



**Press release (march 2014)**

## **The first CD of the a cappella group Brussels Vocal Project is a tribute to Pierre Van Dormael**

Brussels Vocal Project is a young a cappella sextet led by 3 male and 3 female singers: **François Vaiana (baritone), Elsa Grégoire (alto), Anu Junnonen (alto), Frédérique Borsarello-Trésallet (soprano), Jonas Cole (tenor) and Gilles Wiernik (bass)**. Their diverse tones blend with wonder on their debut CD 'The Art Of Love' that has just been released.

### **Tribute**



Renowned Belgian composers who knew the late guitarist Pierre Van Dormael (+2008) wrote new pieces specially for the first album of the Brussels Vocal Project 'The Art Of Love'. **Fabrizio Cassol, Nathalie Loriers, Fabian Fiorini, Diederik Wissels, Pierre Vaiana, Pirly Zurstrassen and Serge Lazarevitch**: each of them had a personal bond with Van Dormael and composed a piece that reflects Van

Dormael's masterpiece 'The Art Of Love' (\*). The diversity shown in the eight compositions is surprising, yet remarkably coherent. Each composition can be heard as a variation of the main theme.

### **Linx as inspiration**

'The Art Of Love' is not only a CD title, it is also the album's central thread. The lyrics of the song 'The Art Of Love' were written in 1986 by jazz vocalist **David Linx**. It was important to the band that Linx be in some way part of their first album. He can therefore be heard as a guest vocalist on Serge Lazarevitch's piece 'The Dancer's Echo'.

The link with David Linx is no random one. He is a personal role model to the three founding members who studied with him in the Brussels Conservatory. He wasn't just an inspiration at the beginning of the Brussels Vocal Project, he was also a guiding spirit during the creative process of the album making. On April 25th, the Brussels Vocal Project will play as supporting act for David Linx in Théâtre Marni where they will also be performing together 'The Dancers' Echo'. The group also benefited of saxophonist Pierre Vaiana and his non-profit organization Talia Asbl's financial and artistic support.

(\*) A piece that Pierre Van Dormael composed in 1987 for 'A Lover's Question', a project that was dedicated to the African American writer James Baldwin.

## No cliché a cappella

Brussels Vocal Project intends to put the optimal possibilities of the voice in the picture. Influences deriving from Belgian contemporary jazz, as well as pop, chanson and classical music can be heard. With their unique repertoire, they bring a new kind of a cappella music to the audience. A music far from the *cliché a cappella* that usually consist of shows, popular melodies or imitations of instruments. The six singers dive into the universe of each composition and make complex harmonies sound accessible.

## Story telling and the voice

*"Our concept of a cappella singing is only possible in Belgium", says the founder of the band **François Vaiana**. "There's an interesting vocal scene blooming in Belgium for the moment. There are many good singers with personal approaches. Besides that, we use the voice differently, not to imitate or reproduce instruments, but to tell a story with words that matter. Due to diverse influences and different musical backgrounds, this richness can be heard in our musical arrangements. There's respect and room for each singer's personal timbre", says Vaiana.*

## The link with Brussels

Brussels Vocal Project is a colorful group uniting four Belgian singers originating from Brussels (François Vaiana & Gilles Wiernik), Wallonia (Elsa Grégoire), and Flanders (Jonas Cole), as well as a Belgian based Fin (Anu Junnonen) and a Parisienne (Frédérique Borsarello-Trésallet).

During their studies at the Brussels Conservatory, François Vaiana and Elsa Grégoire founded the Brussels Vocal Project under the impulse of their teacher David Linx. Anu Junnonen being a former student of Linx as well, the three singers came together in 2011 and decided to work hand in hand to carry their vision to term. Three new singers then joined the group: Frédérique Borsarello-Trésallet, Jonas Cole and Gilles Wiernik. Together since 2012, the six singers recorded the debut album *The Art of Love* and represent today the voices of the Brussels Vocal Project.

## Information

Brussels Vocal Project's *The Art Of Love* is released under the label AZ Productions and can be purchased for 15 euros at [www.taliasbl.be](http://www.taliasbl.be), i-tunes, and at concerts. Info: [www.brusselsvocalproject.com](http://www.brusselsvocalproject.com). Songs can be listened at on <http://www.deezer.com/album/7471481>. Video material is to be found on the website under 'media'

**Line-up:** François Vaiana (baritone), Elsa Grégoire (alto), Anu Junnonen (alto), Frédérique Borsarello-Trésallet (soprano), Jonas Cole (tenor) en Gilles Wiernik (bass).

## Not for publication

- For CD requests and appointments for interviews (by phone/at concerts/mini concert on the radio/tv studio): contact Philip Bossuyt, Phibo press communication, +32 477/24.64.43, [Phibo@telenet.be](mailto:Phibo@telenet.be).
- Group's spokesmen  
François Vaiana, [francois.vaiana@gmail.com](mailto:francois.vaiana@gmail.com), +32 478 78 66 62  
Anu Junnonen, [anu.junnonen@gmail.com](mailto:anu.junnonen@gmail.com), +32 496 46 71 54