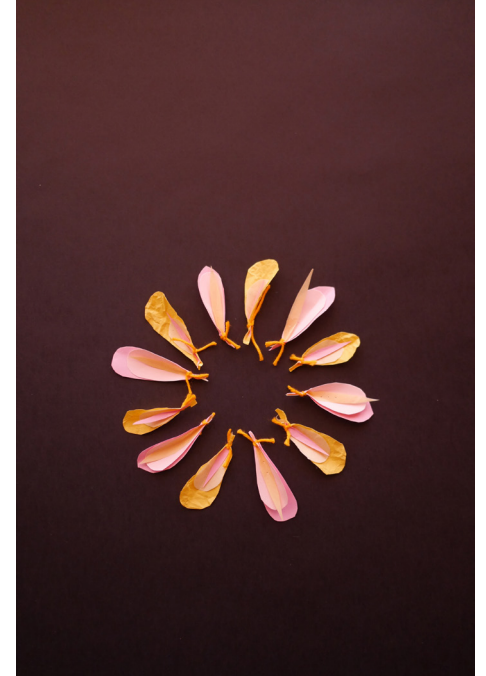
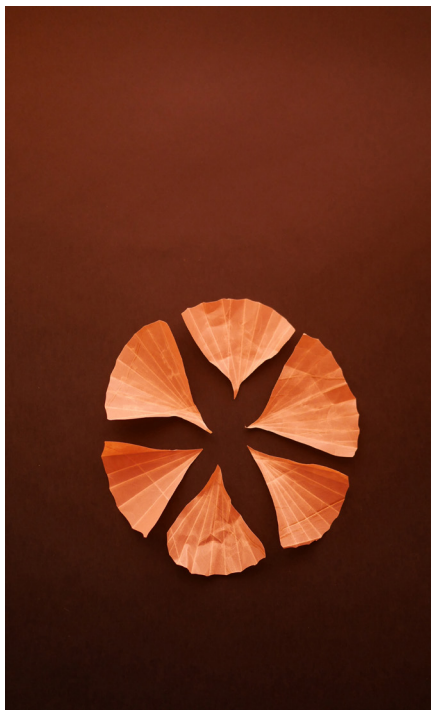




MUSICA  
DIVINA  
PRESS



## KALENDER

[www.musica-divina.be](http://www.musica-divina.be)

WO 14.09

**GEEL**

Vlaams Radiokoor  
& strijkkwartet van het  
Brussels Philharmonic  
o.l.v. Sigvards Klava

VR 23.09

**MOL**

Luise Enzian  
& Tehila Nini Goldstein

ZA 24.09

**HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG**

Ghalia Benali,  
Romina Lischka,  
Neva Özgen  
& Folkert Uhde

ZO 25.09

**LIER**

Merel Vercammen,  
Maya Fridman  
& LISAS

DO 29.09

**TURNHOUT**

The King's Singers

ABDIJENDRIEDAAGSE

DO 15.09

**AVERBODE**

Sollazzo Ensemble

VR 16.09

**POSTEL**

Duo Aznèm

ZA 17.09

**TONGERLO**

Ensemble  
Polyharmonique

ZO 18.09

**GEEL**

Denk- en voelmoment

DO 22.09

**HERENTALS**

Carolina Eyck  
& BRYGGEN

ZA 01.10

**TURNHOUT**

a nocte temporis

ZO 02.10

**HOOGSTRATEN**

Huun-Huur-Tu



# Musica Divina 2022

## A Joyful Heart

from 14 September to 2 October 2022



Graphic designer and artist Emilie Lauwers drew her inspiration for the campaign images for Musica Divina 2022 from objects representing joyful occasions, such as flower petals and gift wrap, arranged in a mandala form.

Between 14 September and 2 October 2022, you will be able to enjoy the tenth 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. Under the festival motto 'A joyful heart is good medicine', Musica Divina brings heavenly and healing music to the Kempen this year.

The motto of Musica Divina 2022 is taken from Proverbs 17:22. This festival theme is reflected in heavenly and healing music in the inspiring religious heritage buildings of the Kempen region, offering a programme that brings together east, west, north and south. After all, true joy knows no bounds. A joyful heart is a welcoming heart.

At Musica Divina, we will hear pilgrim songs, songs of praise to all mothers, motets by André Campra and slow silences. There will also be angel song, music for the theremin, North Indian dhrupad singing and throat singing from the steppes of Central Asia. Hopefully this brightly coloured bouquet will bring even more joy to the heart.

Director Jelle Dierickx adds: "There are two partners we would like to put in the spotlight in 2022: Cultuurhuis de Warande in Turnhout is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary and the IOK, or inter-communal cooperative for the development of the Kempen region and long-term structural partner of Musica Divina, is sixty years old this year."

Musica Divina creates a unique interaction between heritage buildings and music with each of its festivals. The programme features Sollazzo Ensemble at Averbode Abbey, the Vlaams Radiokoor in Geel, Carolina Eyck & Bryggen in Herentals, Ensemble Polyharmonique in Tongerlo Abbey, Luise Enzian and Tehila Nini Goldstein in Mol, The King's Singers and a nocte temporis in Turnhout, Ghalia Benali and Romina Lischka in Heist-op-den-Berg and Huun-Huur-Tu in Hoogstraten.

Musica Divina is an all-round experience. Each concert includes an introduction by Klara presenter Katerlijne Boon. After the concert, listeners can enjoy a free reception arranged with the help of the local authorities and partners. Musica Divina sets great store by Kempen hospitality.

Besides the cream of concerts with heavenly and healing music, the programme includes a music therapy thinking and feeling session, with the psychotherapist Dr Binu Singh, composer Esther Venrooy, silence specialist Virginie Platteau and musical journalist Andrea Voets as its guests of honour.

You will find the full programme at [www.musica-divina.be](http://www.musica-divina.be).

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



Graphic designer and artist Emilie Lauwers drew her inspiration for the campaign images for Musica Divina 2022 from objects representing joyful occasions, such as flower petals and gift wrap, arranged in a mandala form.

Enjoy the tenth edition of Musica Divina, the autumn festival brought to you by the Festival of Flanders Kempen, between 14 September and 2 October 2022, in the religious heritage buildings of the Kempen region. The festival traditionally begins with a three-day abbey event at the abbeys in Tongerlo, Postel and Averbode. This year, the festival will begin in Geel, with the Musica Divina concert by the Vlaams Radiokoor & Brussels Philharmonic string quartet. There will be a full week of opening events, ensuring an all-round experience filled with concerts and lectures. The motto of Musica Divina 2022 is *A joyful heart*. The opening week will focus on a musical pilgrimage, with work by composers including **Johann Sebastian Bach**, **Arvo Pärt** and **Heinrich Schütz**.

At St Dymphna's Church in Geel, the **Vlaams Radiokoor** and the string quartet of the **Brussels Philharmonic** led by **Sigvards Klava** will embark upon a musical pilgrimage. The programme describes the journey – or life path – of the pilgrim, which includes both wonder at nature and religious experiences. The first aspect is expressed in works such as *Reflections from a Plain* by **Tõnu Kõrvits**. We find the second in **Arvo Pärt's** *Missa Sillabica* for vocal ensemble and strings. Be sure not to miss the première of *Atmospheres* by **Rudi Tas** either.

Averbode Abbey opens its doors to the renowned **Sollazzo Ensemble** from Switzerland. In the programme *The Song of Angels*, they bring the 14th century Ars Nova music back to life. The melodies seem to burst open like the buds on a vine in spring, the polyphonic structures feel as strong as the pillars of the most elegant cathedrals and the old musical stories begin to shine again as if they were new. Sollazzo Ensemble tackles this age-old music brimming with life, making the angels dance like holograms.

At Postel Abbey Church, the Bruges-based **Duo Aznèm** presents *Kalimat*, a project very close to their hearts. The twin sisters Astrid and Emma Wauters incorporate spoken texts about universal love, comfort, the patterns in clouds, diversity and the bonds that connect all humanity into their performance. *Kalimat* is a balsam for the soul, with music ranging from **Johann Sebastian Bach** and **Arvo Pärt** to prayer melodies and birdsong. The duo has even been praised by **Majida El Rumi**, a superstar in the Arab world, for their interpretation of her famous song *Kalimat*.

**Ensemble Polyharmonique** will illuminate Tongerlo Abbey Church with the light in their voices. For **Schütz' anniversary year**, they will focus on 'Geistliche Madrigale' or spiritual madrigals. The composition *Die Himmel erzählen die Ehre Gottes* provided the title for their concert programme, which combines work by Schütz with music by his contemporaries, including **Christoph Bernhard** and **Andreas Hammerschmidt**.

The motto of Musica Divina 2022 is taken from Proverbs 17:22. This festival theme is reflected in heavenly and healing music in the inspiring religious heritage buildings of the Kempen region, offering a programme that brings together east, west, north and south. After all, true joy knows no bounds. A joyful heart is a welcoming heart. At Musica Divina, we will hear pilgrim songs, songs of praise to all mothers, motets by André Campra and slow silences. There will also be angel song, music for the theremin, North Indian dhrupad singing and throat singing from the steppes of Central Asia. Hopefully this brightly coloured bouquet will bring even more joy to the heart..

### PRACTICAL INFO

14 September 2022 (20:00 - 21:30): Vlaams Radiokoor, Brussels Philharmonic string quartet: St Dymphna's Church Geel  
15 September 2022 (20:00 - 21:30): Sollazzo Ensemble - Averbode Abbey - Scherpenheuvel-Zichem  
16 September 2022 (20:00 - 21:30): Duo Aznèm - Postel Abbey - Mol  
17 September 2022 (19:30 - 21:00): Ensemble Polyharmonique - Tongerlo Abbey - Westerlo

# Musica Divina presents the first music therapy thinking and feeling session



Musica Divina is the autumn festival brought to you by Festival of Flanders Kempen. In 2022, 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 and healing music.

In close partnership with the team at Huis Perrekes, Musica Divina is organising a music therapy thinking and feeling session. Over the coming years, Musica Divina intends to concentrate even more than it already does on the healing aspect of music, alongside the divine aspect. This search requires plenty of time to reflect, and so this session will be a time to ask questions. Questions about birth, death and everything in between; about music therapy, deep listening and living life to the full. It will also be an occasion for singing and dancing, as well as silence and enjoying a bowl of hot soup.

The guests of honour are the renowned child and youth psychiatrist and psychotherapist Dr Binu Singh, composer Esther Venrooy and musical journalist Andrea Voets. The music therapists who work at Huis Perrekes will also be present, along with its driving force, Carla Molenberghs, Stijn Cuppens and in-house choir De Betties.

The event will be held at St Lucy's Church in Oosterlo and the garden pavilion of Huis Perrekes nearby. This thinking and feeling session will be held free of charge on the morning of Sunday 18 September. It is intended for anyone who wants to know more about the broad scope of music therapy and reflect with us on how we can extend it to every layer of the population and go beyond the limits of the symposium.

## PRACTICAL INFO

18 September 2022

10:30 - 12:30 Thinking and feeling session - St Lucy's Church in Oosterlo & Huis Perrekes Garden Pavilion in Oosterlo

[www.musica-divina.be](http://www.musica-divina.be)



## Musica Divina brings quiet and slowness to Lier Beguinage Church



Between 14 September and 2 October 2022, you will be able to enjoy the tenth edition of Musica Divina, with heavenly and healing 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. A special feature of this year's festival is the double bill with the violinist **Merel Vercammen** and the cellist **Maya Fridman & LISAS** duo at Lier Beguinage Church on Sunday 25 September.

Falling silent, slowing down. Two ideas that symbolise what two duos want to say at Musica Divina in Lier. The violinist **Merel Vercammen** and cellist **Maya Fridman** sought sound in the silence that fell in 2020 with their project *Silent City*.

Merel Vercammen tells us more about *Silent City*: *"Suddenly it fell silent. Because of the Covid pandemic, one country after another locked down in the first months of 2020. People all around the world were shut away in their houses, and people suffered loss. Concerts couldn't be held. Like most musicians, we were suddenly faced with empty pages in our diaries. Again and again, performances we had been looking forward to had to be cancelled. Something good had to come of that enforced silence. A beautiful church in the city where we live, the Nicolaikerkerk in Utrecht, whose oldest, Romanesque parts date back to the 12th century, offered us the opportunity to make music again, although no audience could attend. We were given the keys on 15 May and could play together again for the first time in two months. Our aim was to create something close to the experience of a concert, but with only a couple of microphones and cameras as our witnesses. We wanted to perform a programme that would fit our feelings about that time: a combination of uncertainty and contemplativeness."*

The duo **LISAS**, consisting of the Swedish violinist **Lisa Rydberg** and the accordionist **Lisa Långbacka**, consciously seeks slow music in a hectic world in their new album. Lisa Rydberg and Lisa Långbacka are at home in Swedish folk music but are just as comfortable experimenting with new forms and draw inspiration from genres such as baroque, Swedish and Celtic folk music, jazz and tango.

The two violinists, Merel Vercammen and Lisa Rydberg, are both engaged in an ongoing search for new playing techniques on their instrument. Be amazed by the joy in their virtuoso playing at Musica Divina in Lier on 25 September.

The Musica Divina programme also includes Sollazzo Ensemble at Averbode Abbey, the Vlaams Radiokoor and Brussels Philharmonic string quartet in Geel, Carolina Eyck & BRYGGEN in Herentals, Ensemble Polyharmonique in Tongerlo Abbey, Luise Enzian and Tehila Nini Goldstein in Mol, The King's Singers and a nocte temporis in Turnhout, Ghalia Benali and Romina Lischka in Heist-op-den-Berg and Huun-Huur-Tu in Hoogstraten. These world-class musicians offer us a joyful heart full of music.

### PRACTICAL INFO

25 September 2022 - 20:15 Slow Silence - double bill with Merel Vercammen and Maya Fridman & LISAS  
Lier Beguinage Church

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