

Life history

Blaise Hérítier was born in Moudon, Switzerland, in 1962. He studied piano and percussion instruments and, later on, during his training as a conductor, the saxophone.

For many years he played in a number of bands and musical groups while pursuing his studies at the Lausanne Academy of Music. In 1985 he graduated with the initial degree for amateur brass band conductors. He continued to a professional level and passed his degree as a professional musical conductor in 1990. The following year, in 1991, he passed a higher level degree and went on to complete his formation with Jean Balissa. In 1992 Mr. Hérítier was awarded the Distinguished Degree for Orchestration.

He currently conducts the Jura Brass Ensemble, the Blasorchester Siebnen and the Bulle Musical Ensemble. All three of these musical ensembles are at the Excellency level. He also conducts the EVOCA choir, a symphonic choir of approximately one hundred singers from the Jura region of Switzerland. Mr Hérítier frequently leads his groups on tour both in Switzerland and abroad.

He has been the president of the musical board for the Swiss Association of Musical Groups (ASM) since 2004 and, prior to that, for nine years, he was president of the musical board for the Vaud Cantonal Society of Musical Groups.

He has composed and created a number of shows where musical expression, both classical and contemporary, is closely linked to other forms of the arts like the circus, the theatre, the cinema, dancing, poetry, painting and other plastic arts.

A significant part of his activity is given over to musical arrangements and the orchestration of many classical and contemporary pieces for various ensembles of wind and/or percussion instruments.

Mr Hérítier is frequently invited as an outside expert both in Switzerland and abroad and is also called upon to conduct ensembles throughout the country.