

A gold-colored logo featuring a crown atop a stylized monogram of the letters 'B' and 'M' intertwined with decorative flourishes.

BAROQUE
& more



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*Where Commitment meets Artistry,
Potential blossoms and
Passion resonates.*

Baroque & more is a new collective of committed professional musicians, instrumentalists, and singers who are captivated by the power and significance of the nearly inexhaustible artistic repertoire from the period between 1600 and 1800.



Under the leadership of Artistic Director Luc Ponet, Baroque & more aims to share the love for (Baroque) music with a broad audience by organizing authentic, unique, and original artistic productions on one hand, and by promoting education and supporting young artists on the other.



Where Commitment meets Artistry

At the core of all productions by Baroque & more lies the endless quest for a relevant **historically informed performance** practice, grounded in the extensive experience of Artistic Director Luc Ponet. Working from a flexible team of **passionate instrumentalists and vocalists** who embrace the vision of Baroque & more, each production collaborates with suitable musicians and specialists from both local and international circles.

Baroque & more distinguishes itself by focusing on the following three pillars:

1. Rediscovering and promoting the **cultural identity** of Flanders, the Prince-Bishopric of Liège, and the Southern Netherlands through the authentic repertoire of the 17th and 18th centuries. This is achieved by an honest, nuanced interpretation of forgotten, lesser-known, or never-before-performed scores.
2. **Innovative combinations and cross-overs**. This includes integrating music and instruments from other cultures, engaging in challenging collaborations with parallel international projects, or blending Baroque music with various art forms such as theater, dance, and visual arts.
3. The **creation of new music**. This involves commissioning compositions for performances that engage in dialogue with historical traditions, thereby bridging the past and the present.

Potential blossoms...

Baroque & more aims to foster a **deeper appreciation** for Baroque music and inspire a **new generation** of enthusiastic listeners, aficionados, and musicians. This is achieved through the organization of various activities and programs:

1. **Artist in Residence:** Young musicians are coached by the artistic team of Baroque & more in both musical and entrepreneurial aspects. These young talents have the opportunity to participate in the productions of Baroque & more.
2. **Educational Workshops and Masterclasses** focused on musical and cultural development. These activities are designed for both amateur musicians and professional artists, with special attention to the performance practice of Baroque music.
3. **Lecture-recitals, seminars, and symposia** aimed at increasing knowledge of and appreciation for Baroque music from various cultural styles. This can also include collaborations with academic institutions and cultural organizations.



and Passion resonates.

To realize its projects, the collective of Baroque & more is organized into several entities: a pool of instrumentalists (Ensemble Baroque & more) and vocalists (Baroque & more - the Voices), an artistic team led by Luc Ponet, an extensive board of directors composed of esteemed and experienced personalities from various sectors (finance, cultural management, law, diplomacy, the arts, etc.), a production team, and voluntary staff.



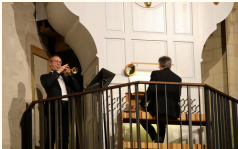
To allow the music to resonate at its best, in its most authentic context, Baroque & more opts for joint ventures with significant heritage sites and suitable historic buildings. Architectural heritage and intangible, resonant heritage: together, they push boundaries! This benefits organizers, performers, and audiences alike!

Baroque & more relies on **professional musicians** who specialize in the performance of Baroque music... and more. Depending on the production's needs, the musicians are assembled into the following ensembles:

- **Ensemble Baroque & more:** With expertise in historically informed performance practice, using authentic instruments, ranging from Baroque chamber music to a full Baroque orchestra.
- **Baroque & more... the Voices!:** From a double quartet to 16 or 24 singers, depending on the repertoire to be performed.
- **Baroque Opera Company (Flanders):** A socio-cultural participatory project where artistry and societal relevance are central.

Among the gathered musicians, several smaller, **permanent ensembles** are also formed, such as:

- The **Flemish Baroque Trio** (soprano Ilse Eerens, trumpeter Manu Mellaerts, and organist Luc Ponet),
- The **G Brass Project** (trumpeters Slawomir Cichor (PL), Manu Mellaerts (B), Jose Chafer Mompo (ES), and organist Luc Ponet),
- The **Moondog Company** (percussionist Alexander Ponet (CH), saxophonist Maarten Vergauwen (B), double bassist Gabriele Basilico (D), (jazz-)pianist Alano Gruarin, and organist Luc Ponet),
- **Leuven Baroque**, which, with a variable lineup (strings and/or winds), exclusively focuses on Baroque music from Leuven, Flanders, and the Southern Netherlands.





Artistic director Luc Ponet

Luc Ponet is the titular organist of the basilica in Tongeren, organist-in-residence at the Landcommandery Alden Biesen, guest professor (organ) at LUCA School of Arts – Campus Lemmens, and city organist of Leuven. He is also the curator of the Festival Leuven Orgelstad.

Over the years, he has gained worldwide recognition as a concert organist. As a researcher, he is affiliated with the University of Leuven, where he is preparing a doctoral dissertation (PhD) on the Tongeren Organ Manuscript (1626) and the practice of organists in the Prince-Bishopric of Liège in the first half of the 17th century. In addition, he is the driving force and artistic director/conductor of the Bach Academy Alden Biesen (choir and orchestra, on period instruments) and artistic director of the Intra Muros Festival. His repertoire preferences include the organ works, cantatas, and oratorios of Johann Sebastian Bach, French Baroque music (from the 16th century to the French Revolution), and, naturally, the music from the former Prince-Bishopric of Liège (organ and orchestral works).

His CD recordings – including those for Naxos, R. Gailly, Pavane, and Etcetera – are entirely in line with these interests and have received worldwide critical acclaim.

Board

- Jean De Brabander, chairman
- Luc Ponet, artistic director
- Alexander Ponet (CH)
- Bert Daenen
- Filip Martens
- Guy Van Waas
- Kevin Van Nuffel
- Marie Petit
- Martine Breynaert
- Rita Bral

Support team

- Bruno Boeykens – Production Assistant
- Els De Munck – Communications
- Kevin Van Nuffel – Fundraising
- Leo August De Bock – Concertzender.nl
- Ludo Ramaekers – Production Assistant
- Lutgart Voets – Production Assistant
- Myriam Billen – Production Assistant
- Ton Reijnaerts – Journalist

Production team

Together with artistic director Luc Ponet, the day-to-day management of Baroque & More is handled by two coordinators, Martine Breynaert and Marie Petit. Both bring extensive experience in the music and production sectors.



Martine Breynaert holds degrees in physical geography, environmental management, and business economics from KU Leuven. Since November 2018, Martine has served as the Purchasing Manager at Willemen Infra in Hasselt. In addition to her professional involvement in the construction sector, Martine is also a passionate musician and singer. She is part of various choirs and instrumental ensembles, where she showcases her talent as a soprano. Her engagement with the Kleine Cantorij and Schola Gregoriana Feminea (OLV Basilica Tongeren), F@il Lummen, Harmonieorkest De Volksgalm, and the Royal Harmony of Peer, where she plays contra and bass clarinet, demonstrates her versatility and her ability to coordinate and perform in both professional and artistic environments. In this capacity, she has participated several times in the World Music Contest Kerkrade, the VLOH, and the European Championship for Wind Bands.



Marie Petit is currently pursuing her master's degree in organ performance at LUCA School of Arts, campus Lemmens in Leuven, under the guidance of Luc Ponet. She enriches her education by regularly participating in masterclasses. Concurrently, Marie is working on a doctorate within the research group 'Production and Logistics' at KU Leuven, following her master's degree in commercial engineering, which she graduated from with great distinction at the same institution. Marie serves as the organist-titularis in the parishes of Philippeville and Lonzée. She performs regularly, both as a soloist and with other musicians. In January 2023, she founded the nonprofit organization Philanthr'Orgues, with the aim of acquiring a new organ for the church in Philippeville, followed by organizing concerts and events for this instrument. Marie is actively involved in organizing concerts related to organ culture in Leuven (Leuven Orgelstad), and she is the initiator and first coordinator of the Young Ambassadors for ECHO (European Cities of Historical Organs).



Partnerships

Baroque & more has already established various local, national, and international partnerships with other non-profit organizations or special (concert) venues, including:

- Begijnhof Sint-Truiden / Erfgoed Limburg
- International Bamboo Organ Festival (Philippines)
- Landcommanderij Alden Biesen
- Leuven Orgelstad
- Maison de la Culture, Braine-L'Alleud
- Ministry of Culture, Romania
- MoMeNT, cultural festival Tongeren
- Musée Grétry (Liège)
- National State Music Academy Azerbaijan
- Ostbelgien Festival (Eupen)
- Philanthr'Orgues (asbl, Philippeville)
- Stichting Cellebroederskapel - historical Monument - Maastricht
- Valletta Baroque Festival (Malta)

These collaborations are essential to achieving our mission and expanding our reach. We look forward to further collaborations with various organizations both domestically and internationally in the future.

Projects in preparation

Baroque & more is a recently established spin-off of the Bach Academie Alden Biesen. Thanks to the experience of their artistic director, the support of a strong board of directors, and the dynamism of the production team, not only have many special and daring projects been realized, but there are also several exciting new projects in development.

- **Year-end concerts 2024** in celebration of the Winter Solstice, inspired by the Pre-Hispanic period in Central America. Featuring Luiz Marquez and Mexican guest musicians (Pre-Hispanic instruments), alternating with Italian Baroque music for strings and vocal music from the region (Walloon/Flemish Christmas music), interspersed with authentic mantras and Gregorian chants.
- **Music theater production "Who the hell is J.S. Bach?"** - in collaboration with actor Kurt Defrancq and philosopher Prof. Dr. Jean-Paul Van Bendegem.
- **CD production** dedicated to the French Baroque repertoire for musette and orchestra (premiere), featuring Jean-Pierre Van Hees - a globally recognized authority - and the Ensemble Baroque & more under the direction of guest conductor Guy Van Waas.
- **Historical opera** with a scenic premiere of "**L'officier de fortune**" a manuscript by A.M. Grétry found in Paris, by the Baroque Opera Company in collaboration with MoMeNT (Tongeren).
- **Cultural exchange** - masterclasses and concerts - with the Baku Music Academy (Azerbaijan).
- **Baroque & more - Festival concert** featuring Flemish Baroque music at the Valletta Baroque Festival (Malta).





Friends and Patronage Committee

An indispensable part of the Baroque & more family is comprised of friends, sponsors, and patrons. They are all united by their enthusiasm for music and their connection to "their" Baroque & more ensembles. It is only through their unwavering support that certain artistic and philanthropic projects and exchanges can be realized.

- Friend: starting from 100 euros per year
- Sponsor: starting from 1,000 euros per year
- Patron: starting from 10,000 euros per year

Depending on your status as a friend, sponsor, or patron of Baroque & more, you can enjoy numerous benefits, such as a monthly newsletter with information on releases and planned projects, invitations to special concerts and rehearsal visits, as well as exclusive concert introductions.

Advisory board

The advisory board contributes in a special way to bringing together people and resources. We cherish the development of our relationships with our fascinating friends and the patronage committee through close personal contact, as inspired by this committee. If you believe you can contribute to the further development of the friends and the patronage committee, and therefore have recommendations, we would be happy to discuss this with you.



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