

Bart Vandewege

Biography

Bart Vandewege's versatility as a musician is the result of his studies both of musical theory (harmony, counterpoint, composition) and of singing, flute and piano in Belgian conservatories. His musical exploration led him to specialize in early music, contemporary music and jazz.

Earlier in his academic career, he had also studied visual arts and creative writing, both disciplines serving as synaesthetic inspiration for his musical compositions for theatre, cinema and dance.

He sings bass in the Collegium Vocale Gent (Philippe Herreweghe), Amsterdam Baroque Choir (Ton Koopman), Huelgas Ensemble (Paul van Nevel), Bach Collegium Japan (Masaaki Suzuki), Il Gardellino (Marcel Ponsoe), Plus Ultra (Michael Noone), La Petite Bande (Sigiswald Kuijken), Concerto Köln, Il Giardino Armonico and the Freiburger Barockorchester, under conductors such as Gustav Leonhardt, René Jacobs, Thomas Hengelbrock, Robert King, Jos Van Immerseel, Alan Curtis, Roy Goodman, Christopher Hogwood, Peter Rundel, Skip Sempé, Peter Phillips and Marcus Creed. He has also toured Europe, the USA and Asia, as well as taking part in numerous recording sessions.

Bart Vandewege mainly composes for the theatre, cinema and dance performances commissioned by a wide variety of European theatre companies and filmmakers including Belgian TV (VRT), Les Ballets C de la B and the Ars Animación Group España-México.

His compositions show a clear inclination towards the counterpoint of the Flemish polyphony of the 16th Century but applied to modern sound language, with the development of the pieces being based on layer upon layer of horizontal lines. His multifaceted ability means that his style can be adapted depending on the needs of the project and the person commissioning it, but his melodies-within-melodies, as they are often called by non-musicians, are very much his own.

He regularly works as a guest conductor, and has done a number of recordings of lesser-known compositions by a range of artists from Fétis and Lemmens to cutting edge composers like the American Elliott Carter. As assistant conductor he has also led La Chapelle Royale, the Vlaams Radio Koor, the Collegium Vocale, Il Gardellino and the Amsterdam Baroque Choir. In 2008 he was appointed artistic director of the *Al Ayre Español* choir.

He is also the artistic director of the *La Hispanoflamenco* ensemble, who specialise in the 16th and 17th Century polyphony of the Netherlands and the Iberian Peninsula. Gustav Leonhardt, Monica Huggett and Enrico Onofri have all been guest conductors with *La Hispanoflamenco*.

Up to 2004, Bart Vandewege was in charge of programming at Radio 3 / Klara (VRT, Brussels) and is still very active in producing musical recordings, his production of previously unrecorded works by Mauricio Kagel and Cristóbal Halffter being of particular note.

His diversity as a musician is an undeniable advantage when it comes to artistic supervision of recordings, as he aims to get the best out of the performers, allowing them compete freedom of expression while keeping to a strict schedule.