

Monday, April 4.

How we learned about the concert

As we wandered around “le quartier” the day before we noticed numerous posters announcing : Salieri-Mozart or false rivalry: “In April 2011 the Ensemble Jubilate Versailles confronts two major figures of the eighteenth century, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri. Our concert will, we hope, let you form an opinion on the combined talents of these two extraordinary men.” (translation)



(from the ensemble's web page)

The street

The name of the church and the street on which it is located is “Blancs Manteaux.” It was founded in 1258 by an order of monks who followed the Rule of Saint Augustine. They wore a "white coat" (hence the nickname stayed).

The venue

Notre-Dame des Blancs Manteaux” is only a 10-minute walk from our apartment and located in the Marais in the 4th arrondissement. The present church dates from the late seventeenth century and replaced an older church, the monastery church of the White Coats, erected in the thirteenth century by the Servants of Mary.



(from Wikipedia)

The ensemble

This is what they say about themselves on their web page: “Jubilate is THE BEST motivated amateur choir of the old continent (no less!) (....) Do not bother with false modesty and it is natural that we recognize that.” (best I could do with translation)

The concert

The concert was superb. The church was packed. We barely found a place to sit/stand but were close to the orchestra. Tickets were 20 €. They performed Antonio Salieri’s Emperor Mass and after the intermission, Mozart’s Requiem. We had heard the Requiem last year in the Madeleine church by a different group. This performance was better. Of course, in my opinion, the Emperor Mass didn’t match up to Mozart. However, it was enjoyable to hear it. It has some great choruses, very little solo voice.