

FEBRUARY 2026

PRESS RELEASE

MARCO POINGT AT THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH: THE VIRTUOSO PIANIST WHO KNOWS NO FRONTIERS IS TO PERFORM A SERIES OF SPECTACULAR CONCERTS IN THE GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC

Once a year, the biggest underground natural heritage site in France, the Gouffre de Padirac in the Dordogne valley, puts on awe-inspiring, extraordinary cultural events.

In 2026, the site is inviting the virtuoso pianist on the move Marco Poingt to perform three original shows in its depths.

Enjoy this unique musical adventure on the 30th of April, 1st and 2nd of May at the heart of an ancient natural site.

AN ARTISTIC ENCOUNTER WITH A HUMAN DIMENSION

Some scale the heights, others explore the depths. Sometimes these two itineraries entwine, infused with the same spirit of discovery.

In 1889, Édouard-Alfred Martel venturing down by candlelight into the Gouffre de Padirac, in order to reveal its wonders to the world. In 2025, Marco Poingt hauled a piano to the summit of the Kilimanjaro, for a charity concert on the roof of Africa to fund heart surgery for children. The same daring spirit, spurred by the desire to reveal and share beauty.

This meeting transcends its artistic dimension: the Gouffre de Padirac and Marco Poingt both actively support the charity *Mécénat Chirurgie Cardiaque*, as a sponsor and ambassador respectively, funding surgery for children with heart malformations.

The Chair of the company that runs the Gouffre, *Laetitia de Ménibus-Gravier* first discovered this artist at a concert organised by the charity. She immediately warmed to the virtuoso musician whose infectious energy is imbued with the modesty typical of the greatly talented. Having performed on mountain summits, his only remaining challenge was to perform in the earth's entrails.



“As a boy, I read Jules Verne and dreamed of extraordinary adventures. This invitation to penetrate the Gouffre de Padirac is in some way my own Journey to the Centre of the Earth. The venue projects a rare force, bordering on the mystical. I'm looking forward to vibrating amid these ancient rocks and sharing this experience with the public.” Marco Poingt

“Marco's talent and approach appealed to us straight away. Imagining an artistic project together seemed an obvious choice, heralding a wonderful collaboration.” Magdalena Mauguéret, Event Coordinator - Gouffre de Padirac

A UNIQUE ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL CHALLENGE

A CREATIVE RESIDENCY 103 METRES BENEATH THE GROUND FROM 17 TO 19 MARCH

Marco Poingt will be performing three times at the Gouffre de Padirac during an on-site residency, from 17 to 19 March 2026.

As a musician on a perpetual quest for inspiration – spanning vast prairies and high summits – Marco Poingt will now express his creative flair in the depths of the Earth.

The Gouffre de Padirac is a natural monument forged by time, at once silent yet resonant: a remarkable source of inspiration for artists. A rare venue for creation, where Nature partners Art.

The artist will be composing three original pieces for these exclusive concerts while immersed in this natural, time-defying setting with the most stunning of acoustics.

This residency is also an opportunity to work on staging performances and produce a videoclip to showcase the work.

THREE SPECIAL EVENING CONCERTS FROM 30 APRIL TO 2 MAY

On Thursday 30 April, Friday 1 and Saturday 2 May 2026, 75 lucky spectators will enjoy the experience of a night-time concert like no other in which Marco Poingt invites the public to follow him down into the spectacular Gouffre de Padirac, to explore the earth's crevices with the pianist's concert as a soundtrack.

An audacious setting for a performance spurred by a creative musical quest, heralded as a truly unforgettable experience.

With this aspirational project, the Gouffre de Padirac fulfils its aim of combining natural heritage and contemporary creation as an amazing natural setting for cultural activities.



MARCO POINGT, GUEST EXTRAORDINAIRE

As a reputed musician and Alpine skier, Marco Poingt embodies a generation of artists for whom music knows no boundaries. This 28-year-old pianist and composer studied both classical music and jazz at the Berklee College of Music in Massachusetts, developing his very own blend of virtuosity and world influences. *Marco Poingt* has performed in a variety of projects in major theatres all over the world.

He works with the charity *Mécénat Chirurgie Cardiaque*, teaming music and athletic prowess to perform in offbeat venues on mountain peaks, including the Vignemale, the Aneto, and the Kilimanjaro.

marcopoingt.com



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Artistic Residency: 17, 18 and 19 March 2026
- Concerts: 30 April, 1 and 2 May 2026, at 8:00 pm – 75 tickets available per evening (booking required)
- Rates: €90 adult / €75 for over -12s and students / €50 under 12s
- Pre-concert drinks, and an opportunity to chat with the artist afterwards
- Tickets available for the concert in March 2026

THE GOUFFRE DE PADIRAC: FIRST UNDERGROUND NATURAL HERITAGE SITE IN FRANCE

The Gouffre de Padirac is the largest natural underground site in France, in the Dordogne Valley in Lot, near Rocamadour. This natural cave is 33 metres in diameter and 75 metres deep, opening up for a 2-km underground walk. First discovered in 1889 by Edouard-Alfred Martel and opened to the public over 130 years ago, the Gouffre de Padirac has captured the imagination of 27 million visitors. As the biggest underground natural heritage site in France, the Gouffre de Padirac attracts over 500,000 visitors a year. It is not just a geological wonder, it is also a cultural venue in its own right, putting on an amazing programme every year. This spring, a unique musical creation will be produced on site.



REOPENING ON
28 MARCH 2026

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PADIRAC LIBRARY

PRESS PACK



www.gouffre-de-padirac.com

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