

# THE REST IS SILENCE

## LUNALIA 2022

PRESS



100 artists from 10 countries

more than 25 concerts

2 music theatre productions

1 moon ritual

1 workshop

extra free concerts during the  
Opening Celebration LUNALIA  
LIFT OFF

1 festival inside the festival  
NOISENOISENOISE

2 ensembles in residence

**ZA 23.04**

**LUNALIA**

**LIFT OFF**

Openingsfeest

**ZA 23.04**

**Openings-  
concert**

In de voetsporen van Rumi

**ZO 24.04**

**Wolf**

Alexandra Aerts

**ZO 24.04**

**CASCADE |  
ARCADE**

Maarten Buyl  
& Champ d'Action

**ZO 24.04**

**Lalaei**

Zwerm & Walpurgis

**MA 25.04**

**Mi'kmaq  
maanritueel**

Darlene Jijuminag  
& Kiya Tabassian

**DI 26.04**

**Breathings**

Constantinople  
o.l.v. Kiya Tabassian

**WO 27.04**

**Workshop  
storytelling**

Kiya Tabassian  
& Ablaye Cissoko

**WO 27.04**

**tot ZO 08.05**

**NOISENOISENOISE**

**Tentoonstelling**

Andrea Cinel

**WO 27.04**

**Epithaphs of  
afterwardsness**

Graindelavoix  
o.l.v. Björn Schmelzer

**DO 28.04**

**Traversées**

Constantinople  
o.l.v. Kiya Tabassian

**VR 29.04**

**Verdwijntijd**

Sofie Vanden Eynde

**ZA 30.04**

**Verdwijntijd**

de installatie

van zonsopgang

tot zonsondergang

**ZA 30.04**

**ZO 01.05**

**Time to say  
goodbye**

Thorbjörn Björnsson

**ZO 01.05**

**International  
dawn chorus  
day**

**MA 02.05**

**While we live**

Andrea Voets,

Sarah Jeffery, Evi Filippou,

Myrto Papadogeorgou

**DI 03.05**

**NOISENOISENOISE**

Evi Filippou & Aya Suzuki

**WO 04.05**

**NOISENOISENOISE**

La Nueé & Jaap Blonk

**VR 06.05**

**ZA 07.05**

**ZO 08.05**

**Rozenkrans-  
sonaten**

Les Passions de l'Ame

**VR 06.05**

**NOISENOISENOISE**

Our ears felt like canyons II

**ZA 07.05**

**NOISENOISENOISE**

Avant Joik

**ZA 07.05**

**ZO 08.05**

**De beiaardier**

Mechels Kamerkoor

o.l.v. Tom Van den Eynde

& Koen Cosaert,

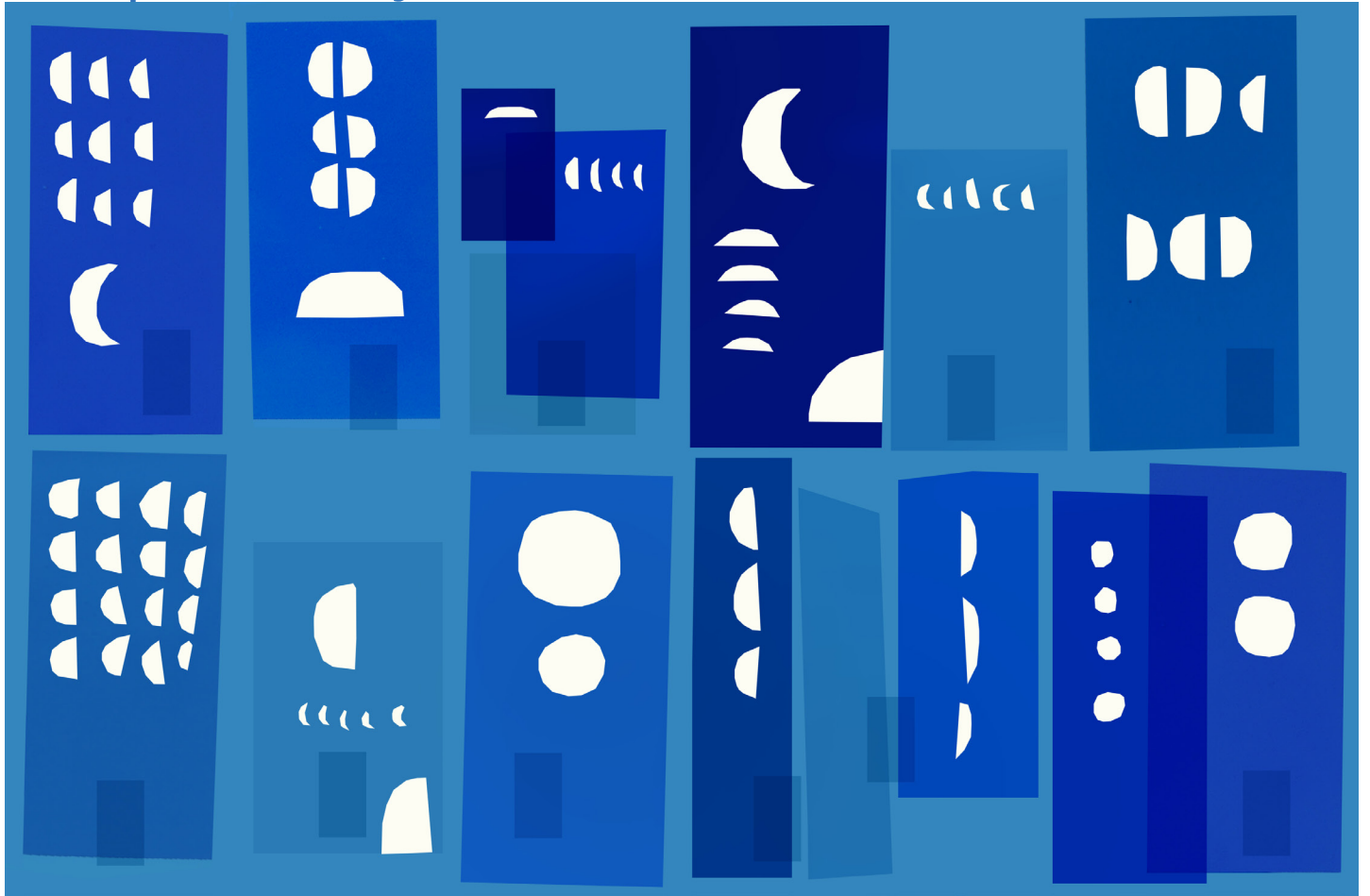
Eddy Mariën

en Koen Van Assche

# LUNALIA

The rest is silence

23 April - 8 May 2022



**LUNALIA**, Festival of Flanders Mechelen's spring festival, is entirely devoted to this year's theme in Mechelen: **Blazing Silence**. Its motto is *the rest is silence*, Hamlet's famous last words in William Shakespeare's play of the same name. Once the world-famous Prince of Denmark has spoken his last words, his friend Horatio begins a eulogy, but instead of falling silent, things suddenly get very loud. Horatio asks where the sound of drums is coming from, at which point Fortinbras, the English ambassadors and others come onto the stage in an uproarious din. That tension between silence and noise also defines the 2022 edition of the festival.

LUNALIA will present more than 25 concerts, two music theatre productions, various workshops and moon rituals in the centre of Mechelen. Together with arts center **nona**, a festival is organized in the festival: **NOISENOISENOISE**. There are two ensembles-in-residence in 2022: the Canadian ensemble **Constantinople** and **Les Passions de l'Ame** from Switzerland.



## CONSTANTINOPLE - ENSEMBLE IN RESIDENCE

The **Canadian ensemble Constantinople** was founded in Montreal in 2001 by **Kiya Tabassian**, its current artistic leader. The name was inspired by the city that connects East and West. Its mission has not changed over the years: the ensemble aims to honour the world's rich musical traditions by creating new music through unique encounters and building bridges between cultures, periods, styles and people. That has already resulted in 20 albums, 50 new creations and visits to more than 240 cities in 53 countries.



During LUNALIA's free **opening celebration**, these top musicians will explore Mechelen together with the listener. In the evening, the ensemble led by **Kiya Tabassian** will follow in the footsteps of Rumi with **Ghalia Benali** in the opening concert. They embrace the magic of **Rumi** with music that has the power of the full moon.

Especially for LUNALIA they will perform a **moon ritual of the Mi'kmaq culture**, one of the Canadian First Nations, in Mechelen. Singer-songwriter and percussionist **Darlene Gijuminag** devotes herself to the music and is also deeply involved in the traditions and spirituality of the Mi'kmaq culture. Darlene Gijuminag has consented to perform a one-off moon ritual during Lunalia together with Constantinople ensemble.

In the concert **Breathings**, Kiya Tabassian focuses on the breath. The breath that makes life possible and makes it possible to sing. The breath that connects all cultures and all people. That is why three ancient traditions are combined in a single concert: **Tuvan** throat singing that resounds with the soul of the steppes, the prayers and vocalisations of the **Mi'kmaq** and **Persian** melismatic singing. This makes **Breathings** a unique musical experience.

A profound friendship lasting many years binds Kiya Tabassian, the artistic leader of Constantinople, to the master kora player and griot **Ablaye Cissoko**. Their many travels have resulted in a new programme, **Traversées**, that was voted one of the best albums of the year by Songlines in 2019. Together, they have developed a musical language that merges their different cultural backgrounds, Persia and West Africa.

Kiya Tabassian and Ablaye Cissoko have wonderfully mastered this art of storytelling through music. They effortlessly connect Persia with Africa, East with West and South with North. They are agreed to give a one **workshop** together on this **art of storytelling**.



SA 23.04 LUNALIA LIFT OFF, Opening Celebration

SA 23.04 Opening Concert, In the footsteps of Rumi

MO 25.04 Mi'kmaq moon ritual, Darlene Jijuminag & Kiya Tabassian

TU 26.04 Breathings, Constantinople led by Kiya Tabassian

WE 27.04 Workshop storytelling, Kiya Tabassian & Ablaye Cissoko

TH 28.04 Traversées, Constantinople led by Kiya Tabassian



## LES PASSIONS DE L'AME - ENSEMBLE IN RESIDENCE

Since 2008, the Bern-based early music ensemble **Les Passions de l'Ame**, led by the violinist **Meret Lüthi**, has created new sounds and lively interpretations on historic instruments.

The orchestra's name is a reference to an essay by René Descartes in 1649, in which the philosopher discusses the passion that mediates between the body and soul. The ensemble believes that music has precisely this mediating role and aims to convey "les passions" in a concert experience.

The ensemble has been passionately involved with the music of **Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber** for many years. You might say he is the composer closest to the ensemble's hearts. Now they are ready to perform his most famous works: the fifteen **Rosary Sonatas**. It will be nothing short of a three-concert marathon. Leading the field is Meret Lüthi, the charismatic artistic leader and solo violinist. The continuo team is also made up of musicians who live and breathe the music of H.I.F. Biber. Get ready for fifteen absolute gems.

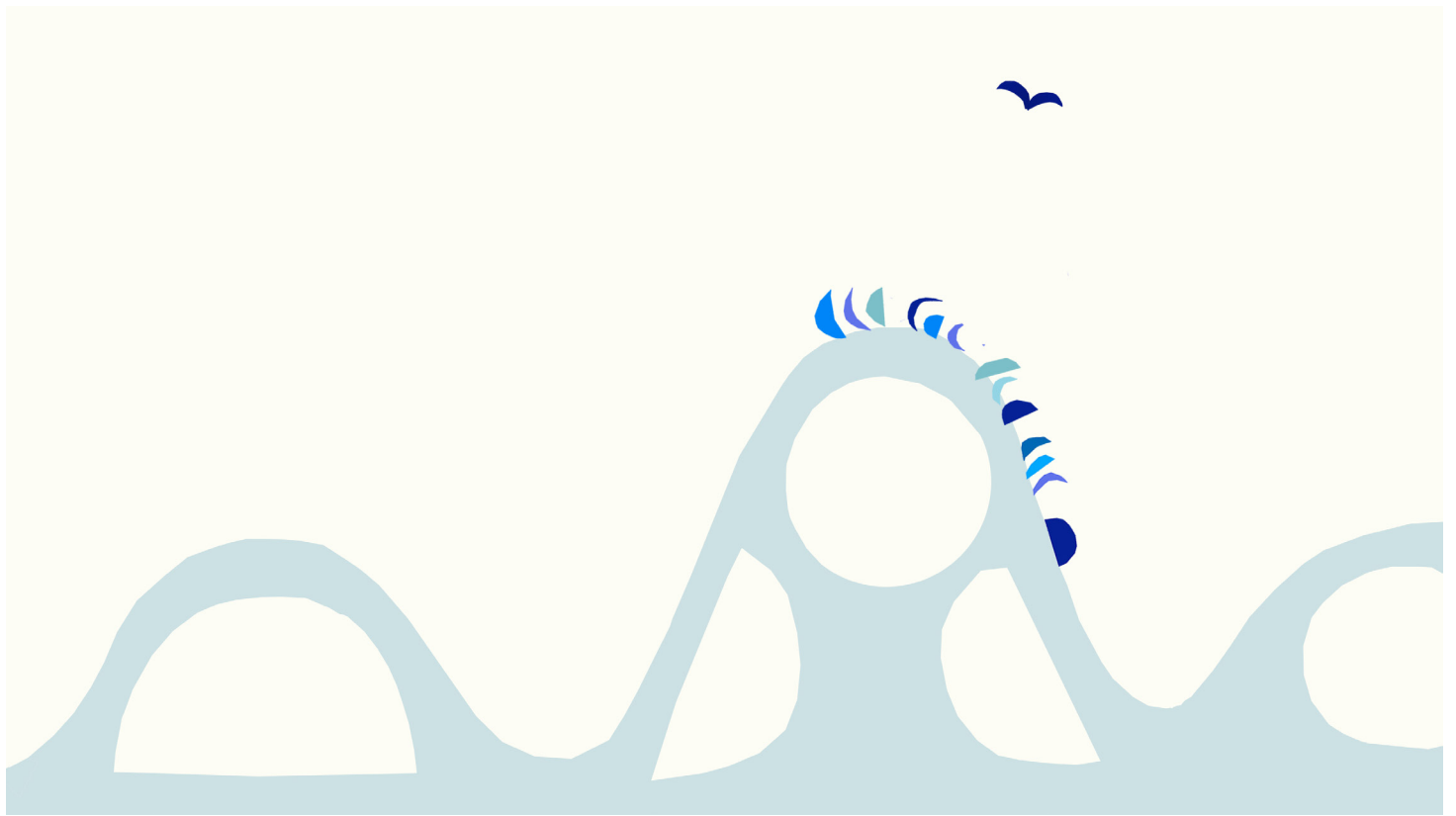
FR 06.05 – 18:30 (Part 1, Sonatas I-V) - Sint-Pieter-en-Paulkerk Mechelen

SA 07.05 – 18:30 (Part 2, Sonatas VI-X) - Sint-Pieter-en-Paulkerk Mechelen

SU 08.05 – 11:00 (Part 3, Sonatas X-XV) - Sint-Pieter-en-Paulkerk Mechelen







LUNALIA 2022 is entirely dedicated to silence. It is not a frightening silence but a silence that moves. The programme includes the autobiographical concert *Vanishing Point*. Lutenist **Sofie Vanden Eynde** encapsulates her experiences with burnout in a recital between white noise and clarity, confusion and silence, chaos and harmony. With music by **John Dowland** and new work by **Vladimir Gorlinsky**. The autobiographical concert *Verdwijntijd* will lead to an installation at Lunalia for the first time. In a performance lasting no less than twelve hours, Sofie Vanden Eynde evokes the process of a burnout. From sunrise to the shadows and darkness of sunset.

Young people in many European countries are experiencing severe levels of loneliness and depression. Ten years ago, musical journalist **Andrea Voets** went in search of a connected way of life. In *While We Live*, we experience Andrea's 'social road trip' all around Greece. The result of her trip allows everyone in search of a different social perspective to find the way towards connection, in a collective experience for the musicians and the audience. This documentary concert was featured in the NRC's list of 'best classical music of 2020'. The film version has won several international film prizes.

In turn, the top ensemble **Graindelavoix** led by **Björn Schmelzer** explores **Guillaume de Machaut's** *La Messe de Notre Dame*. Graindelavoix is reconsidering this statement with the wonder and joy of discovery typical of the ensemble. They will be joined by the pianist **Jan Michiels**, who will bring De Machaut's music into dialogue with works by **György Kurtag**, **Johann Sebastian Bach** and **György Ligeti**.

It is a contradiction but just to make silence heard, one must make a lot of noise. That's why a festival inside the festival is organized together with **Arts Center nona: NOISENOISENOISE**.

**Evi Filippou** and **Aya Suzuki**, two rising stars in the percussion world, will perform together for the first time. They each perform a solo and conclude with a joint improvisation. It will be nuclear fusion in sound.

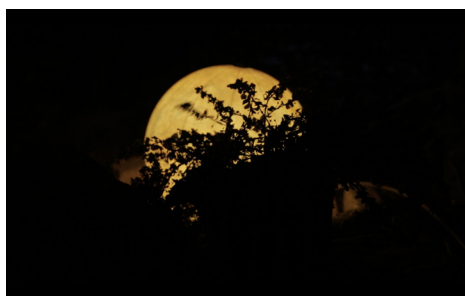
Composer, performer and poet **Jaap Blonk** is also present at NOISENOISENOISE. Exploring the realm of the voice is his trademark. In *Our ears felt like canyons II* guitar quartet **Zwerm** offers an adventurous listening experience in which the guitars reverberate through the entire body. The trio **Avant Joik** cheerfully mixes vocal and visual experiments with joik, the song of the Sami from the High North. **Maja Ratkje** has repeatedly been lauded as one of the most fascinating composers of our time, **Katarina Barruk** is an advocate of Sami culture and **Matti Aikio** creates visual fireworks.

Also on the LUNALIA programme are two music theater productions. A real ear opener is the musical theater *Lalaei*, Persian for lullaby. Together with **Walpurgis**, the electric guitar quartet **Zwerm** gives the western clichés surrounding Persian culture a licking start. Using mythology, songs, personal experiences, humour and doubt, it seeks out a new story beyond fairy tales and newspaper reports.

The icing on the cake will be the premiere of the music theater production *Time to say goodbye* by **Thorbjörn Björnsson**. In *Time to Say Goodbye*, we bid farewell to the Earth. Will we have made the Earth uninhabitable soon? Should we organise a farewell ceremony? Or can we re-ground ourselves?

**Gustav Mahler's** *Das Lied von der Erde*, **Marta Zapparoli's** *Sonata per eterna* and concrete sounds of the Earth are the ingredients for fresh musical compost. Born performer Thorbjörn Björnsson is known from the many top international productions by David Marton. With him at the helm, this musical and theatrical letter to the Earth will make for extraordinary reading.

Jelle Dierickx, directeur Festival van Vlaanderen Mechelen



## ZINDERENDE STILTE - CURATORS

Curators **Virginie Platteau** and **Jelle Dierickx** are shaping the thematic year for Mechelen in 2021-22: **Blazing Silence**. It will examine various facets of silence in a social context. Activities include a day of silence (31/10/21), a five-day festival (Zinding (Blaze), 9-13/12/21), a symposium on silence and health (18-20/2/22), the installation Sjel in the nature reserves around Mechelen (spring '22) and a special event on film and silence (March '22). Here silence is more than the absence of sound. It is silence that can be heard, felt and experienced. Silence that brings clarity in difficult times. It has been a deliberate choice not to overload the programme of this thematic year. A few moments in the year were chosen, with a preference for gentle transformation over bombastic shows. Focal points are established to make silence and encounter possible. One of the aims is to create and examine an alternative tempo in public space and a city made to fit people.

Blazing Silence is an initiative by Mechelen Feest.  
All info at: [mechelen.be/zinderende-stilte](https://mechelen.be/zinderende-stilte)



Virginie Platteau and Jelle Dierickx © Karin Van Hees

MORE INFORMATION & PRESS TICKETS

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