

Bozar



Merope & Vilnius Chamber Choir Jauna Muzika © Emilija Vinžanovaitė

Music at Bozar in April

A spring calendar blossoming with talent

This April, Bozar is again the venue for meetings with great conductors, young talents and an ode to the kora.

Bozar offers a wide-ranging classical programme, from the most intimate to the great romantic choirs. **The Hagen Quartet**, renowned for their inimitable ensemble playing, stylistic versatility and unique sound quality, returns to Bozar. The Austrian quartet performs two string quartets by **Mozart** and **Shostakovich's Second Quartet**. Conductor **John Eliot Gardiner** brings his **English Baroque Soloists** and Monteverdi Choir to Brussels to immerse themselves in Bach's immense Mass in B. And when Verdi suddenly presented his audience with a requiem, no one ever imagined that the same *Requiem* would grow into one of the most beloved choral compositions. This masterpiece will be performed by **Antwerp Symphony Orchestra** and **Collegium Vocale Gent** and led by Belgian conductor **Philippe Herreweghe**.

Bozar also unveils the first edition of the **Kora Days**. For four days, it will be honouring the **kora**, the emblematic instrument of West Africa, and inviting you to appreciate its greatest specialists. Today, with leading instrumentalists such as **Bao Sissoko**, **Sona Jobarteh**, **Momi Maiga**, **Seckou Keita** and **Mbady Diabate**, Bozar shows how far the kora has come without breaking the link with the age-old tradition of the Manding caves, where the instrument is said to have its origins.

As a **unique project** not to be missed, the **Octurn Ensemble** creates an organic and exciting encounter between jazz and contemporary classical music. Fascinated with the *String Trio* by Hungarian composer **Sándor Veress**, the ensemble takes this masterpiece and bathes it in jazzy sounds, opening up new melodic perspectives. For the opening of **Les Nuits Botanique**, the Belgo-Lithuanian trio **Merope** is surrounded by the 24 dreamlike voices of the **Vilnius Chamber Choir Jauna Muzika** to form a wonderful hymn to nature and slowness. Finally, Bozar closes the month of April with a **grand finale**: the **pan-European orchestral collective s t a r g a z e**, conducted by **André de Ridder** and accompanied by German musician and artist **Alva Noto**, presents an instrumental version of the **Xerrox** series that has been specially arranged for the ensemble.

Discover the complete programme here below:

[April calendar](#)

CLASSIC



Hagen Quartett © Harald Hoffmann

Hagen Quartett

1 Apr. '23 - 20:00

Like no other, **the Hagen Quartet** knows how to present Mozart's transparent and tuneful melodies in the finest detail. The quartet will certainly be able to demonstrate this in the Austrian composer's Hoffmeister and his very last string quartet. To this the four string players will connect Shostakovich's *String Quartet No. 2*

[Info & tickets](#)



John Eliot Gardiner © Chris Christodoulou

Bach: Hohe Messe - John Eliot Gardiner

15 Apr. '23 - 20:00

Extraordinary, sublime, unsurpassed ... Bach's *Hohe Messe* can only be described in superlatives. From the moving *Kyrie*, the jubilant Gloria, right through to the cathartic *Agnus Dei*, Bach creates an imposing tension with a wide range of musical styles. When you hear that none other than **John Eliot Gardiner**, who celebrates his 80th birthday this year, and his unsurpassed **Monteverdi Choir** and **English Baroque Soloists** are descending on Horta's palace, you can't help but book your tickets pronto.

English Baroque Soloists: ensemble
Monteverdi Choir: ensemble
John Eliot Gardiner: conductor

[Info & tickets](#)





Anna Vinnitskaya © Marco Borggreve

Anna Vinnitskaya & Schumann Quartett

19 Apr. '23 - 20:00

Anna Vinnitskaya, first laureate of the Queen Elisabeth Competition 2007, has built a particularly fine career in recent years: she is sought after in recital, but also performs as soloist with the greatest orchestras, including the Berliner Philharmoniker. Vinnitskaya has a passion for Robert Schumann. She is particularly fascinated by the way Schumann can turn the mood around in just a few seconds, as a reflection of his mental state. Together with the sixteen strings of the young **Schumann Quartet**, she performs Schumann's beloved *Piano Quintet*, the first masterpiece in the genre. The quartet also pairs this with Schumann's *First String Quartet* and a tribute to German composer, Aribert Reimann.

Schumann Quartett: ensemble
Anna Vinnitskaya: piano

[Info & tickets](#)



Vox Luminis © Wágner Csapó József

Vox Luminis XL

Spem in Alium

25 Apr. '23 - 20:00

For this exceptional concert in the cathedral, the **Vox Luminis** ensemble brings together a vocal group of "symphonic" proportions. Some 40 voices (!) that are expert in polyphonic singing are brought together to interpret the colossi of the Renaissance repertoire. When one thinks of 40-part motets, two illustrious examples come to mind: *Spem in alium* by Thomas Tallis, on the English side, and *Ecce beata lucem* by Alessandro Striggio, on the Italian side. The Franco-Flemish Josquin Desprez also made a name for himself with his 24-part motet, *Qui habitat*, a piece that carries listeners away in an ecstatic trance with its cyclical, canonic writing. Although the motet *O bone Jesu* by Scotsman Robert Carver calls for 19 voices, the use of the tutti is confined to certain passages of great dramatic intensity. And we must not forget *Media vita* by John Sheppard, a nod to the recent entry of Lionel Meunier, the director of Vox Luminis, into midlife.

Vox Luminis: vocal ensemble
Lionel Meunier: artistic direction

[Info & tickets](#)

Philippe Herreweghe & Antwerp Symphony
Orchestra © Jesse Willems_Antwerp Symphony
Orchestra

Antwerp Symphony Orchestra & Philippe Herreweghe

27 Apr. '23 - 20:00

When the opera genius Giuseppe Verdi suddenly presented his audience with a requiem, it came to everyone as a great surprise. His monumental *Messa da Requiem*, therefore, does not simply belong in the traditional line-up of requiem masses. A religious sceptic, Verdi also speaks the language of theatre rather than that of the church in this work. Yet, the result is Verdi pur sang: the *Dies Irae* and *Rex Tremendae* are shimmering chunks of energy, the four soloists deliver some intimate passages, and the entire work slowly fades away in a tone of abject despair. Even in his operas, Verdi never traversed such a broad emotional spectrum in so few pages. **Philippe Herreweghe** allows choir and orchestra to shine in one of the great favourites of the choral repertoire.

Antwerp Symphony Orchestra
Philippe Herreweghe: conductor
Collegium Vocale Gent: ensemble
Eleanor Lyons: soprano
Sophie Harmsen: mezzo
Ilker Arcayürek: tenor
Tareq Nazmi: bass

[Info & tickets](#)

GLOBAL



AKA Trio © Quique Curbelo

AKA Trio

In the framework of Kora Days

13 Apr. '23 - 20:00

Three world-renowned virtuosos from three different continents come together in the **AKA Trio**. For more than a decade, Senegalese **Seckou Keita** – "one of the most adventurous masters of the kora" according to The Guardian – has been working with Italian guitarist **Antonio Forcione** and Brazilian percussionist **Adriano Adewale** in this project. The title of their first album *Joy*, released in 2019, says a

lot about the radiant atmosphere that emanates from their concerts. Come and discover musicians whose career has been marked by high-profile collaborations with artists such as jazz double bassist Charlie Haden, Welsh harpist Catrin Finch and singer Bobby McFerrin.

Antonio Forcione: guitar
Seckou Keita: kora
Adriano Adewale: percussion

[Info & tickets](#)



Momi Maiga © GR-DR

Momi Maiga

In the framework of Kora Days

14 Apr. '23 - 20:00

The kora has a bright future ahead! Born in 1997 in Gambia, **Momi Maiga** is a true **virtuoso** on the instrument, an excellent singer and a curious and self-taught composer with an astonishing musical sensitivity. The title of his first album *Nio* (2022) means "soul" in Mandingo, his mother tongue. Through his music, he opens up reflections on human values, as his family has always done for centuries, from generation to generation. Kora, violin, cello and percussion forge the soul of his transcontinental music, travelling from bulería to ethno jazz: **fusion and emotion** are the vectors of a concert which promises to be vibrant, energetic and profound.

Momi Maiga: kora
Aleix Tobias Sabater: percussion
Marçal Ayats: cello
Carlos Montfort: violin

[Info & tickets](#)





3MA © Cyrille Choupas

3MA

In the framework of Kora Days

15 Apr. '23 - 19:00

To mark Kora Days, Bozar is inviting Malian musician Ballaké Sissoko, master of the kora and an expert in the Mandingo musical tradition, to perform two concerts - one solo and the other with his project **3MA**. This group brings together three virtuoso string players from three African countries; in addition to Sissoko, the trio includes Moroccan oud player Driss El Maloumi (a mainstay of Jordi Savall's Hespèrion XXI ensemble) and Rajery, who plays the valiha (a tubular bamboo zither typical of Madagascar). What was intended to be a collaboration limited to a few concerts and a recording gave rise to an exceptional friendship and musical osmosis. Since 2006, the trio has met occasionally to play together and oppose the violence of the world with soft, invigorating harmonies, vital energy and universal poetry.

Ballaké Sissoko: kora
Driss El Maloumi: oud
Rajery: valiha

[Info & tickets](#)



Sona Jobarteh © GR-DR

Sona Jobarteh

In the framework of Kora Days

15 Avr. '23 - 21:30

British-Gambian **multi-instrumentalist, singer and songwriter Sona Jobarteh** has broken with convention by becoming the first professional kora player ever to come from a West African griot dynasty. She is a **pioneer** in a male-dominated hereditary tradition that has been passed down from father to son for seven centuries. On her latest album *Badinyaa Kumoo*, she evokes motherhood and what the mother symbolizes in a community. For Jobarteh, composing means sculpting a face that she gradually brings to life. A face Bozar invites you to discover in Hall M during the Kora Days.

[Info & tickets](#)





© Benoit Peverelli

Ballaké Sissoko - solo

In the framework of Kora Days

16 Apr. '23 - 17:00

Although used to duo projects, **Ballaké Sissoko** is performing solo for once! Ballaké Sissoko comes from a family of kora masters and at the age of 13 joined the Ensemble Instrumental National du Mali, where his father was a founding member and director. He has since become a much sought-after instrumentalist, collaborating and recording with artists from such diverse backgrounds as Rokia Traoré, Göksel Baktagir, Toumani Diabaté, Taj Mahal, Ludovico Einaudi and Vincent Segal, not to mention the 3MA trio that brings him together with oud player Driss El Maloumi and valiha player Rajery - also on the programme for the Kora Days festival. Take advantage of this concert to enjoy his virtuoso and poetic performance in the Hall M.

[Info & tickets](#)



JAZZ & ELECTRO



Octurn 'The Sandor Verses' © GR-DR

Octurn 'The Sandor Verses'

19 Apr. '23 - 20:30

The *String Trio* by Sándor Veress, a student of Kodály and Bartók, is one of **Ensemble Octurn's** personal favorites. The masterpiece is submerged in a jazzy bath by using a string trio as an additional instrument, which opens up new melodic perspectives. In this way, the original string trio version can interact with the Octurn variations. Accompanied by the Dutch clarinetist **Joris Roelofs**, the concert will undoubtedly be exceptional.

Bo van der Werf: baritone saxophone , composition
 Joris Roelofs bass clarinet
 Jozef Dumoulin: keyboard
 Fabian Fiorini: piano
 Dré Pallemmaerts: drums
 Laure Bardet: violin
 Esther Coorevits: alto
 Eugénie Defraigne: cello

[Info & tickets](#)



*Merope & Vilnius Chamber Choir Jauna Muzika ©
Emilija Vinžanovaitė*

Merope with the Vilnius Chamber Choir Jauna Muzika – Catherine Graindorge & Guests

Les Nuits Botanique @ Bozar

23 Apr. '23 - 20:00

For the **opening night of the Les Nuits Botanique 2023**, **Le Botanique** and **Bozar** present **two outstanding Belgian projects**. The Belgian-Lithuanian trio **Merope** invites the **Jauna Muzika chamber choir** from Vilnius for the world premiere of their new album **Salos!** In the first part of the evening, we invite you to dive into the bewitching and cinematic universe of violinist and composer **Catherine Graindorge**, who made her mark in the autumn of 2022 with an EP, *The Dictator*, produced with the participation of none other than Iggy Pop.

Catherine Graindorge: violin, viola, harmonium
Simon Huw Jones: voice
Pascal Humbert: bass guitar, double bass
Simon Ho: harmonium, keyboard

Merope

Bert Cools: electronics , guitar
Indre Jurgelevičiūtė: kanklės , vocals
Jean Christophe Bonnafoos: bansuri
Vilnius Chamber Choir Jauna Muzika: choir

[Info & tickets](#)



Alva Noto © Andrey Bold

Xerrox Selected with Alva Noto, s t a r g a z e and André de Ridder

30 Apr. '23 - 20:30

Carsten Nicolai aka **Alva Noto**, one of the best-known representatives of the electronic music scene since the 1990s, composed the fourth part of his *Xerrox* series in 2020. Now the pan-European orchestral collective **s t a r g a z e**, conducted by **André de Ridder**, together with Alva Noto as soloist, brings an instrumental version of the series arranged specifically for the ensemble. A multimedia work that combines music with video and light installations, the *Xerrox* project deals with the manipulation of data (melodies) through endless reproduction. A process of making copies from copies, the sounds of which are changed in such a way that they can hardly be associated with the original material. This creates a sound spectrum of completely

new sounds. The idea of an edited version of the entire series with an instrumental cast has existed since the release of the first volume.

Copresentation Ancienne Belgique

Alva Noto: concept , live electronics

André De Ridder: conductor

s t a r g a z e

[Info & tickets](#)

