

THE SONG OF THE MOUNTAIN AND THE MOON

LUNALIA 2021

PRESS



150 artists from 5 countries

17 concerts

8 premières

DIGITAL & FREE

LUNALIA 2021 is a digital festival. Follow the concerts from April 23 onwards via streaming on lunalia.be and evilpenguintv.com. Some concerts can be heard on radio Klara, klara.be and the free Klara app. All digital activities are free.

If there is an opportunity to admit public for the concerts in May, we will do everything possible to make this happen. Stay tuned via lunalia.be.

LUNALIA

THE SONG OF THE MOUNTAIN AND THE MOON

24 April to 8 May 2021



It will come as no surprise that people sing a song about the moon now and then in Mechelen, the city of the *Maneblussers*, the people who tried to extinguish the moon. But a song about a mountain?

Actually Mechelen really does have its own mountain, and what a magnificent mountain it is: the composer **Philippus de Monte**, or 'Philip of the Mountain' in English. Even in his own time, he was known as the **Prince of Music**. De Monte lived to see most of the 16th century: born in Mechelen in 1521, it would be 82 years before he breathed his last in Prague. As a singer trained at St. Rumbold's Cathedral, he would work in Naples, Rome and London before ultimately becoming the Kapellmeister to two Habsburg emperors, **Maximilian II** and **Rudolf II**, at the courts of Vienna and Prague. Besides fulfilling these eminent roles, he was known as an amiable and modest man: a musical scion that his home city can be more than proud of.

Five hundred years after his birth, Lunalia, the Festival of Flanders Mechelen, is celebrating the last of the Flemish Polyphonists. The festival will feature leading ensembles including **Graindelavoix**, **Ratas del Viejo Mundo** and the **Vlaams Radiokoor** (Flemish Radio Choir), who will be tackling some of De Monte's compositions from among the more than 1600 works that have been passed down to us. It will be a remarkable new encounter with this refined composer.

Besides the Mountain of Mechelen, the famous Mount Fuji in Japan also features in the festival's new production **U ki yo E**. Another remarkable première is **They have been waiting long enough**. The composers **Annelies Van Parys**, **Calliope Tsoupaki** and **Aftab Darvishi** were asked to compose new work on the figures of **Medea**, **Penelope** and **Circe** respectively. None other than the writers **Natalie Haynes** and **Gaea Schoeters** guide the project in the right direction.



Our **artist in residence** in 2021 is the lute player **Floris De Rycker**. He is the driving force behind **Ratas del Viejo Mundo** and **Subtilior**, but he can also be heard in the digital full moon meeting of Lunalia.

The Song of the Mountain and the Moon has become Lunalia's motto in 2021. Let's climb the mountain together to hear the song even better in the moonlight.

Jelle Dierickx, Director Festival of Flanders Mechelen

MORE INFORMATION & PRESS TICKETS

Festival of Flanders Mechelen/Kempen

Onder-den-Toren 12, 2800 Mechelen

Michaela Defever

michaela(at)festival.be

+32 485 19 25 33

lunalia.be



Philippus De Monte was depicted on the 20-franc bank note from 1950 to 1964. On the other side was a picture of Orlandus Lassus.