



‘ the heart, imagination and mind are the environment where what we call culture is born ‘

-Konstantin *Paustovsky*

#### INFO.

**Michel Tilkin, conductor**

**Txemi Etxebarria, assistant-conductor**

**Oriana Dierinck, idea & production**

Some years ago, during a hot summer holiday in Greece, flautist Oriana Dierinck, artistic director of the acclaimed Antwerp based Zvezdoliki Ensemble, read “the Romantics” by Konstantin Paustovsky. This book, about a writer’s struggle with the big themes that are Love, War and Art, became the inspiration for the name of this brand new orchestra.

Beginning of 2024, Oriana asked for a meeting with conductor Michel Tilkin to discuss her plans. Mr. Tilkin immediately got enthusiastic and a concert program was build. In the next following months there was a scouting throughout Flanders and Brussels to find musicians not only highly gifted but also with the fitting adventurous mindset.

Around May 2024 things got more and more clear and definite so the collaboration with Queen Elisabeth Competition laureate violinist Sylvia Huang was being confirmed.

Date and venue were confirmed by the City of Antwerp.. and.. here we are.. !

We cannot say how thrilled we are to play this concert as a kick-off for more beautiful music !

If you are interested in supporting us financially or logistically or both or else.. please contact us ----->

*the Romantics, November 2024*

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**the romantics**

**is a project of Z V E Z D O L I K I vzw**

[READ](#) the interview for **Klassiek Centraal**

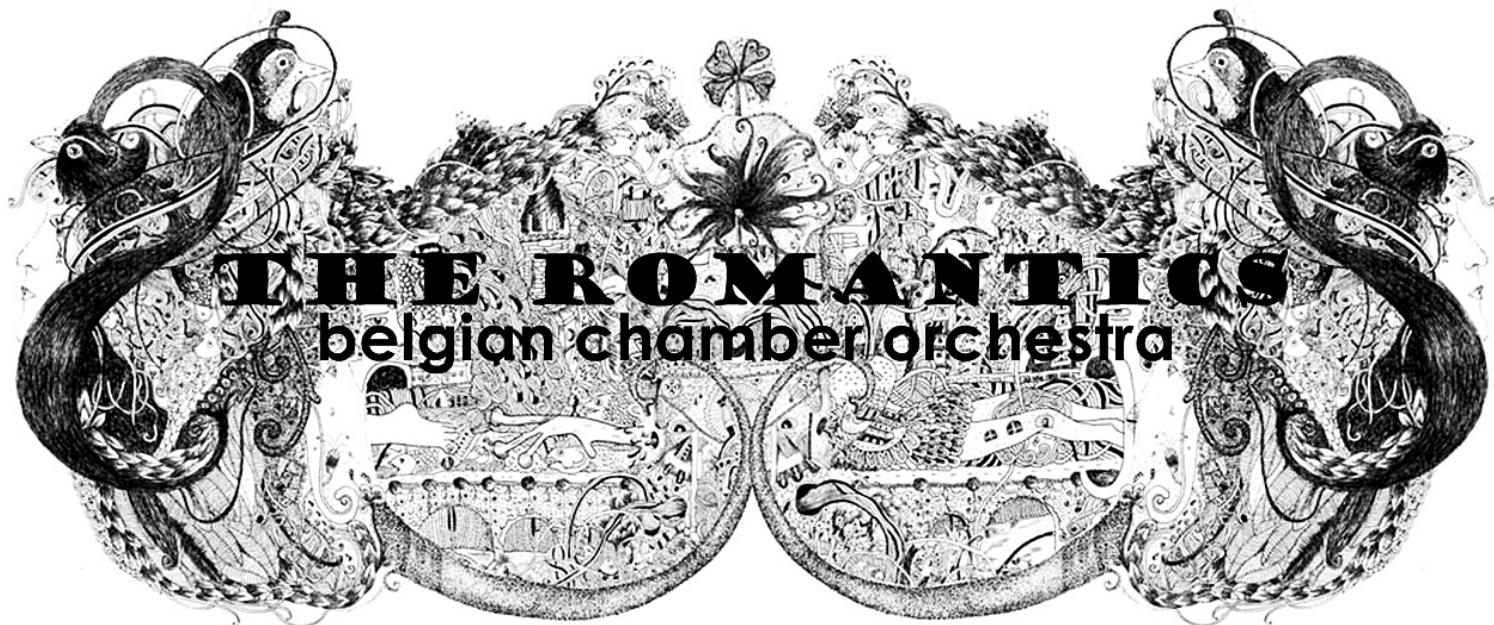
[LISTEN](#) to the interview for **KLARA**

**with special thanks to**

Anne-Marie Segers

Luk Artois

Kunstacademie Beveren



30 NOVEMBER 2024 . 20:00 . AMUZ Antwerpen

Conductor : Michel *Tilkin*      Soloist : *Sylvia Huang*, violin

Presentation : Anne-Marie *Segers*

. program .

- . W. A. Mozart      Overture ' Le Nozze di Figaro '
- . L. v. Beethoven      Violin Concerto in D major, op. 61
  - . I. Allegro ma non troppo
  - . II. Larghetto
  - . III. Rondo. Allegro

INTERMISSION (15')

- . L. v. Beethoven      Symphony n° 1 in C major, op. 21
  - . I. Adagio molto – Allegro con brio
  - . II. Andante cantabile con moto
  - . III. Menuetto : Allegro molto e vivace
  - . IV. Adagio – Allegro molto e vivace



*Michel Tilkin*, conductor



Belgian conductor Michel Tilkin enjoys an extremely busy and successful career on the podium internationally, having developed strong artistic relationships with numerous eminent ensembles since the start of the new millennium. His interpretations are known for their intensity of expression and masterly shaping of large symphonic structure. In response to a performance of Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No. 5*: "...the enlarged orchestra was clearly galvanized by Tilkin's passionate and highly committed temperament, resulting in many powerfully sustained build-ups and climaxes of often awe-inspiring, searing excitement..." (James Keller, Bangkok Post, 2017)

De Belgische dirigent Michel Tilkin stond tussen 2013 en 2017 aan het hoofd van de Thüringen Philharmonie Gotha, waar hij de positie van chefdirigent bekleedde. Ter opening van zijn allerleerste concertseizoen aan het hoofd van zijn nieuwe orkest leidde hij het speels doch met vaste hand door werken van Ludwig van Beethoven, Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy en Robert Schumann. Onder zijn leiding gooide het orkest ondertussen hoge ogen in Berlijn (Konzerthaus en Waldbühne), Bremen, Heiligenstadt, Bad Kissingen, Frankfurt (Alte Oper) maar ook hier, onder meer in de Academie van Sint-Truiden.

Aanvankelijk Michel Tilkin speelde als trombonist bij het Rotterdams Filharmonisch Orkest, waar hij samenwerkte met enkele grote dirigenten. In de jaren '90 was hij assistent van Kurt Masur en Neville Marriner.

Als dirigent maakte hij carrière bij het Nationaal Orkest van België, de Filharmonie (nu Antwerp Symphony Orchestra), het Vlaams Radio Orkest (nu Brussels Philharmonic), Symfonieorkest Vlaanderen, het Koninklijk Philharmonisch Orkest van Luik, de Beethoven Academie e.a.

Bij de Vlaamse opera, nu Opera Vlaanderen, dirigeerde hij meerdere producties waaronder de wereldcreatie van de jeugdopera Achilleus van de Belgische componist Wim Henderickx en Die lustige Witwe. Hij bouwde echter vooral een gigantisch symfonisch repertoire uit.

In de loop der jaren heeft Michel Tilkin een voortreffelijke reputatie opgebouwd in Duitsland. Zo maakt hij er regelmatig zijn opwachting aan het hoofd van onder meer de Nürnberger Symphoniker, de Philharmonie Südwestfalen, het Philharmonisch Orkest van Vorpommern en de Thüringen Philharmonie Gotha, dat hem ten slotte ook als chef-dirigent benoemde.

Daarnaast dirigeerde hij regelmatig het *Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra*, *Het Gelders Orkest (Arnhem)* en het *Limburgs Symphonie Orkest* (vandaag Philharmonie Zuid-Nederland).

Michel Tilkin werkte mee aan talloze radio en cd-opnamen.

### **Sylvia Huang, violin**

Appreciated for her “true lyricism and her touching musicality, her simplicity and her sensitivity”, and delivering a “wide color palette (*Le Soir*), the Belgian violinist Sylvia Huang is described as a “moving and honest” musician with a “rich sound” (*De Standaard*).

In 2019 she became laureate of the Queen Elisabeth International Competition and won the two audience prizes: the Musiq’3 Prize and the Canvas-Klara Prijs. She also received the Caecilia Prize of the Young Musician of the Year 2019 by the Union de la Presse Musicale Belge.

She made her debut with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in February 2021 playing Mozart Violin Concerto K.218 with Andrew Manze, which she also performed in July 2021 with Iván Fischer and the RCO at the Konzerthaus in Berlin during the official state visit of the King and Queen of the Netherlands.

She has collaborated with many other orchestras such as the Belgian National Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic, the Orchestre Royal de Chambre de Wallonie, the Bad Reichenhall Philharmoniker, in halls such as the Palais des Beaux-Arts and Flagey in Brussels, the Vlaamse Opera in Gent, deSingel in Antwerp and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

She took part in several international festivals including B-Classic Festival van Vlaanderen, Les Echappées Musicales du Médoc, Festival Musiq’3, Klara in deSingel, Collegium Vocale Crete Senesi and the Festivals de Wallonie.

Eugène Ysaÿe and Guillaume Lekeu was released in September 2021 for the Outhere Music-Fuga Libera label, and was highly appreciated by critics.



photo © victor godet



# THE ROMANTICS

belgian chamber orchestra

Born in 1994, Sylvia had her first violin lessons with her father and continued her studies at the Académie des Arts de la Ville de Bruxelles, and later on with Alexei Moshkov and Liviu Prunaru.

She won first prize at the Belfius Classics National Musical Competition in 2004 and at the Lions European Musical Competition in 2008.

From 2012 to 2014, she was a member of the National Orchestra of Belgium before joining the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam until 2022.

As a passionate chamber musician, she founded the GoYa Quartet with three of her RCO colleagues. After having won the prestigious “Prix de Salon 2015” awarded by the business network of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the GoYa Quartet Amsterdam was able to make recordings of two live performances of all Brahms and Schumann string quartets.

Sylvia plays on a Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume, on loan from the Arthur Grumiaux Foundation.

Since 2023, she is the new concertmaster of La Monnaie/De Munt Symphony Orchestra in Brussels.



*photo © victor godet*



# THE ROMANTICS

belgian chamber orchestra



## **Txemi Etxebarria**, *assistant conductor*

Txemi was born in the Basque Country (Spain) but lives now in Belgium for 20 years. He studied composition in Maastricht with Jef Penders and later graduated in Master Horn and Master Orchestral Conducting at the Maastricht Conservatory with Enrico Delamboye and Jan Stulen and also at the Royal Conservatory of Antwerp with Ivo Venkov.

Since November 2023, Txemi Etxebarria is chief conductor of the Philips Symphony Orchestra (Eindhoven).

He has worked with several orchestras: Philzuid (Netherlands), Staatsochester Rheinische Philharmonie Koblenz (Germany), Symphony Orchestra of the National Opera & Ballet Oleg Danovsky (Romania), Pleven Philharmonic (Bulgaria), Opera Comique Maastricht and the Banda Municipal de Bilbao (Spain).

He will make his debut with the Flanders Symphony Orchestra in 2025.

Since 2011, he is also conductor of the contemporary music ensemble CoMA Maastricht and the wind bands TOG-Welten and St. Aemilian Bleijerheide.

He won 3rd prize at the "Citta' Di Brescia Giancarlo Facchinetti" (Italy), 2nd prize at the Artur Nikisch International Competition (Bulgaria) and 1st prize at the 4th International Orchestral Conducting Competition in Bilbao (Spain).



## *Orchestra Members*

### *Violin 1*

Anna Popil, concertmaster  
 Eleni Giovanis  
 Rientje Van Oirschot  
 Hilde Pijnenborg  
 Arianna Messina  
 Francesca Panattoni  
 Ananda Gulan

### *Violin 2*

Isaura Billiet, section leader  
 Maartje Geris  
 Kaat Van Bouwel  
 Astrid Maertens  
 Catharina Colpaert  
 Selena Del Olmo

### *Viola*

Oleksandra Zholobova  
 Lucia Alónso Hernandez  
 Katrin Smedts  
 Tinne Smolders

### *Cello*

Ana Hespanha, section leader  
 Chelsea Jung  
 Justina Laptevaite  
 Jade Astier

### *Double Bass*

Miguel Meulders

### *Flute*

1. Oriana Dierinck  
 2. Frank Vanhove

### *Oboe*

1. Raphaëlle Nenert  
 2. Mako Inabetsu

### *Clarinet*

1. Hannelore Vermeir  
 2. Severine Sierens

### *Bassoon*

1. Renate Spelmans  
 2. Finn De Schepper

### *Trumpet*

1. Matteo Gomez Noto Dulcic  
 2. Jeroen Bovin

### *Horn*

1. Dries Laureyssens  
 2. Alexander Bosch Berth

### *Timpani*

Geertje Karpez