



KATRIEN BAERTS & BART VERHEYEN

Katrien Baerts & Bart Verheyen met each other at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels and have been a duo since 2006. They have had coaching from Inge Spinette, participated at the intensive 'International Lied Masterclasses' by amongst others Udo Reinemann, Helmut Deutsch, Julius Drake, Hartmut Höll, Mitsuko Shirai, Roger Vignoles and Edith Wiens and were invited in Aldeburgh (UK) for participation at the Britten-Pears Young Artists Program with Wolfgang Holzmaier and Imogen Cooper. At the 'Forte Limburg' competition they became first laureate, they were guests at the program 'Vrije Geluiden' by the VPRO on Dutch national television and have been heard at Radio 4 in Holland and Musiq'3 Radio in Belgium.

KATRIEN BAERTS

After obtaining her Masters in voice and violin at the Conservatory in Brussels, Katrien Baerts performed roles as Despina and Annio (Mozart), Miss Wordsworth (Britten) and Amore and Valletto (Monteverdi) at the Dutch National Opera Academy. Further roles include Amina in La Sonnambula (Bellini), Micaëla in Carmen (Bizet), Stimme des Falken and Hüter der Schwelle in die Frau ohne Schatten (Strauss) and the acclaimed title role of the world premiere of Suster Bertken (Zuidam), resumed at the Holland Festival 2013 in staging by Pierre Audi. She entered the semi-finals at the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Competition for Voice in 2011.

As a soloist Katrien sang music by composers such as Bach, Berg, Britten, Dvorák, Janáček, Kurtág, Ravel, Shostakovich, Zemlinsky and Zuidam with conductors as Richard Egarr, Oliver Knussen and Reinbert de Leeuw in the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Vredenburg Utrecht, de Singel in Antwerp, de Bijloke in Ghent, the Festival de Saintes in France and in the Barbican Centre in London.

Their repertoire includes many Lieder from the popular German works like those of Brahms, Mahler, Schubert, Schumann, Strauss and Wolf as well as less executed compositions by Britten, Eisler, Gurney, Korngold, Messiaen, Poulenc, Raminsh, Shostakovich, Weill and Zemlinsky. An important principle of the duo is to perform less known gems from music history and to put the standard repertoire in a new light.

BART VERHEYEN

Bart Verheyen has won many piano, organ and composition prizes at a young age. He studied at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels (with Piet Kuijken, Aleksandr Madzar and Boyan Vodenitcharov) and completed his studies thanks to a Swiss state scholarship at the Hochschule für Musik Luzern (with Konstantin Lifschitz and Florian Hoelscher). He finished his studies there with the highest distinction.

As a soloist, Bart performed concertos by Martinu, Rachmaninov and Stravinsky with the Brussels Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Music Chapel 'The Guides' and the Brussels Wind Ensemble. The Collegium Novum Zürich engaged him for a CD recording and a series of concerts in Zürich (Tonhalle) and Salzburg. Bart premiered many works (including the Klee Miniaturen by Frederik Neyrinck, especially written for him). He collaborated with conductors such as David Robertson, Jonathan Stockhammer, Jeffrey Tate and Ronald Zollman and played concerts for Bozar, the Academiezaal, Festival of Flanders, MIM, Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart and the Lucerne Festival.

RÊVES ET RÉALITÉS

Les Maîtres et Leurs Muses

The muses, nine Greek goddesses born of 'Mnemosyne' or the memory, have been a symbol of inspiration to which artists desire for ages. The French composers whom we gather together in this song recital, all Masters of their craft, did in fact find inspiration in some muses: Bertha Galeron de Calonne, Marceline Desbordes-Valmore or Augustine-Malvina Blanchecotte. This program has been named after the poetry collection 'Rêves et Réalités' by the latter poet. A lot of poems namely open the door for grand, romantic longings and dreams, while others are a way of dealing with the cruel reality.

E. Chausson – Hébé

L. Vierne – Chanson pour avril

L. Boulanger – Dans l'immense tristesse

C. Franck – Les cloches du soir

F. Poulenc – Métamorphoses, trois mélodies

G. Fauré – Danseuse

H. Dutilleul – Regards sur l'infini

O. Messiaen – Trois mélodies

F. Poulenc – Fiançailles pour rire, six mélodies

R. Hahn – Dans l'été

R. Hahn – La délaissée

R. Hahn – La chère blessure

H. Woollett – Les roses

H. Woollett – Le présage

The nine muses — Clio, Thaleia, Erato, Euterpe, Polyhymnia, Calliope, Terpsichore, Urania, Melpomene — on a Roman sarcophagus from the 2nd century.



IN EXILE

Composers in exile

Zemlinsky, Straus, Korngold, Weill and Eisler: who fled from Hitler's Nazi Regime in the early 30's and sought refuge in America. The first part of this recital shows the lighter, more lyrical repertoire by Zemlinsky and Korngold, written before war. In stark contrast, we relive the dark and bitter atmosphere of flight and oppression after the break, which is clearly audible in the music by Hans Eisler. We end the program with a little bit of Hollywood in musical fragments by Kurt Weill and Bertold Brecht.

A. Zemlinsky – Walzer Gesänge opus 6

E. Korngold – Alt-spanisches

E. Korngold – Das eilende Bächlein

A. Zemlinsky – Vor der Stadt

A. Zemlinsky – Selection from opus 2 and 5

E. Korngold – Drei Lieder opus 22

A. Zemlinsky – Selection from opus 12

H. Eisler – Selection from Hollywood Songbook

K. Weill – Nanna's Lied

K. Weill – In der Jugend gold'nem Schimmer

K. Weill – Die Ballade von der höllen-Lili

O. Straus – Warum soll eine Frau kein Verhältnis haben?



EROS & THANATOS

Of love and death

Harawi is a grand, penetrating work by Olivier Messiaen which is rarely performed. It is inspired by the Peruvian version of the famous 'Tristan and Isolde' legend. Wagner's opera lasts for about five hours, but Messiaen tells his more abstract version of this archetypal story in less than an hour. Hallucinating nebulae, chanted sounds derived from Quechua, sultry chords and beautiful birdsongs alternate. The listener is taken on a journey of earthly love to a joint blend into the cosmos, through death. The work is preceded by German songs which are imbued with the same theme: fatal love.

R. Schumann – Waldesgespräch

F. Schubert – Der Zwerg

J. Brahms – Liebestreu

G. Mahler – Das Irdische Leben

R. Strauss – Drei Lieder der Ophelia

O. Messiaen – Harawi, Chants d'amours et de mort



INFORMATION

For each program there are specific files available with more background information, poetry or audio material.

In general we are to be booked as a duo, but additional instrumentalists are to be added if desired.

There are also other recitals available. Prices on request.

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