

LUNALIA 2024

PRESS



150 artists from 10 countries

16 concerts

12 additional concerts during the free
opening party LUNALIA LIFT OFF

6 family concerts

FESTIVAL VAN VLAANDEREN MECHELEN PRESENTEERT

LUNALIA

De harten van Europa

Pavel Haas Quartet

Simona Saturova

Musica Gloria

Voces8

Catalina Vicens

Zefiro Torna

Tiburtina Ensemble

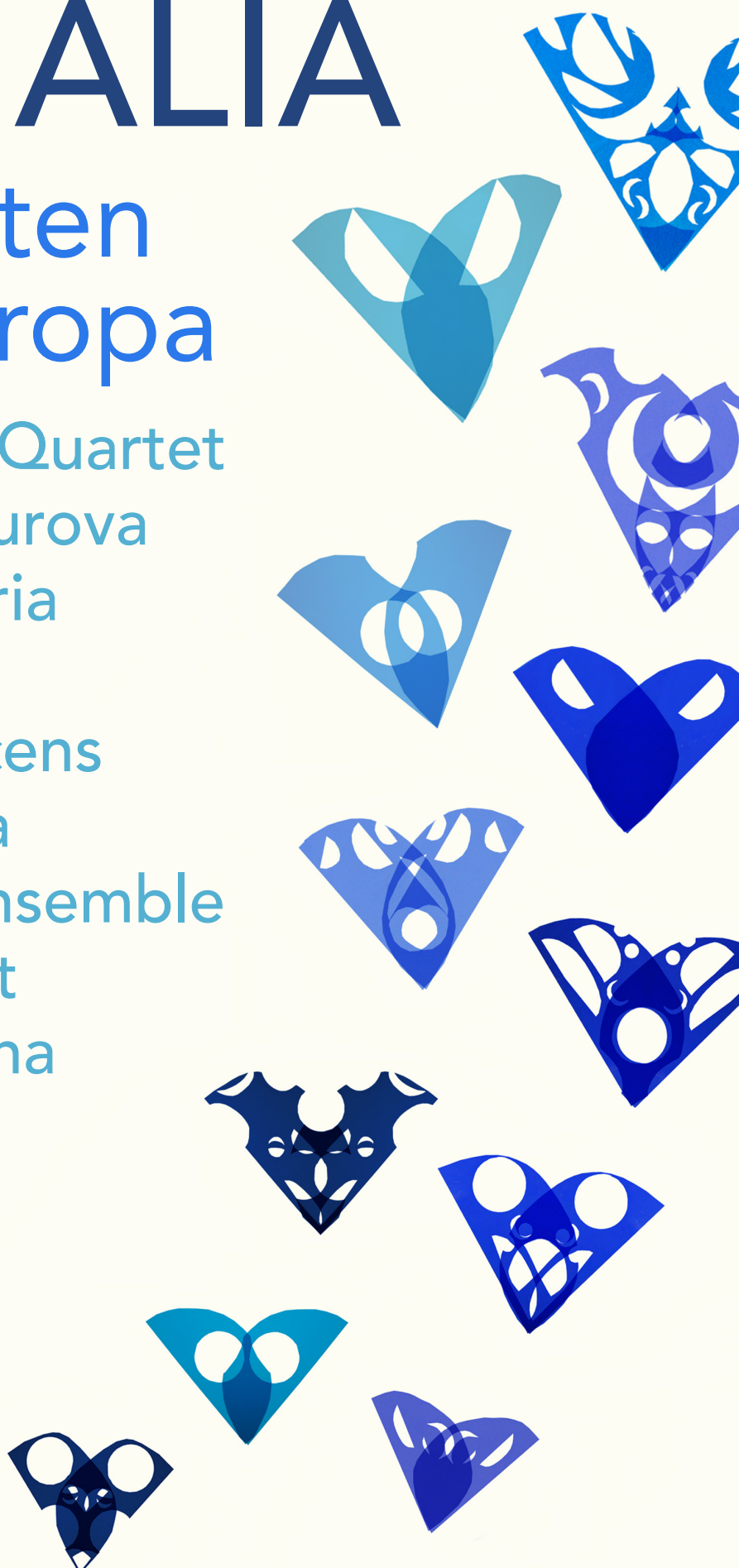
Kris Defoort

Anima Eterna

en vele anderen

18 april tot

5 mei 2024



LUNALIA 2024 APRIL 18 - MAY 5

For its seventh edition, Lunalia, the spring festival of the Festival of Flanders Mechelen, is once again in the city of Mechelen and, together with its partners, arts centre nona and cultural centre Mechelen, is putting on a rich and adventurous programme under the motto *The Hearts of Europe*.

Europe has many hearts. At Lunalia, you can come and listen to these hearts beating in Mechelen. Belgium will take on the European presidency in the first half of 2024, so it's only logical that Mechelen will have a related city theme in the spring: Construct Europe. Lunalia's response is a motto that reflects the many voices of Europe, with a focus on Central Europe and a special place in our hearts for the Czech music scene. One reason for this is the celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of Bedrich Smetana's birth. Smetana was born in 1824. His operas, and particularly his symphonic cycle *Má Vlast*, 'My Fatherland' (including the famous symphonic poem 'The Moldau'), are world famous, but his chamber music, songs and choir music also deserve to be better known. For this aspect of the programme, we are working in close partnership with Czech Dreams and our Czech partner festival, *Concentus Moraviae*. Discover musicians who make hearts resound, including the Pavel Haas Quartet, Simona Saturova, Musica Gloria, Voces8, Catalina Vicens, Zefiro Torna, Tiburtina Ensemble, Kris Defoort and Anima Eterna. True to its DNA, the festival explores diverse styles, genres, and forms. In addition to concerts, intimate recitals and children's performances, jazz performances and a theatrical radio show are on the agenda.

HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING CONCERT TE DEUM

Lunalia 2024 will begin with Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Te Deum, a composition that is unfortunately often reduced to the theme music of the Eurovision Song Contest. The Belgian ensemble Musica Gloria will reveal the piece in all its glory. The ensemble will combine this brilliant showpiece with music by the Swedish composer Gustav Düben and the Czech master Pavel Vejvanovsky, among others, uniting many musical European hearts in a magnificent opening concert.

This concert was made possible with the support of Construct Europe

OPENING CONCERT TE DEUM Musica Gloria

APRIL 19 - 20:15 St. Rombouts Cathedral



FOCUS ON BEDRICH SMETANA

This composer was born in 1824. His operas and mainly the symphonic cycle *Má Vlast - My Fatherland* (including the famous symphonic poem *The Moldau*) are world-famous, but his chamber music, songs and choral music also deserve to be better known. During the free opening *Lunalia Lift Off* festival, one can come and discover Smetana's piano music in Mechelen, among other things.

The Slovakian soprano *Simona Šaturová* and the award-winning *Czech Zemlinsky Quartet* put music by Smetana at the center of their recital deluxe.

The *Pavel Haas Quartet* also delves into Smetana's oeuvre. *BBC Music Magazine* has ranked the *Pavel Haas Quartet* among the ten best string quartets of all time. The quartet are coming to Mechelen for the very first time with a programme devoted entirely to their homeland, the Czech Republic. The central piece is *Bedřich Smetana's First String Quartet*, subtitled 'From My Life'. The composer, who had already been deaf for two years by 1876, called it 'a meditation on my life and the catastrophe of total deafness'.

LUNALIA LIFT OFF Opening Celebration

APRIL 20 - 14:00 - 17:00 city centre of Mechelen

RECITAL DELUXE *Simona Šaturová & Zemlinsky Quartet*

APRIL 20 - 20:15 St. Peter and Paul church

CZECH DREAMS *Pavel Haas Quartet*

APRIL 25 - 20:15 St. Peter and Paul church

MOIRA, every beginning has an end

The widely acclaimed musician Catalina Vincens, video artist Kurt D'Haeseleer and HERMESensemble are joining forces in Moira, a project that bears the name of the ancient Greek goddess of fate. The starting point is the famous fourteenth-century Apocalypse Tapestry at the Château d'Angers. Fragments of the tapestry are transformed into video art which, in turn, connects new music by Daan Janssens to the music of composers such as Orlandus Lassus. In Moira, past, present and future come together, both in the scenography and the music.

MOIRA Catalina Vincens & HERMESensemble

APRIL 21 - 20:15 CULTURAL CENTRE MECHELEN



UNITY IN DIVERSITY

THE EUROPEAN LUTE SONG PROJECT

In the context of the Belgian presidency of the European Union in 2024, Zefiro Torna has initiated the European participative project Unity in Diversity. The ensemble has invited three singers and three lute players from diverse cultural and musical backgrounds to find a shared musical language through intercultural dialogue and experiment. Monodic and polyphonic singing and instrumental music are the starting point and outcome of this dialogue. The music refers to social events, religious rites, economic circumstances and dramatic historical events that have helped to constitute the DNA of European identity.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY Zefiro Torna
MAY 1 - 20:15 St. Peter and Paul church



FOR REAL, a theatrical radio show

Dutch harpist Andrea Voets connects journalism with music with the aim of analyzing emotional blind spots in society. Resonate Productions' most recent show, FOR REAL, is about the intellectual undermining of women and the lack of interest in what they make, say or try to achieve in life. FOR REAL is a theatrical radio show in which the audience engages in conversation with three musicians and a mosaic of recorded women's voices. Everything is underpinned by music and a completely new way of improvising, in which the musicians accompany risky conversations as they unfold. This leads to a shared conversation about this sexism of the spirit and soul. And about what it means for every human being to be taken seriously, to matter. Each performance will be recorded and broadcast as a podcast.

FOR REAL will be hosted as part of Lunalia's focus on musical journalism between 2022 and 2027. Andrea Voets is the festival's associate artist for this aspect of its activity. Born in Bruges, Andrea Voets is a trained harpist and philosopher who is fluent in six languages, including Farsi and Modern Greek. She is the founder of Resonate Productions. This foundation makes musical journalism: performances and podcasts that combine incisive social journalism with many layers of original music. The goal is to start meaningful conversations about emotional blind spots in society and offer ways out of the problems they cause. Examples include Millennial History (best of human interest radio '22, Association for International Broadcasters), While We Live (best classical music 2020, NRC) and Wings & Roots. The foundation's artistic director, Andrea Voets, is currently engaged in worldwide research into the question of how to feel safe, thanks to the selective FastForward grant from the Dutch Fonds Podiumkunsten.

FOR REAL Resonate Productions
MAY 5 - 20:30 ARTS CENTRE NONA



CONSTRUCT EUROPE

In the first half of 2024, Belgium will be the president of the Council of the European Union. We are celebrating the European presidency in Mechelen with a grand city festival focused on culture and society, for which the City of Mechelen is teaming up with its partners, the Hannah Arendt Institute, nona arts centre, Mechelen Feest and the non-profit organisation J@M. The programme we have compiled will bring the themes of the festival to life: connection, cooperation and democratic dialogue. These values bring Europe and its citizens closer together.

CZECH DREAMS 2024

The fifth year of the pan-European project Czech Dreams will focus on the presentation of Czech chamber music by exceptional musicians in an inspiring dramatic setting. The focal point will be the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Bedřich Smetana's birth. The international music festival Concentus Moraviae will provide the dramatic setting for the Year of Czech Music.

During Czech Dreams 2024, more than 100 concerts will be held throughout the year in 24 selected European countries, in approximately 70 towns and cities in European regions. The project will begin on 12 January 2024 at the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Humlebæk. The 'Czech Weekends' or 'Czech Weeks' in selected European cities will be an important aspect of Czech Dreams 2024. A perfect example of these large-scale presentations of Czech culture will be the Czech Week in Mechelen during the Lunalia festival.

MORE INFORMATION & PRESS TICKETS

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