartford (USA), Israel and Paris, and won two Grands Prix and a Gold Medal. She joined the National Orchestra of Radio France in 1970, and then became first solo harpist at the Orchestra of the Paris Opera from 1978 to 2005, dividing her time between concerts, recitals, recording and teaching. After having taught at the Hochschule für Musik in Hamburg and in Detmold (Germany), she is currently teaching at the Hochschule für Musik in Zurich as well as being "Prince Consort Teacher" at the Royal College of Music in London from 2000 to 2003.

With Michel Legrand, she expanded her knowledge and recorded soundtracks for films and musicals. She has played together with Michel Legrand at Carnegie Hall (New York), the Royal Albert Hall (London), the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Palais des Congrès in Paris, as well as in Brazil, Canada, Georgia, Japan, Russia and Sweden.