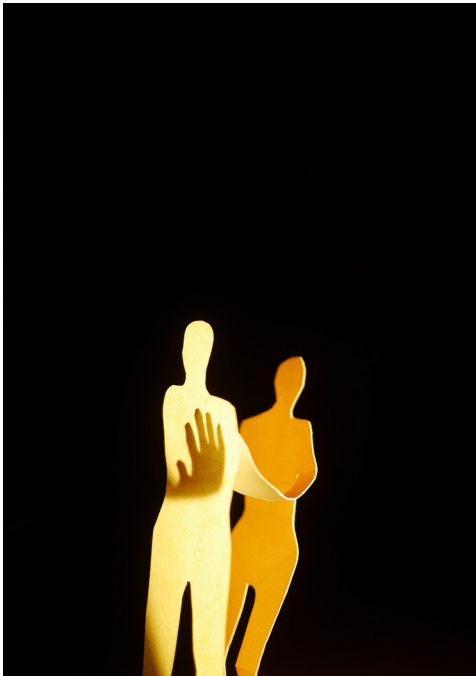
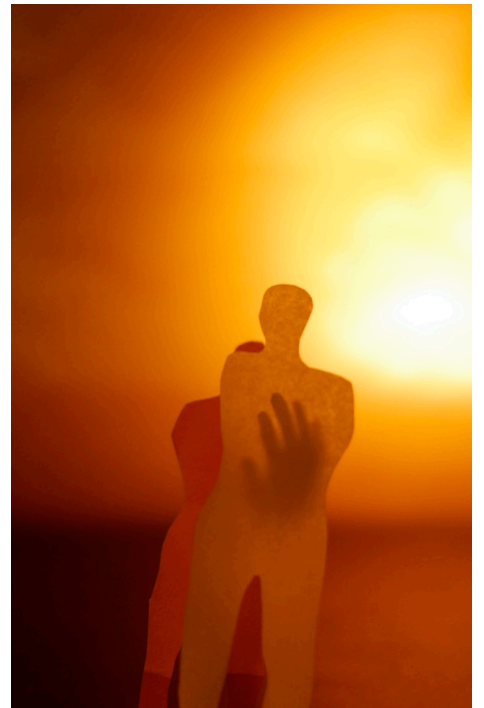




MUSICA
DIVINA
PRESS



PROGRAMMA 2023

DO 21.09

ABDIJ VAN AVERBODE

BRYGGEN

Bruges Strings

VR 22.09

GEEL

Graindelavoix

ZA 23.09

ABDIJ VAN TONGERLO

Voces Suaves

ZO 24.09

ABDIJ VAN POSTEL

Romina Lischka

DO 28.09

HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG

Ensemble Gamut!

VR 29.09

HERENTALS

Les Muffatti

DI 03.10

GEEL

Ijlland

WO 04.10

MOL

Psallentes

& Revue Blanche

DO 05.10

TURNHOUT

Benedicte Maurseth

ZA 07.10

HOOGSTRATEN

Currende

ZO 08.10

LIER

Annelien Van Wauwe

& Carousel

Musica Divina 2023

Caring for each other

From September 21st until October 8th 2023



From September 21st until October 8th 2023, you'll be able to experience the 11th edition of Musica Divina filled with heavenly music in the heart of the Kempen region. The Flanders Kempen Festival organises concerts in abbeys, beguinages and churches at the start of the new cultural season. Under the festival motto 'Caring for each other', Musica Divina brings heavenly and healing music to the Kempen this year.

With the festival motto A happy heart (promotes healing), it became apparent back in 2022 that the healing aspect of music will hold a place of honour alongside heavenliness during Musica Divina. In 2023, the motto will be Caring for each other. Many dimensions of this challenge will be addressed during this festival edition: The guardian angel, caring for the deceased and the bereaved, caring for oneself, runic songs, caring for people on the run, the ceremony of marriage, caring for a future today, caring for nature, allowing darkness and sharing the breath of life.

Director Jelle Dierickx: "During the concerts, the music provides a connection to each other. Between the musicians themselves, between the musicians and the listeners. The festival team will also take good care of you during Musica Divina."

During each edition, Musica Divina provides a unique interplay between heritage and music. The programme will include BRYGGEN Bruges Strings at Averbode Abbey, Graindelavoix in Geel, Les Muffatti in Herentals, Voces Suaves at Tongerlo Abbey, Psallentes & Revue Blanche in Mol, Benedicte Maurserth in Turnhout, Ensemble Gamut! in Heist-op-den-Berg, Romina Lischka at Postel Abbey, Carousel in Lier and Currende in Hoogstraten.

Musica Divina is a full experience. Each concert includes an introduction by Klara presenter Katelijne Boon. After each concert, listeners can enjoy a free reception in cooperation with local authorities and partners. Musica Divina highly values Kempen hospitality.

The full programme can be found at: www.musica-divina.be.

The opening week of Musica Divina brings heavenly music to Averbode, Geel, Tongerlo and Postel.



From September 21st until October 8th 2023, you'll be able to enjoy the 11th edition of Musica Divina, the autumn festival in the religious heritage buildings of the Kempen region, brought to you by the Festival of Flanders Kempen. The festival traditionally begins with special concerts at the abbeys in Tongerlo, Postel and Averbode. This year, the festival will also be hosted in Geel, where Graindelavoix led by Björn Schmelzer will present a Musica Divina concert. There will be an entire week of opening events, ensuring an all-round experience filled with concerts and lectures. The motto of Musica Divina 2023 is *Care for Each Other*. The opening week focuses on the themes of the guardian angel, care for the dead and care for ourselves, with music by composers including Arvo Pärt, Caroline Shaw, Josquin Des Prez and Johann Hermann Schein, as well as Indian ragas.

Averbode Abbey opens its doors to **BRYGGEN Bruges Strings led by Jolente De Maeyer**. Their programme, *The Guardian Angel*, includes *Lonely Angel*, a meditation for violin and strings by the Latvian composer **Peteris Vasks**. The starting point for Vasks was the vision of an angel flying above the world with eyes filled with tears, contemplating the state of the world. But the tender, almost imperceptible touch of its wings brings hope and healing. This guardian angel is the starting point for the festival story of Musica Divina 2023: *Care for Each Other*.

In St Dymphna's Church in Geel, **Graindelavoix** will present its new programme, *Anthems for Doomed Youth*. It consists of lamentations by David for Absalom and Jonathan in English, Franco-Flemish and Spanish polyphony. The title comes from the famous poem by the war poet **Wilfred Owen**, who wrote this lament for the death of young soldiers. David's laments for two fallen soldiers, his son Absalom and his beloved Jonathan, were set to music many times in the 16th and early 17th centuries, on both sides of the Channel. Graindelavoix will perform its selection in the majestic St Dymphna's Church in Geel, a few hundred metres from the cemetery for soldiers who died during the Allied Liberation Offensive in 1944.

Voces Suaves will illuminate Tongerlo Abbey Church with the light in their voices. They will perform one of the most important collections of motets in 17th century German music history: *Israelsbrünlein* by **Johann Hermann Schein**. Most of the compositions are based on Old Testament texts, which is the reason for the name of the collection, published in Leipzig in 1623. Four hundred years later, Voces Suaves will perform this exceptional work from the history of spiritual music at the abbey church in Tongerlo.

The viol player **Romina Lischka** hardly needs any introduction. In 2018, she was awarded the Klara prize for soloist of the year, in 2019 she was the guest of honour at Bozar, and in 2020 she received an Ultima Award from the Flemish government, to name just a few of her achievements. She has developed a solo programme for Musica Divina that seeks the healing aspect of music through the French Baroque and Indian ragas, in the intimate setting of Postel Abbey Church.

PRACTICAL

September 21, 2023 (20:00 - 21:30): BRYGGEN Bruges Strings - Averbode Abbey - Scherpenheuvel-Zichem

September 22, 2023 (20:00 - 21:30): Graindelavoix - Sint-Dimpnakerk - Geel

September 23, 2023 (19:30 - 21:00): Voces Suaves - Tongerlo Abbey - Westerlo

September 24, 2023 (20:00 - 21:30): Romina Lischka - Abbey Postel - Mol

www.musica-divina.be

Musica Divina brings healing music from the far north to the Kempen



The Musica Divina festival brings heavenly, healing music to the beautiful abbeys, beguinages and churches of the Kempen region every autumn. It is organised by the Festival of Flanders Kempen in partnership with Averbode, Tongerlo (Westerlo), Mol/Postel, Geel, Heist-op-den-Berg, Herentals, Hoogstraten, Lier and Turnhout. The festival motto in 2023 is Care for Each Other. Many different dimensions of this motto emerge during this edition of the festival: the guardian angel, care for the dead and the bereaved, self-care, rune songs, caring for people fleeing their homes, the wedding ceremony, building a future today, caring for nature, allowing the darkness in and sharing the breath of life with each other. Musicians including the Finnish **Ensemble Gamut!** and the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle player **Benedicte Maurseth** bring healing music from the far north to the Kempen.

Heavenly, healing music: the essence of Musica Divina is perfectly expressed in the project *RE* by the Finnish **Ensemble Gamut!** in Heist-op-den-Berg, September 28. The musicians explore the various traditions of healing and music in the oldest preserved Finnish manuscripts and rune songs. They combine historical instruments with electronics in a fresh, new way. Finnish folk, mediaeval music, improvisation and soundscapes go hand in hand. Expect a concert as invigorating as a walk in the forests of Finland.

Benedicte Maurseth won the Nordic Music Prize in 2022 with her album *Hárr*. She will present it for the first time in Belgium at Musica Divina, on October 5 in St Peter's Church in Turnhout. The jury described the album as follows: *"An enchanting fusion of traditional folk instrumentation with modern technology and field recordings. This is music as ruthlessly beautiful as the landscape that inspired it, and which is concerned in its own gentle way with the vital issues of ecology and community."* In her music, Maurseth shows that care for nature and care for each other are the same thing. With leading musicians including **Christian Wallumrød**, **Håkon Mørch Stene** and **Per Zanussi** at her side, this valuable musical message is destined to shine.

The Musica Divina programme also includes BRYGGEN Bruges Strings at Averbode Abbey, Graindelavoix in Geel, Les Muffatti in Herentals, Voces Suaves at Tongerlo Abbey, Psallentes & Revue Blanche in Mol, Romina Lischka in Postel Abbey, Carousel in Lier and Currende in Hoogstraten.

PRACTICAL

September 28, 2023 (20:00 - 21:30): Ensemble Gamut! - Saint-Alfonsius de Liguori Church - Heist-op-den-Berg

October 5, 2023 (20:15 - 21:45): Benedicte Maurseth - Sint-Pieterskerk - Turnhout

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In Memory of Wim Henderickx with Annelien Van Wauwe and Carousel at the Jesuit Church in Lier



From September 21st until October 8th 2023, you'll be able to experience the 11th edition of Musica Divina filled with heavenly music in the heart of the Kempen region. The Festival of Flanders Kempen organises concerts in abbeys, beguinages and churches with a unique interplay between heritage and music. This year, Musica Divina will bring the festival to a close with a concert **in memory** of the composer **Wim Henderickx** by **Annelien Van Wauwe** and **Carousel**, on October 8th in Lier.

Annelien Van Wauwe turns heads around the world as both a clarinet player and fervent yoga practitioner. During an interview for the BBC, she said: *"There is this big cliché that people think you sit on a mat, chant 'om' and forget everything around you. But a big part of yoga is about the life force."* This breath of life is the focus of Musica Divina's closing concert. The highlight is **Wim Henderickx'** clarinet concerto Sutra, inspired by the principles of yoga. The composer hoped to conduct this concert himself in Lier, the town of his birth, and in the Jesuit Church he was so fond of. His beautiful heart left us too soon, but the breath of life still flows through his music.

In the afternoon, clarinet player Annelien Van Wauwe will lead a free, musical breathing meditation. It will be a workshop on yoga breathing techniques filled with live music fragments from Sutra by Wim Henderickx for basset clarinet solo in A and electronics. The clarinet concerto Wim Henderickx wrote for Annelien Van Wauwe is based on the principles of yoga. The first part was given the name Pranayama or Breath of Life. It is like awakening the breath, as it were. The perfect starting point for this workshop.

PRACTICAL

October 8, 2023 (15:00): Breathing meditation - Annelien Van Wauwe - Jesuit Church of Lier

October 8, 2023 (20:00): Breath of Life - In Memoriam Wim Henderickx - Carousel - Jesuit Church of Lier

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