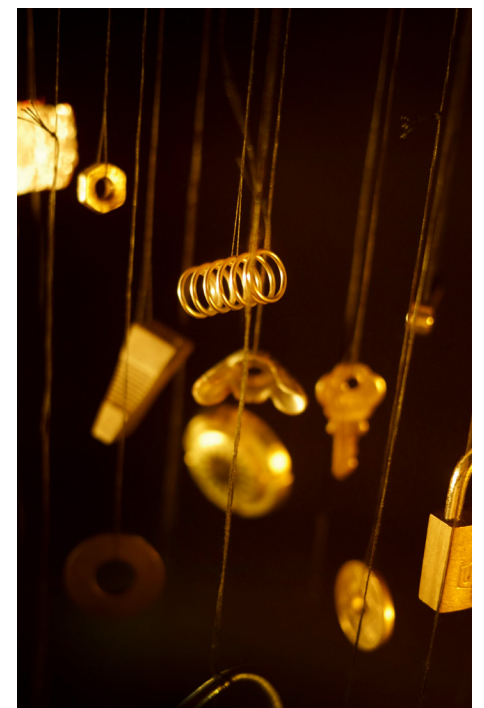
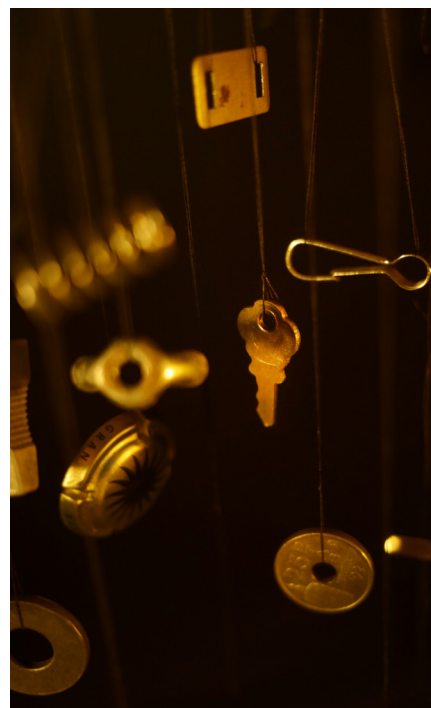
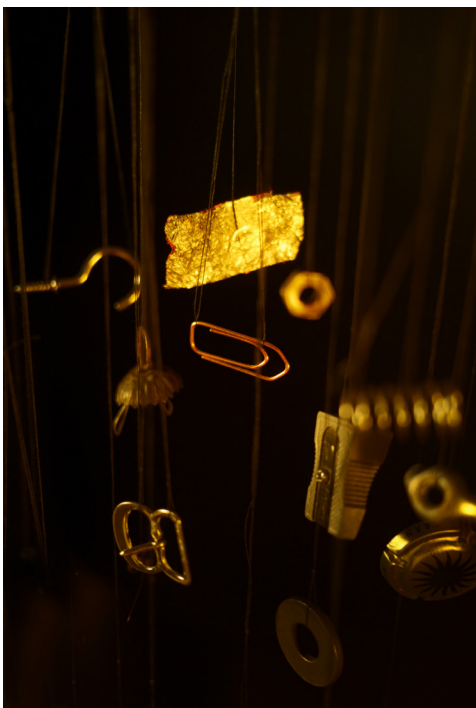
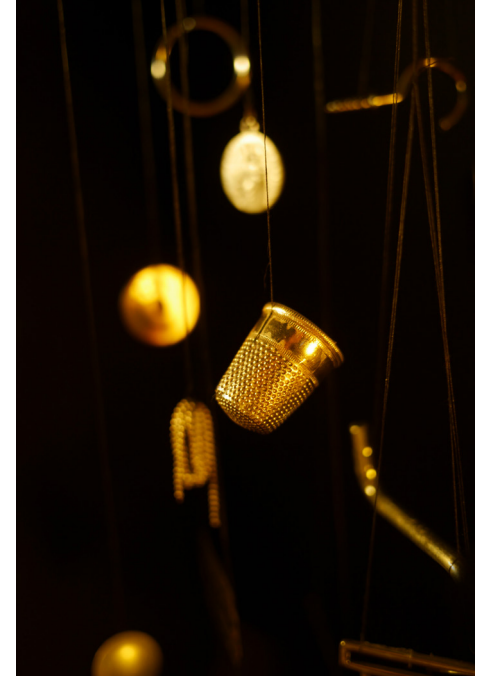
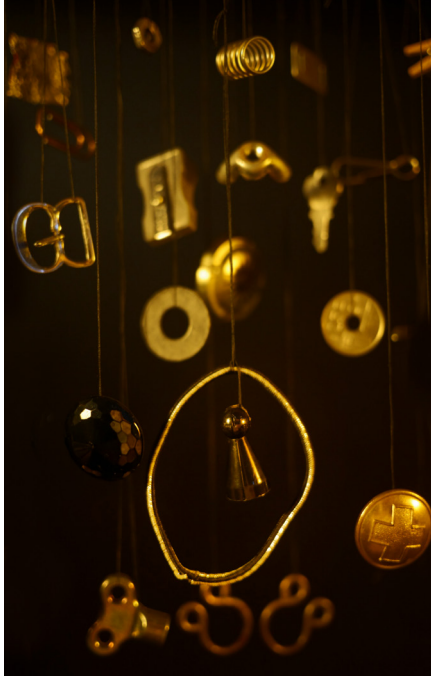




MUSICA
DIVINA
PRESS



KALENDER

DO 16.09

GEEL

Peltomaa

Fraanje

Perkola

+ Het Kempens Psalmen-
boek

ABDIJENWEEKEND

VR 17.09

ABDIJ VAN TONGERLO

Vox Luminis

ZA 18.09

ABDIJ VAN AVERBODE

Cappella Mariana

+ Dagprogramma

ZO 19.09

ABDIJ VAN POSTEL

Lore Binon

VR 24.09

TURNHOUT

Graindelavoix

WO 29.09

MOL

Currende

DO 30.09

HERENTALS

Sjaella

VR 01.10

HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG

Raquel Andueza

& La Galanía

ZA 02.10

HOOGSTRATEN

BLINDMAN [sax]

ZO 03.10

LIER

Michel Godard

CONTACT

**Festival van Vlaanderen
Kempens vzw**

Onder-den-Toren 12
2800 Mechelen

32 (0) 15 20 49 82

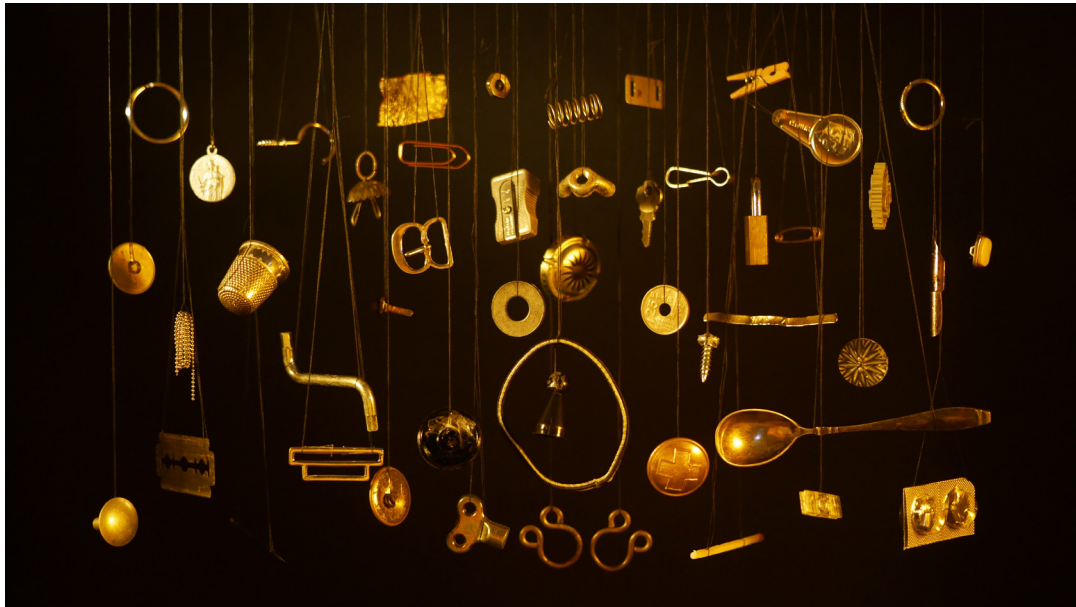
kempens@festival.be

www.musica-divina.be

Musica Divina 2021

A small eternity

16 September - 3 October 2021



The graphic designer and artist Emilie Lauwers was inspired by everyday objects with a hint of eternity to create the campaign images for Musica Divina 2021.

Between 16 September and 3 October 2021, you will be able to enjoy the ninth edition of Musica Divina, with heavenly music in the heart of the Kempen region. The Festival of Flanders Kempen organises concerts in abbeys, beguinages and churches at the beginning of the new cultural season. The focus of this year's festival is time, under the motto *A small eternity*.

A second, a minute, an hour, a day, a week, a month, a year, a decade, a century. Human beings try to grasp time but tend to get stuck between the grains of sand in the hourglass. In 2021, Musica Divina will be hurling itself wholeheartedly into the universal clockwork of Chronos, in a contemplation of small eternities. A contemplation of the 500 years that separate us from the death of Josquin des Prez and the birth of Philippus De Monte, two great names in the pantheon of Flemish Polyphony. The nine centuries that the Norbertine Order has now existed is an even longer time span. For many years now, Musica Divina has been a guest at some of the beautiful Norbertine monasteries that grace the country, and it is certainly looking forward to celebrating this anniversary along with the monastic communities.

Director Jelle Dierickx: "An extra source of inspiration for Musica Divina 2021 was the 'undated diary' of the Polish poet Adam Zagajewski. The German translation bears the title *Die kleine Ewigkeit der Kunst*: 'the small eternity of art'. It was published in Krakow in 2011 as *Lekka przesada*, a title that was translated literally in the English version of the book, *Slight Exaggeration*. The book is a plea for the necessity of art in our modern world. One of the things Zagajewski has to say about music is:

Music reminds us what love is. If someone has forgotten what love is, they should listen to music.

His book continually connects the personal to the general, for example by linking stories from Lviv, the city where he was born, with reflections on Rainer Maria Rilke and Emil Cioran. This balancing on the border between art and everyday life is also apparent when he writes about looking at a painting:

I liked this small eternity; I would have liked to have been part of it, of the dignity of ideal beings. Not only that: I allowed myself to sink into it. Perhaps that enabled me to experience something of the temptation of St Cecilia to a certain extent. But it never lasted long, no, it couldn't last very long. All too soon, I returned to the other living, hungry monks and we shared our evening meal.

May Musica Divina 2021 hold many small eternities.

Musica Divina creates a unique interaction between heritage buildings and music. The Musica Divina programme also features artists such as Vox Luminis in Tongerlo Abbey, Currende in Mol, Graindelavoix in Turnhout, Raquel Andueza in Heist-op-den-Berg and BLINDMAN in Hoogstraten. Musica Divina is an all-round experience. As well as first-class concerts with heavenly music, you can look forward to a lecture about the Norbertine Order and the book presentation of the *Kempen Books of Psalms*.

You will find the full programme at www.musica-divina.be.

Musica Divina's Opening week brings heavenly music to Geel, Averbode, Tongerlo and Postel



The graphic designer and artist Emilie Lauwers was inspired by everyday objects with a hint of eternity to create the campaign images for Musica Divina 2021.

Enjoy the ninth edition of Musica Divina, the autumn festival brought to you by the Festival of Flanders Kempen, between 16 September and 3 October 2021, in the religious heritage buildings of the Kempen region. The festival traditionally begins with an Abbey Weekend at the abbeys in Tongerlo, Postel and Averbode. This year, the festival will be hosted in Geel first of all, with a Musica Divina concert by Peltomaa Fraanje Perkola and the book presentation of *The Kempen Book of Psalms*. It will be a full week of opening events: an all-round experience filled with concerts and lectures. The motto of Musica Divina 2021 is *A small eternity*. During the opening week, the focus will be on the nine hundredth anniversary of the Order of Norbertines as well as the celebrations in honour of two of the greatest polyphonists: Philipppus De Monte and Josquin des Prez.

In St Amand's Church in Geel, the three world-class musicians in the trio **Peltomaa Fraanje Perkola** combine the world of Hildegard von Bingen's music with Perotinus, Gregorian chant and 13th century pilgrim songs. They stylishly fill the small eternity between this music and their own compositions with a captivating soundscape. Before the concert is the presentation of the book *The Kempen Book of Psalms* in CC De Werft. Especially for this book presentation, Sara Salvérius has composed a prelude and postlude for solo accordion for the *Psalm van Sylvie* that Sylvie Marie wrote for the first edition of Poesia Divina. **Vox Luminis**, led by Lionel Meunier, will illuminate Tongerlo Abbey with the light in their voices. They will perform their sensitive interpretation of music by Josquin des Prez in honour of the 500th anniversary of his death. Along with the famous *Missa L'Homme Armé*, there are also several motets by this great 16th century master on the programme. Averbode Abbey opens its doors to the renowned ensemble **Cappella Mariana** from Prague, led by Vojtech Semerád. On the 500th anniversary of Philipppus de Monte's birth, they will perform *In Monte Sionem*, vespers for the festival of St Norbert. This is a way to honour both the last of the Flemish Polyphonists and the Norbertine Order that is nine centuries old this year. During the daytime programme, Father Jos Bielen will tell us about St Norbert's guiding principles in the lecture *Norbert and his followers, 900 years later*. In the abbey church, **Lore Binon** will bring English repertoire songs from the 16th and 17th centuries back to life. The programme includes both *With Endless Tears* by Robert Johnson and the anonymous songs *The Dark is my Delight* and *Daphne from Fair Phoebus did Fly*.

In 2021, Musica Divina will be hurling itself wholeheartedly into the universal clockwork of Chronos, in a contemplation of small eternities. A contemplation of the 500 years that separate us from the death of Josquin des Prez and the birth of Philipppus De Monte, two great names in the pantheon of Flemish Polyphony. The nine centuries that the Norbertine Order has now existed is an even longer time span. For many years now, Musica Divina has been a guest at some of the beautiful Norbertine monasteries that grace the country, and it is certainly looking forward to celebrating this anniversary along with the monastic communities. May Musica Divina 2021 hold many small eternities.

PRACTICAL INFO

16 September 2021 (20:30 - 21:30): Peltomaa Fraanje Perkola: St.-Amand Church - Geel

16 September 2021 (19:30 - 20:00): Book presentation *The Kempen Book of Psalms* - CC De Werft - Geel

17 September 2021 (19:30 - 20:45): Vox Luminis - Tongerlo Abbey - Westerlo

18 September 2021 (20:00 - 21:15): Cappella Mariana - Averbode Abbey - Scherpenheuvel-Zichem

18 September 2021 (16:00 - 17:00): Lecture by Father Jos Bielen - Averbode Abbey - Scherpenheuvel-Zichem

19 September 2021 (20:00 - 21:15): Lore Binon - Postel Abbey - Mol

www.musica-divina.be

Musica Divina presents The Kempen Book of Psalms of Poesia Divina in Geel, the heart of the Kempen region



Musica Divina is the autumn festival brought to you by Festival of Flanders Kempen. In 2021, it will be held in abbeys, churches and beguinages in Geel, Herentals, Turnhout, Hoogstraten, Heist-op-den-Berg, Lier, Postel, Averbode en Tongerlo. The festival is a Kempen story through and through. A story full of heavenly music.

From 2017 until 2020, a new aspect was linked to Musica Divina: **Poesia Divina**. At each festival, nine poets were asked to write a psalm based on the festival motto. It wasn't an easy task. What is a psalm, a sung prayer, at the beginning of the 21st century?

The Festival of Flanders Kempen organised Poesia Divina in partnership with the Poëziecentrum, and also with CC Zwaneberg in Heist-op-den-Berg in 2018, CC 't Schalilken in Herentals in 2019 and CC 't Getouw in Mol in 2020. The very first edition was held in Tongerlo Abbey. Hardly any restrictions were imposed on the poets. Their task was to write a psalm linked to the theme of the festival. The result of this fascinating quest is a genuine "**Kempen Book of Psalms**".

The Kempen Book of Psalms will be presented on 16 September at CC De Werft in Geel. Especially for this book presentation, **Sara Salvénius** has composed a prelude and postlude for solo accordion for the *Psalm van Sylvie* that **Sylvie Marie** wrote for the first edition of Poesia Divina.

The sung prayers came from the poets: Geert Van Istendael, Runa Svetlikova, Peter Theunynck, Amina Belorf, Reine de Pelseener, Lucienne Stassaert, Luuk Gruwez, Bert van Raemdonck, Mahlu Mertens, Delphine Lecompte, Bart Stouten, Paul Demets, Charles Ducal, Gaea Schoeters, Maarten Inghels, Moya De Feyter, Els Moors, Lisette Ma Neza, Ruth Lasters, Paul Bogaert, Michaël Vandebriel, Mark Van Tongele, Inge Braeckman, Lotte Dodion, Marc Tritsmans, Anna Borodikhina, Carmien Michels, Sofie Verdoodt, Bruno Neuville, David Troch, Lies van Gasse, Jeroen Theunissen, Sylvie Marie, Kurt De Boodt, Jana Arns and Frederik L. De Laere.

All the film recordings of the psalms can still be watched and listened to at musica-divina.be.

The book will be on sale for € 20 from all good bookshops and the Poëzieshop from September onwards.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped to make Poesia Divina possible. Our thanks to the Flemish Community, our main sponsor IOK, the Poëziecentrum, and all the city and town councils, church councils, cultural centres, volunteers and of course the poets who took on the challenge. We would also like to thank Emilie Lauwers who provided the design for each edition of the festival and has also made this book so visually alluring.

PRACTICAL INFO

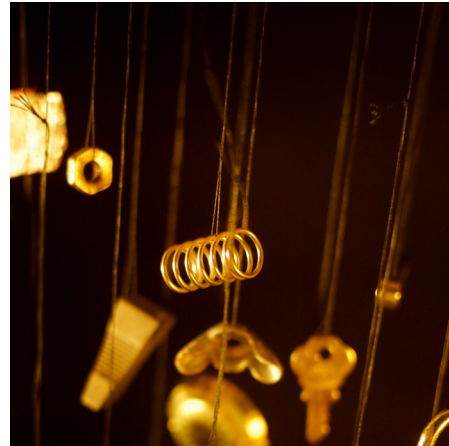
16 September 2021

19:30 Book Presentation The Kempen Book of Psalms - CC De Werft - Geel

20:30 Concert Peltomaa Fraanje Perkola - St.-Amand Church - Geel

www.musica-divina.be

Musica Divina combines music and parfume in an all-round experience at the Beguinage Church of Lier



Between 16 September and 3 October 2021, you will be able to enjoy the ninth edition of Musica Divina, with heavenly music in the heart of the Kempen region. The Festival of Flanders Kempen organises concerts in abbeys, beguinages and churches at the beginning of the new cultural season. Unique this year is the concert with Michel Godard in the Beguinage Church of Lier, with a dialogue between sound and parfume on the programme.

Perfumiers and musicians speak a similar language. They talk about chords, notes and harmonies. When they fade away, only the memory remains. Michel Godard and Ursula S. Yeo create a genuine dialogue between sound and scent. The perfumier dreams up chords of scent that inspire the musicians. Old and new music, instruments from the 17th and 21st centuries, costly scents from the past and present: a dream of timelessness, a small eternity.

In partnership with the Liers Cultuurcentrum and the city of Lier, the Beguinage Church of Lier opens its doors for serpent player Michel Godard, perfumer Ursula S. Yeo, trumpeter Aïrelle Besson, singer Natasa Mirkovic and guitarist Quiqui Sinesi during Musica Divina on 3 October 2021.

The Musica Divina programme also features artists such as Vox Luminis in Tongerlo Abbey, Currende in Mol, Graïndelavoix in Turnhout, Raquel Andueza in Heist-op-den-Berg, Cappella Mariana in Abbey Averbode, Sjaella in Herentals, Lore Binon in Postel Abbey, Peltomaa Fraanje Perkola in Geel and BL!NDMAN in Hoogstraten. These top musicians offer us *A little eternity* full of music.

PRACTICAL INFO

3 October 2021 - 20:15 Divina - Le concert des parfums - Beguinage Church of Lier

www.musica-divina.be

CONTACT

Festival van Vlaanderen Mechelen/Kempen
Onder-den-Toren 12, 2800 Mechelen
T +32 (0)15 20 49 82
kempen@festival.be

Dr. Jelle Dierickx
Director
jelle@festival.be

Michaela Defever
PR & marketing
michaela@festival.be
T +32(0)485 19 25 33