

Music Chapel

Press release

Inauguration of the de Launoit Wing

27.01.2015

The Music Chapel takes off!

On 27 January 2015, seventy-five years after the opening of the Music Chapel, the **de Launoit Wing** will be inaugurated! This event concludes an intense, decade-long overhaul of the contents of the Music Chapel's program and marks the start of a new page in the history of the Music Chapel, a public utility foundation since 2008. Indeed, this project imagined by Eugène Ysaÿe and Queen Elisabeth and realized in 1939 by Paul de Launoit was entirely rethought in 2004 and now focuses on two main axes:

1. high-level training in six disciplines (voice, violin, piano, cello, viola and chamber music) and with the presence of Masters in Residence. Six leading classical musicians are accompanying the Music Chapel and its young artists in 2014-15: **José van Dam, Augustin Dumay, Maria João Pires, Gary Hoffman, Miguel Da Silva** and the **Artemis Quartet**;

2. professional insertion through a network of cultural partners in Belgium (Bozar, Flagey, La Monnaie, leading orchestras, etc.) and throughout the world. Over 200 concerts were produced, coproduced or initiated by the Music Chapel during the 2013-14 season.

Each year the Music Chapel welcomes about 60 young talents in residence, both from Belgium and abroad (22 nationalities in 2014-15). The Music Chapel's operating **budget** is currently in the order of 2.5 to 3 million euro per year, 80% of which is financed by the private sector (foundations, corporations, private patronage, own revenue) and 20% by public aid (the European Union, Belgium's Federal Scientific Policy, the Ministry of Education of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, the National Lottery). The expansion of the infrastructure is a project that was launched in 2006 already with the choice of the architecture offices **Synergy International** and **L'Escaut**, experts in, among other things, cultural constructions and buildings with a high environmental value. The expansion was the object of a long reflection followed by a demand for a heritage certificate and lastly a building permit obtained in March 2013. These facilities and extension enable the continuance of the new dynamic launched in 2004, making it possible to now offer to a greater number of musicians and their professors a residence adapted to the new project by providing among others:

- 20 additional housing studios, a specificity of the Music Chapel;
- 3 new music, rehearsal and recording studios, indispensable to the Chapel's activities;
- new living areas that make it possible for these artists to grow in a permanent musical laboratory (Foyer, Artists Village).

The project for the **de Launoit Wing** was a genuine architectural, acoustic, landscaping, environmental, technological and financial challenge! The wonderful work of the architects Olivier Bastin and Sébastien Cruyt was accompanied by a far-reaching acoustic study conducted by **Capri Acoustique** (Rémi Raskin), by the restoration and improvement of the listed park with the help of **JNC** and Jean Noël Capart, by an efficient construction partnership with the contracting company **AMART** (CFE Group), and lastly with a quality interior design for the artists and the audience with the help of **MBO** (Michèle Buchter). Of a budget of more than 10.5 million euro, the Music Chapel has so far gathered more than 90%. The quality of the overall project and the striking architecture of the new building have convinced the many public and private partners to support the Music Chapel in its development. The **de Launoit Wing** enables everyone to work in a spirit of knowledge transmission favorable to the development of the talent, rigor and sensitivity of each musician ... in such a way as to construct new generations of musicians. More than ever, the international vocation of the Music Chapel, rooted in its Belgian setting, is continuing its development.

Bernard de Launoit, Executive President