

CHAPELLE ROYALE SAINT-FRAMBOURG

Queen Adelaïde founded this chapel circa 993, to show her gratitude to God after the election of her husband Hugues Capet, and also to house the relics of Saint Frambault, a hermit from Auvergne who had lived in the 6th century.

The nave was built over a low chapel which may have been used as a Carolingian worship place.

Endowed with a chapter, the primitive chapel was elevated to the rank of a collegiate church: the twelve canons of the chapter specifically honoured Saint frambourg's relics and only the royal family could attend the services. In 1177, Louis VII commanded the reconstruction and the enlargement of this restrained and majestic royal chapel, which would later inspire the builders of the *Sainte Chapelle* in Paris.



After the revolution, this chapel was used as a smith's workshop, a hay store, a riding school, a carpenter's workshop...

In 1973, on the recommendation of André Malraux, the Hungarian pianist Georges Cziffra bought the chapel which was then a garage even though it had already been listed as *Monument Historique*.

After a major campaign of diggings, the restoration began under the supervision of an architect from *Monuments Historiques*. The *Fondation Cziffra* was then created, with the aim to completely restore the building, to open it to the general public and to invite and promote young musicians and artists. The wife of Georges Cziffra, Soleilka, has been perpetuating his work with the same passion and dedication. Concerts are performed all year round in the nave where acoustics allow for the purest expression of music.

On the occasion of Hugues Capet's millenium, the chapel was endowed with new stained glass windows designed by the painter Mirò and made by the master in stained glass Charles Marcq de Reims.