

DEPARTEMENT CULTUUR, JEUGD & MEDIA

ULTIMAS 2016

Flemish Culture Prizes

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ULTIMA 2016 MUSIC MUZIEKPUBLIQUE

The promotion of traditional music and dance in the widest possible sense. This is the aim of the non-profit Muziekpublique. Via an ambitious programme of concerts, musical creations, courses, workshops, artist support and its own music label, the association presents itself as one of the most important players in folk and world music in Belgium.

Muziekpublique starts from the assumption that all cultures are valuable and have their own fascinating tradition when it comes to music and dance. Musicians must have the chance to continue building on this tradition. The different communities in Brussels must have more opportunities to come into contact with each other's cultural expressions. This is why Muziekpublique does not programme 'exotic music' for a Belgian audience. The association also wants Africans to get to know Flemish folk music, Spaniards to appreciate Arabian rhythms, Turks to not only attend a Turkish concert but also get to know other styles, etc.

With the Hide & Seek Festival Muziekpublique opens up surprising and emblematic locations for acoustic concerts. Each year the association also takes part in the live broadcasts of the popular multicultural TV programme on RTBF 'Le Monde est un village'. There is also the annual Living Room Music festival, an acoustic music festival in the living rooms of Brussels. Other important highlights were the programming of the Irisfeest/Fête de l'Iris (Brussels Capital Region) in partnership with Rosas, a large public dance at Brussels North Station during the first Nuit Blanche and more than twenty concerts in the Brussels metro during the first edition of Brxlbravo, the Brussels art weekend.

Since 2006, Muziekpublique has managed Theater Molière/Théâtre Molière thanks to the municipality of Elsene/Ixelles. This theatre in the Galerie Porte de Namur is right in the middle of Matongé, the African quarter of Brussels. It's an ideal location to develop a centre for world culture. At Molière there are daily rehearsals by groups in residence, many of the courses take place and there is also space for projects with local residents and associations and other artistic events.

Muziekpublique also brought refugee musicians together in the 'Refugees for Refugees' project. This shows another underexposed side of refugees: these talented people haven't come here empty-handed. They get support and can have their voice heard in front of a national and international audience. The ensemble released the CD 'Amerli', which was voted 'CD of the year 2016' by the Transglobal World Music Chart. The 'Refugees for Refugees' project recently won another prize with the Hospitality Award from [Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen](http://www.vluchtelingenwerk.vlaanderen.be) (Flemish Refugee Action).

<http://www.muziekpublique.be>

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