

Gwen Cresens, accordion and bandoneon Bart Van Caenegem, piano

When Gwen was 4 years old, he was enchanted by the mysterious street accordion player Bobby Dasov. Every day their paths crossed at the Antwerp cathedral, on his way to school. The little boy's enchantment became a grown man's passion. A passion for music, a passion for the instrument.

Accordion is the instrument of many cultures. That's how Gwen Cresens approaches music. The words 'genre' or 'style' become superfluous. Classical meets jazz effortlessly, naturally, and tango becomes an organic exponent of the French 'valse musette'. All in one. Music.

Gwen Cresens recorded the Galliano & Piazzolla Concerto's with Brussels Philharmonic, and is currently preparing his second solo album for Warner Classics with the Gwen Cresens Quartet.

Together with piano virtuoso Bart Van Caenegem, they present in Castelfidardo a selection from their new album Eclectica. (release 2020)

www.gwencresens.com

Gwen Cresens

Gwen Cresens is a Belgian accordion and bandoneon player, arranger and composer. He studied classical accordion at the Antwerp conservatoire and followed many masterclasses with internationally acclaimed maestro's.

Founder of Trio Dor, Orquesta Tanguedia, Papillon, Duo Anne Niepold & Gwen Cresens, Orquesta Tipica Belgica and recently the Gwen Cresens Quartet venturing into jazz.

Since 1993 Gwen Cresens freelances with:

Orchestras

Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic, Rotterdams Philharmonic Orchestra, Métropole Orkest NL, Brussels Jazz Orchestra

Theatre and dance companies

Les Ballets C de la B, Compagnie Heddy Maalem Toulouse, Niek Kortekaas, het Paleis, Federico Ordoñez

Artists (live / CD)

Rocco Granata, Fernando Lameirinhas, Boudewijn de Groot, Stéphane Eicher, Axelle Red, Adamo, Luciano Pavarotti, Ute Lemper, Taraf de Haidouks, Vaya con Dios

Special Projects

Curator Airbagfestival Bruges, edition 2018

Bart Van Caenegem

Pianist Bart Van Caenegem was born in Gent in 1975. He was instilled with the love of music when still bouncing on his father's knee.

Aged eight, he enrolled at the Geraardsbergen Municipal Music Academy, where he took piano, alto saxophone and trombone lessons. In '90 he was awarded the Municipal piano medal and a Higher saxophone diploma. That same year, he enrolled in the secondary arts

school section of the Lemmensinstituut, where he found himself in Jan Vermeulen's class (piano).

Upon finishing secondary school in '93 he was awarded 'First Solfeggio Prize' and became 'First Laureate' of the 'Pro Civitate' music competition. In '99 he passed his final jazz exam cum laude. He got a first as a 'Master of Music (Piano)', as well as a Master's Degree in Jazz Music'.

Alongside doing solo work, he has also worked with large orchestras (e.g. George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue). For a few years now, he has been making a name for himself as a choir accompanist, (VRT-koor – Vlaams Radio-koor). For a while, he had his own Bart Van Caenegem Trio and played with the High Voltage sextet. Since 2002 Bart Van Caenegem has regularly been heard with the Brussels Jazz Orchestra, whom he accompanied on their tour through the United States.

Other groups with which he performs are the DelVitaGroup and his own duo, with vibraphonist Bart Quartier.

Together with Peter Hens Bart is La framboise frivole, a musical comedy duo touring Europe for many years now.

Bart Van Caenegem teaches jazz solfeggio and piano at the Antwerp Art Academy and the Luca school of arts, Leuven.