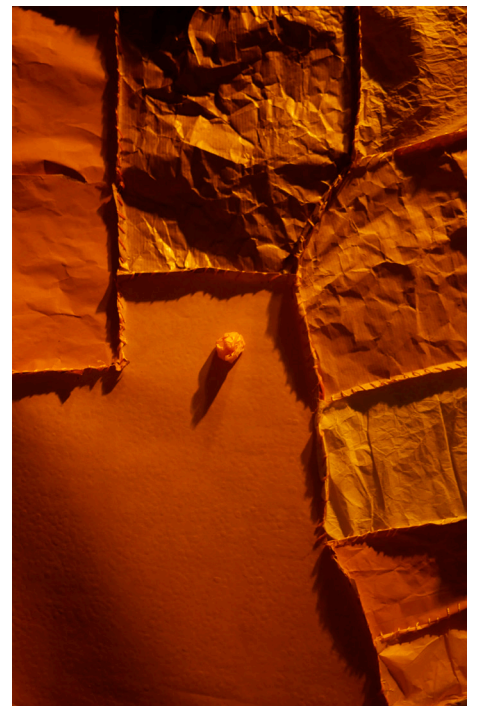
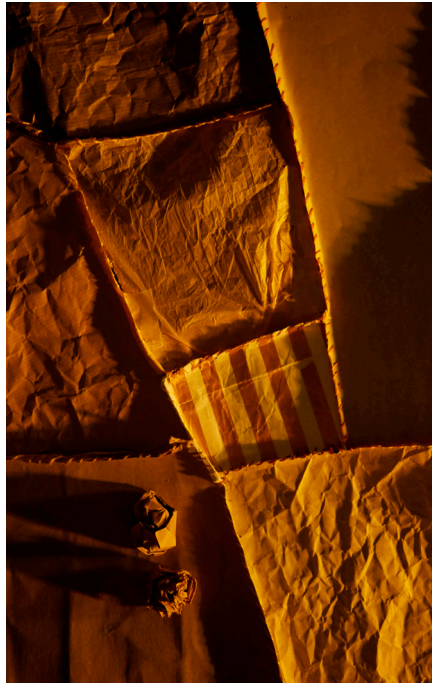
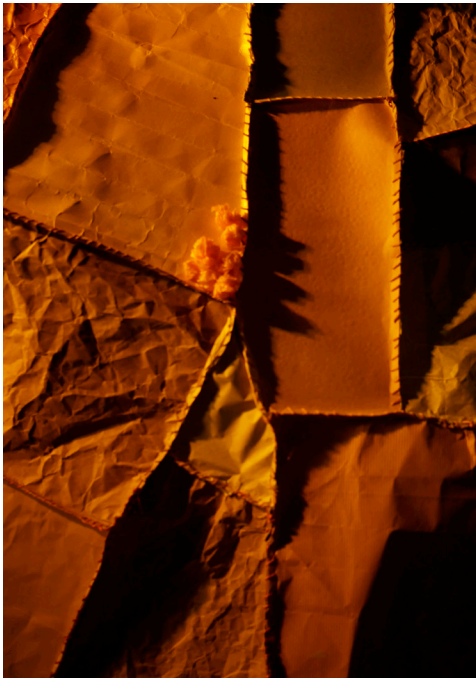




MUSICA
DIVINA
PRESS



FESTIVAL VAN VLAANDEREN KEMPEN

MUSICA DIVINA

Liefde in het land van velden

van 18.09 tot 4.10.2025

In Geel, Averbode, Tongerlo,
Postel, Turnhout, Hoogstraten,
Oosterlo, Lier, Heist-op-den-Berg,
Mol en Herentals

Voces Suaves, VocaMe,
Philippe Pierlot, Céline Sheen,
a nocte temporis,
Chœur de Chambre de Namur,
Art d'Echo, Currende, Soolmaan,
Amaranthe, Ensemble Gamut !
en vele anderen

www.musica-divina.be

PROGRAMMA 2025

DO 18.09

ABDIJ TONGERLO

Voces Suaves

VR 19.09

ABDIJ AVERBODE

VocaMe

ZA 20.09

ABDIJ POSTEL

Pieter De Praetere
& Thomas Langlois

ZO 21.09

OOSTERLO

Denk- en voelmoment

WO 24.09

HOOGSTRATEN

Philippe Pierlot
& Céline Sheen

DO 25.09

GEEL

a nocte temporis
& Choeur de Chambre
de Namur

VR 26.09

MOL

Soolmaan

ZO 28.09

LIER

Amaranthe

DO 02.10

HEIST-OP-DEN-BERG

Ensemble Gamut!

VR 03.10

TURNHOUT

Art d'Echo

ZA 04.10

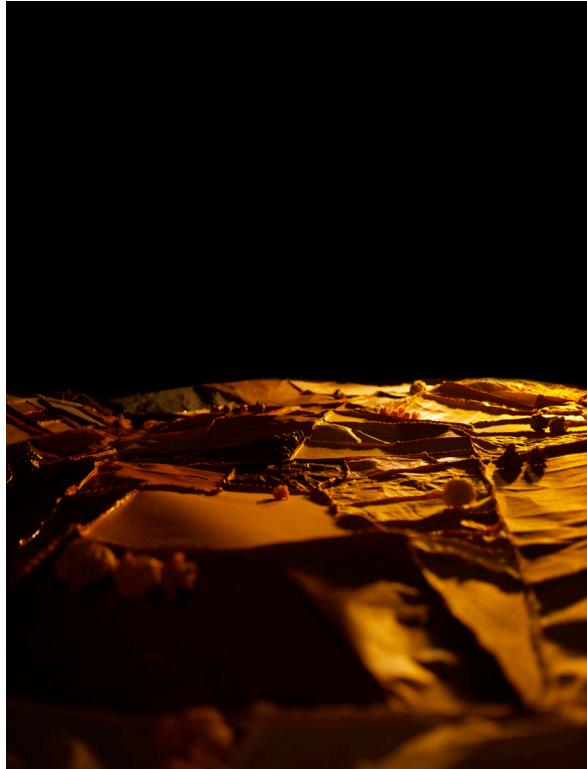
HERENTALS

Currende

Musica Divina 2025

Love in the land of meadows

from September 18th until October 4th 2025



Between 18 September and 4 October 2025, we bring you the 13th edition of Musica Divina with heavenly music in the heart of the Kempen region. 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 2025 is "Love in the land of meadows".

Musica Divina 2025 is dedicated to the healing power of love. The place where it happens is the Land of Meadows: a lyrical name for the Kempen, derived from the Latin 'campina'. Many aspects of love will be conveyed in music during the festival, from the Canticum Canticorum by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina to 'Minne' in the work of Hadewijch and Hildegard von Bingen or the passion of Astor Piazzolla.

Director Jelle Dierickx: *"Deep listening is one of the aspects closely associated with Musica Divina. The writer Erwin Mortier believes that the willingness to listen is also a form of love. He describes it as "paying attention, listening closely, devoting more than merely our ears to expanding the soul with another being, not necessarily a human." In the same book about love, he also says that shaping our existential scream into music might well be the essence of love. May music resound more powerfully than ever before at Musica Divina 2025!"*

At each edition, Musica Divina provides a unique interplay between heritage and music. The programme includes Voces Suaves in Tongerlo Abbey, VocaMe in Averbode Abbey, Pieter De Praetere and Thomas Langlois in Postel Abbey, Philippe Pierlot and Céline Sheen in Hoogstraten, a nocte temporis and Chœur de Chambre de Namur in Geel, Soolmaan in Mol, Amaranthe in Lier, Ensemble Gamut! in Heist-op-den-Berg, Art d'Echo and Currende in Herentals.

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 is dedicated to hospitality in the Kempen region.

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

The start of Musica Divina brings heavenly music to the abbeys of Tongerlo, Averbode and Postel



Between 18 September and 4 October 2025, you can enjoy the 13th edition of Musica Divina, Festival of Flanders Kempen's autumn festival in the Kempen's religious heritage. The festival traditionally starts with a number of concerts in the abbeys of Tongerlo, Postel and Averbode.

The Swiss ensemble Voces Suaves makes Tongerlo abbey church shine with *The Song of Songs*. On 3 February 2025, it will be 500 years since the birth of Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina, one of the most famous composers of the 16th century. Voces Suaves brings fitting tribute with several of his madrigals and a selection from his magnificent setting of the *Canticum Canticorum*, or *Song of Songs*. These compositions are set alongside music by another great master, Philippe de Monte. His *Missa sex vocum supra Vestiva i colli* incorporates themes from Palestrina's madrigal of the same name.

Averbode Abbey opens its doors for VocaMe with the programme *Hadewijch* and *Minne*. *Minne* is the key element in the poetry of the Brabant mystic Hadewijch. Her spiritual journey inspired the German ensemble VocaMe to create their latest production. This concert is the latest in the ensemble's impressive series of musical portraits of inspiring women: Kassia, Christine de Pizan and Hildegard von Bingen. The musicians want to make Hadewijch's voice heard in our times as well, with her desire for a profound understanding of the world, her own life and the all-connecting love at its centre.

There is also a lecture by writer Erwin Mortier at the Averbode Abbey. The book about love that Erwin Mortier wrote in 2023 was one of the inspirations for Musica Divina 2025. In the abbot's quarters at Averbode Abbey, he will read "A Little Love for the World" and reflect on the festival motto, Love in the Land of Meadows.

In the intimate setting of Postel Abbey Church, the countertenor Pieter De Praetere and lute player Thomas Langlois present their love of Baroque music in a musical bouquet of songs by Henry Purcell and John Dowland and indestructible arias by George Frideric Handel and Antonio Vivaldi, along with lesser-known work by Giovanni Kapsberger, Nicola Porpora and others. Expect an array of vocal and instrumental splendour from different corners of 17th-century Europe.

PRACTICAL

18 September 2025 (19:30 - 21:00): Voces Suaves - Tongerlo Abbey

19 September 2025 (18:30 - 19:30): Erwin Mortier - Averbode Abbey

19 September 2025 (20:00 - 21:30): VocaMe - Averbode Abbey

20 September 2025 (20:00 - 21:30): Pieter De Praetere & Thomas Langlois - Postel Abbey

www.musica-divina.be

Musica Divina presents the second **het tweede** thinking and feeling session about the art of living



Between 18 September and 4 oktober 2025 we bring you the 13th Edition of Musica Divina with heavenly and healing music in the heart of the Kempen Region. Anno 2025 it takes place in the abbeys, churches and be-guinages of Geel, Herentals, Turnhout, Hoogstraten, Heist-op-den-Berg, Lier, Postel, Averbode and Tongerlo. The festival is a distinctly Kempen story. A story full of heavenly and healing music.

Working closely with the House Perrekes team, Musica Divina is now organising a second moment of thought and feeling after the warm first edition in 2022. Musica Divina and Huis Perrekes consider the big questions in life for the second time. This year's thinking and feeling session is about grief, love, carrying each other and letting each other go, and deep listening: in short, the art of living. It will also be an occasion for singing, making music and enjoying a bowl of hot soup together.

The delightful people behind this project are the silence specialist Virginie Platteau, lute player Sofie Vanden Eynde, composer Mantien Van Gils, the musical team at Huis Perrekes, initiator Carla Molenberghs and house choir De Betties.

The venue is the St Lucia Church in Oosterlo and the nearby garden pavilion of Huis Perrekes. This thinking and feeling moment is offered free of charge on Sunday morning, 21 September. For anyone wishing to know more about the broad field of music therapy, to help reflect on how we can extend it to all walks of life and break through the boundaries of the symposium.

PRACTICAL

21 September 2025 (10:30 - 12:30): Thinking and feeling session - Church of St. Lucia at Oosterlo

www.musica-divina.be

A nocte temporis brings French baroque to Geel



A nocte temporis and Reinoud Van Mechelen feel completely at home with the repertoire of the French Baroque. They join the Choeur de Chambre de Namur in a performance of the Te Deum by Nicolas Clérambault. The piece bears witness to great subtlety and a harmonic sensitivity that always serves the text and the message to be conveyed. The concert also includes Marc Antoine Charpentier's Missa Assumpta Est Maria. This was the last, and perhaps the greatest, of Charpentier's twelve masses. The glorious St Dymphna's Church is the perfect place for this musical feast.

This concert is part of the celebrations marking 600 Years of KU Leuven.



At the Beguinage Church in Hoogstraten, Céline Sheen and Philippe Pierlot join forces for the programme *Dolcissimo Sospiro*.

As early as the 16th century in Italy, accompanying the voice with a viol, known as 'cantare alla viola', was considered to be the most beautiful way of evoking emotions from the audience. Who better than the soprano Céline Sheen and viol player Philippe Pierlot, two exceptional musicians of international renown, to make this happen in practice? They will play compositions by Tobias Hume, Alfonso Ferrabosco II, John Wilbye and others. Their starting point is the enchanting aria *Dolcissimo Sospiro* by Giulio Caccini.

This concert will be broadcast live on radio Klara.

PRACTICAL

25 September 2025 (20:00 - 21:30): a nocte temporis & Choeur de Chambre de Namur - St. Dimpna Church Geel

24 September 2025 (20:00 - 21:30): Céline Sheen & Philippe Pierlot - Beguinage Church Hoogstraten

www.musica-divina.be

Amaranthe sings about the love of the soul during Musica Divina in Lier



Is there harmony between personal vulnerability and the power to break rigid, societal conventions? How to be meaningful in an immense world full of limitations? What lurks behind the facade of the mundane? Does our quest for freedom ever bring inner peace?

In the musical performance MENS MEA, Young Ladies' Choir Amaranthe puts the search for the meaning of life centre stage. In a sound bath of contrasts, fragility and determination flow seamlessly together. Each composition forms an emotional landscape, where whispers of hope merge with cries of adversity. The result is an experience both intimate and universal, in which the human yearning for meaning echoes in every note.

Inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson, Amaranthe weaves words and thoughts into a musical whole that symbolises the personal search for identity and connection. Dickinson's mystical view of life and nature acts as a silent guide inviting the listener to reflect on their own existential journey. From the misty coastline in the far North, past immeasurable forests, right through the busy city to where the soul finds its rest. Wherever that may be.

MENS MEA is an encounter between singers and audience. The boundaries between the individual and the collective blur. Amaranthe sings of small victories and big challenges with moments of quiet reflection and fiery emotions. It is a tribute to the complexity of being human in an immersive, musical dialogue. It is a musical odyssey that reveals the deepest layers of the human soul.

Amaranthe is a young women's choir from Oudenaarde that is conquering the choral world with unique projects. At the World Choir Games in 2021, the biggest international choir competition in the world, Amaranthe became the world champions in categories including Vocal Ensembles and Chamber Choirs of Equal Voices. They obtained an incredible score of 98.38%, and in 2023, they successfully defended their title in South Korea. This close-knit group perform contemporary a cappella choir music under the enthusiastic leadership of Johannes Dewilde. They will present their very latest project at Musica Divina: Mens Mea, my soul. The central idea is everyone's inner search for peace, connection and fulfilment in a world of obstacles, distraction and impulses.



PRACTICAL

28 September 2025 - 19:00 Amaranthe - Beguinage Church Lier

www.musica-divina.be

Musica Divina brings passionate tango music to Turnhout's St Peter's Church



Soprano and gambist Juliane Laake's German ensemble Art d'Echo combines the colours of viola da gamba and bandoneon to tell a musical story around passion. In the programme Age of Passion, they let John Dowland's *Lachrimae*, the masterpiece for all gamba consorts, dialogue with tango music by Astor Piazzolla, Carlos Gardel and Osvaldo Donato. New work by composer Reiko Fütting is the final piece between this musical chain of tears and tango.



Currende is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary in 2025, and doing it in style: with the monumental *Vespro della Beata Vergine* by Claudio Monteverdi for soloists, choir and orchestra. Monteverdi composed this thirteen-part work in 1610. It is seen as one of the musical milestones in the transition from the Renaissance to the Baroque. In it, Monteverdi shows his mastery of the full range of composition techniques used at the time. The piece suits the conductor, Erik Van Nevel, down to the ground. He has made his own edition of these Vespers and signs for a real 17th-century performance in which the combination of expressive rhetoric and catchy polyphony is very effective, just as Monteverdi's music demands. He gave the Gregorian antiphons preceding the great psalms a surprisingly contemporary touch.

The instrumental line-up consists of top national and international musicians, including Kris Verhelst, Wouter Dekoninck and Philippe Malfeyt in the continuo, Bart Coen and Koen Dieltiens, recorders, Nuria Gabas and Marleen Leicher, cornetto, Wim Becu and Simen Van Mechelen, trombone. The soloists are Reinoud Van Mechelen and Sean Clayton, tenors, and Deborah Cachet and Anne-Kathryn Olsen, sopranos. This concert will be broadcast live on radio Klara.

PRACTICAL

3 October 2025 (20:15 - 21:30): Age of Passion - Art d'Echo - St. Peter's Church - Turnhout
4 October 2025 (20:00 - 21:15): Currende - St. Waldetrudis' Church - Herentals

www.musica-divina.be

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