

Let us discover the...





# l'Archipel

## The name

Archipel is the French word for archipelago, being a series of separate elements having a common connection. For example, *The Galapagos Islands* are an archipelago of volcanic islands.



3 OCTOBRE 2011

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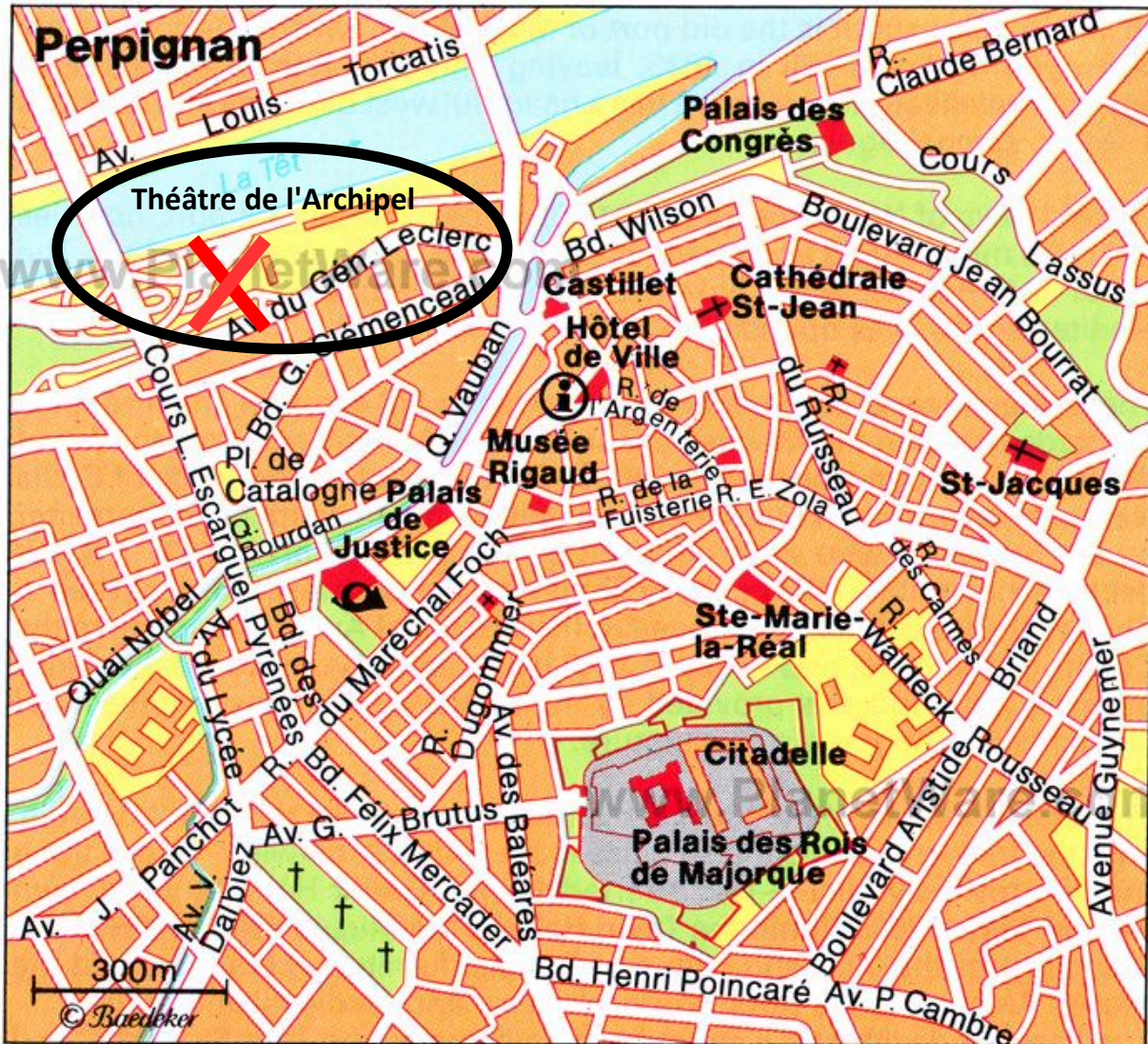
### Urban situation

The design reminds us of a separate but connected theatres; a micro cultural area blending into its surroundings, the varied structures fitting naturally into the neighbourhood.

# The theatre location

The theatre is located in the heart of the city and is a cultural structure and artistic masterpiece. It is a place of creation, artistic endeavour and production.

It embellishes the town and offer a new perspective to the landscape.



# l'Archipel

## The construction history

The *Théâtre de l'Archipel* has strongly ties to the culture of the area. It was conceived and created by the architects, Jean Nouvel and Brigitte Métra Associates, and every element of its construction echoes a local identity. The first stone was laid in September 2008 and inauguration of the *Théâtre de l'Archipel* took place on the 10 October 2011. A budget of 42 million Euros was available, thanks to various partnerships between public sectors, including the City, the Region, the Ministry of Culture, Europe, the *Scène Catalane Transfrontalière*, and various private sponsors.



« Le théâtre fait

le théâtre fait la différence

fait le paysage avec ses pergolas câblées  
ses pins parasol de toujours  
pour toujours

fait les perspectives en les arrêtant avant qu'elles ne se détruisent

transversal le théâtre capte le paysage  
capte les perspectives

depuis la ville historique seulement par des séquences

le théâtre fait le skyline depuis l'entrée de la ville  
comme une question sur l'histoire

le théâtre fait un quartier celui qui est commencé  
et qu'on ne sait pas comment finir...

mais surtout

le théâtre fait l'attraction  
la rencontre  
le carrefour

le théâtre exprime les contradictions... pour les exprimer  
et tel Sisyphe en permanence tente de les résoudre

le théâtre affiche les couleurs de l'expérience  
de la tradition  
du populaire

le théâtre fait la différence par différents visages  
différentes attitudes  
différents milieux de vie

le théâtre continue à faire Perpignan  
la Catalogne par ses couleurs et ses postures

le théâtre fait la rencontre au gré des cultures et des années»

Jean Nouvel

The theatre as a whole is presented as a collection of juxtaposed buildings, where each has its own identity and atmosphere, but all belong to the same family. Every building has its own form and colour and displays specific construction materials.

# The buildings

## The administration- Dressing rooms



The tower is oriented towards the four cardinal points, allowing views of the River Tet, the City and Mount Canigou. It is clad in a gold-coloured metal, reflecting the light on all sides, and with the red Cage de Scene adjacent, mirrors the Catalan flag. This building contains the dressing rooms (where the artists prepare themselves before the performances), and also all the Administrative team enabling the smooth running of the Theatre.

## The technical building

Forthcoming attractions – concerts, dances, shows – are posted on the exterior walls, and the interior of the building holds all technical equipment: the scenery, wiring, spotlights, seats and fore-stage.



# The rehearsal auditorium “the studio”

This auditorium is constructed of luminous aluminium on the exterior, whilst the interior is clad in anthracite wood. Usually, it is the place where every show has its beginning.

Artists find a great working space here and are able to prepare and expand their performances in optimum conditions, since the auditorium is as large as the Grenat stage.



The glass roof

*“Outside and inside merge”*

The glass roof of the entrance, with the ticket office and the bar is an appropriate place to welcome the audience before or after the shows.

The glass links the buildings and allows the merging of the artists and personnel.



# Le Carré (Square)

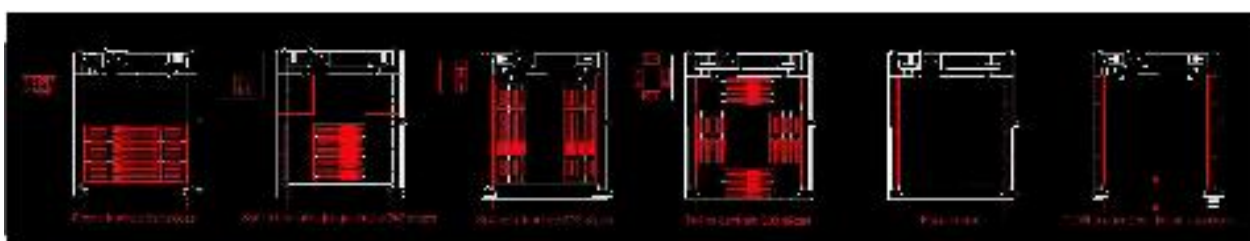
This structure is covered with weathering steel (INDATEN), and the exterior vibrates and evolves along with the creations that it welcomes. The rust-like appearance echoes the historic mountain iron-mines of Canigou.



The creation auditorium functions as a blank page for the artist and director. It is also the venue for “sandwich concerts” at lunchtime and for training sessions.



This auditorium (22.5m\*21.7m) is modifiable: rows of seats retract and fold away. A dividing wall may be set up and the auditorium illuminated, thanks to a huge bay window facing the city.





# The stage cage (La cage de scène)

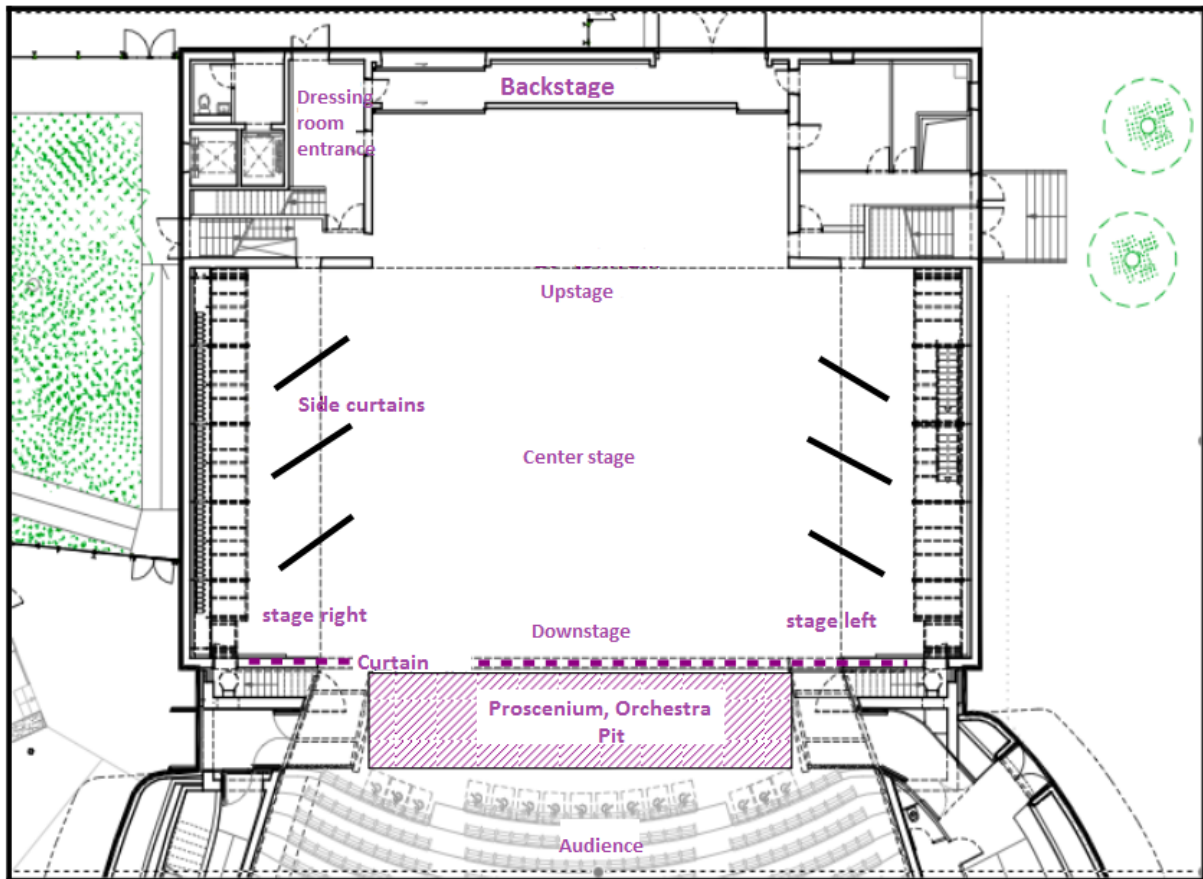


This building dominates the landscape as a castle dungeon. It is constructed of smooth and hannered tinted concrete, reminiscent of the “cayrou” colour of the city walls. The facade is engraved with texts from different Mediterranean cultures.

The stage cage is a focal point for spectators, both inside and out.

The stage itself measures 20 meters wide, from 14.5 to 16 meters deep, and is 10 meters high. The proscenium extends the stage or becomes an orchestra pit with the capacity to seat 40 musicians.





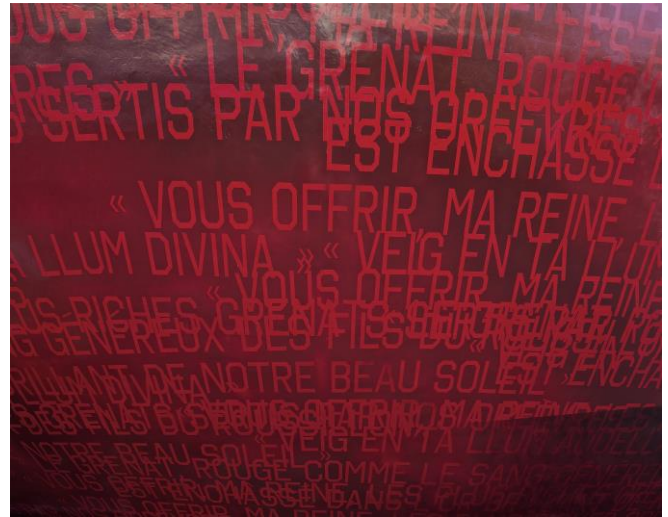
Concerts, operas, ballets, circus performances, marionettes, and performances of a mixture of different disciplines are able to be performed on this wide stage.

The organisation team does everything to enhance the performance. The spectator can watch and listen in optimum conditions, thanks to the efforts of the ever-present but unseen technical staff.



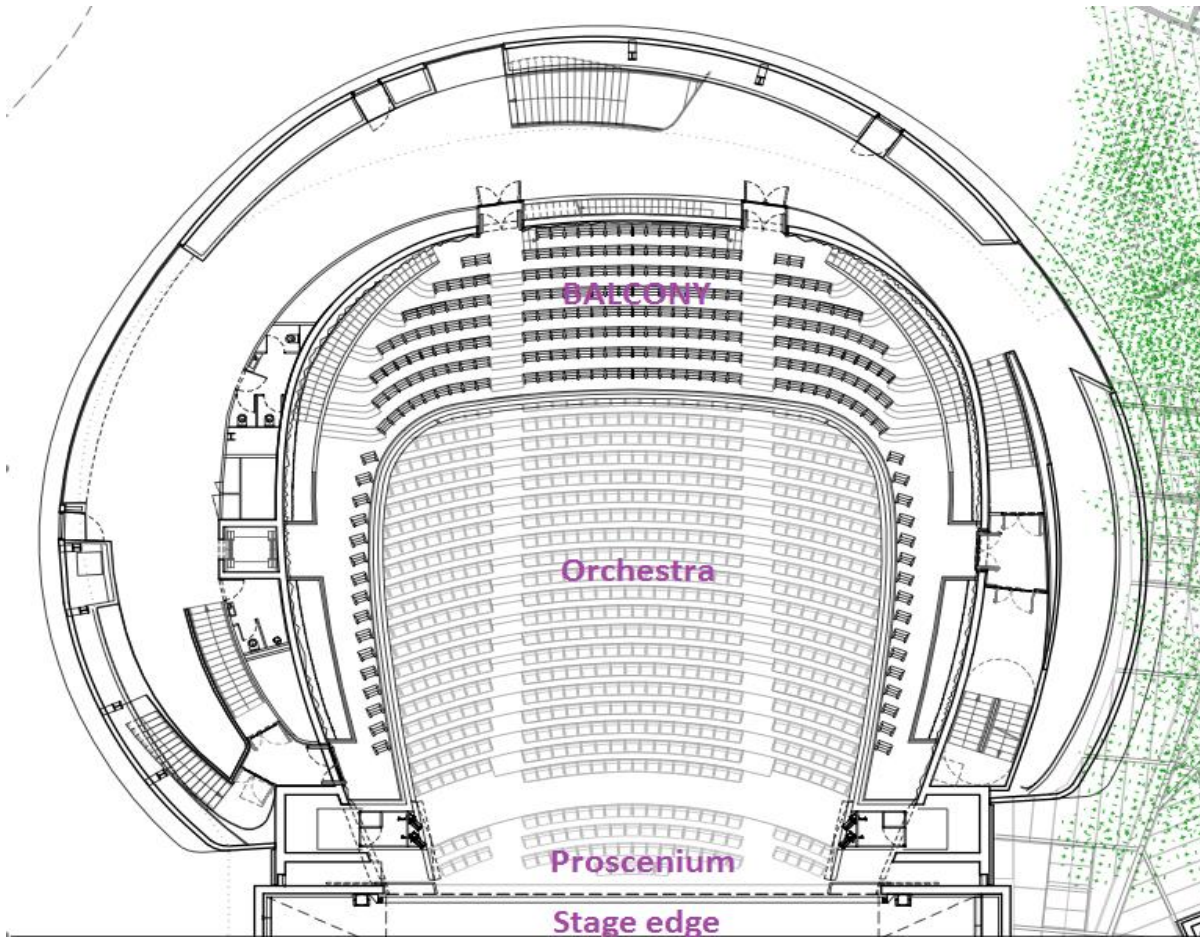
# Le Grenat (The Garnet)

Made in “shotcrete” and cover in coloured resin to resemble the region's iconic garnet stone, this structure's particular form and colour draw the gaze. The exterior walls are covered with words and phrases about the garnet stone.



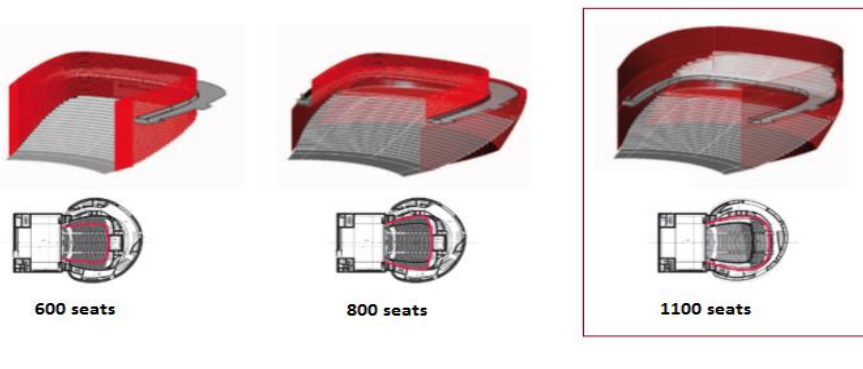
The interior walls are clear and striate to resemble the Organs at Ille sur Têt, and provide perfect acoustics. This auditorium cocoons the spectator in a protective shell and warm atmosphere. The Grenat is suitable for several types of performances.





Seating capacity, including the balcony, can be arranged for 600 to 1100 spectators.

The sound and visual space can be reduced with the aim of favouring “stage-audience” intimacy, thanks to detachable partitions of tongues of wood and acoustic canvas sheets.

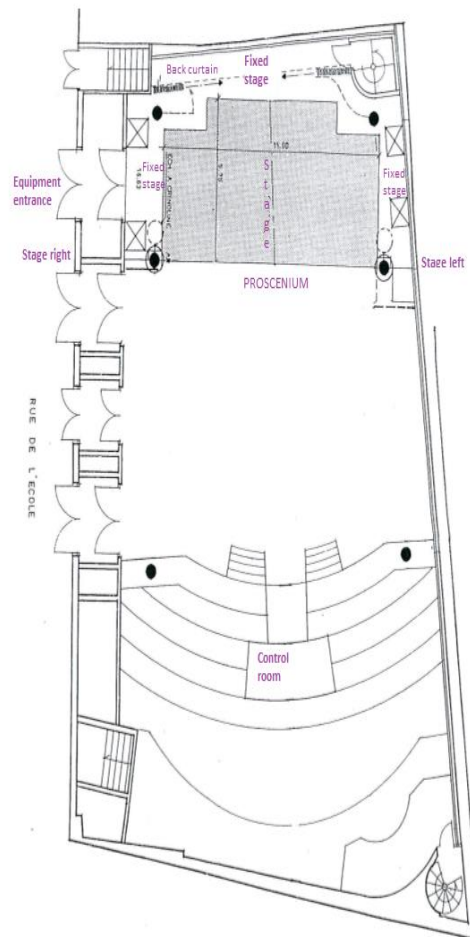


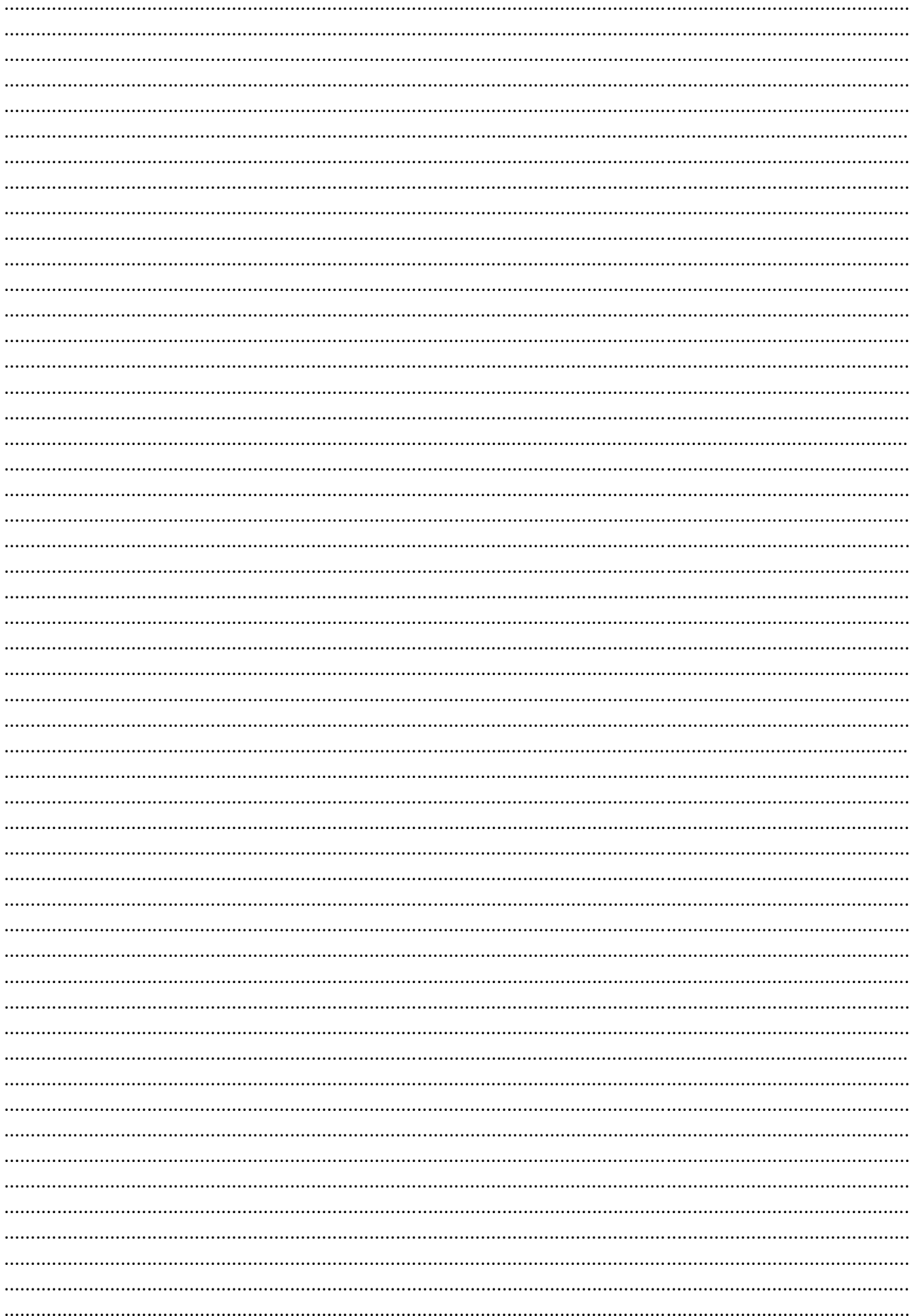
# Elmediator



Elmediator auditorium is separated by only 500 meters from the Garnet and the Square.

Inaugurated in 1997, it welcomes many modern music season concert at the *Théâtre de l'Archipel*. In addition to the seating capacity of 800, the Auditorium has its own recording studio and rehearsal room.







Dossier réalisé par le  
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