

# Music Chapel

## 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary 1939 – 2019

### Future challenges

### *Developing the campus*



#### Press release

Marking **80 years** of existence is an opportunity to celebrate a leading and internationally recognized centre of musical excellence. It is a privileged moment to look back on the origins of the Music Chapel and the eight decades of intense activity that have followed, but also an opportunity to present the objectives of the Chapel for the coming years.

The Music Chapel was inaugurated on 12 July 1939 by **Queen Elisabeth**. The historic building, designed by architect **Yvan Renchon**, was intended from the start to house a centre of excellence for artistic training. It has become an icon far beyond its architectural qualities. Its image reflects the institution's prestige and is a symbol of music in particular. Listed in 1994, the historic building has become a symbol of excellence.

In 2004 the Chapel opened a new chapter in its history by modernizing the artistic content of its project, leading to a first extension of the Chapel in 2015: the **de Launoit Wing**, which has become an essential complementary tool, a true musical laboratory for young artists and the audience. This expansion of the infrastructure enabled the development of better working conditions for musicians and at the same time it made it possible for the Chapel to organize a concert season (MuCH Music Season). On the strength of the success of its artistic program developed since 2015 and of its ever-increasing reputation, the Music Chapel now sees the need to further develop its campus, in particular its capacity for accommodation and rehearsal spaces. At the same time, another project is being studied, that of a performance venue that the municipality of Waterloo is piloting as part of a broader cultural and academic development plan for its territory.

#### **Development of the Music Chapel campus: Phase III (2021): "Pavilion project".**

This project was proposed to one of the two architects of the de Launoit Wing, **Sébastien Cruyt** and the **Synergy** office. It comprises three residential pavilions and a rehearsal room, arranged in an arc on the grounds adjacent to the listed park. The pavilions will be able to accommodate between 4 and 8 musicians in residence, providing accommodation and rehearsal spaces, and the rehearsal hall will be able to accommodate larger projects, including opera productions and symphony orchestra rehearsals. Nature is once again the setting for the architectural project, as in 2015 for the Launoit wing, whose glass façade reflects the surrounding vegetation. In this project, nature comes to the forefront: it encompasses the pavilions thanks to wooded palisades, thereby enabling the creation of carbon sinks, and the development of an adjacent orchard, the project as a whole being located behind the Chapel's listed park.

The Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, a non-profit foundation, operates on the basis of an unusual financing plan, a public-private partnership (20% - 80%). This pavilion project, launched in the context of the Music Chapel's 80th anniversary celebrations, gives the institution the opportunity to get even closer to its patrons: companies, private individuals, public authorities & foundations, all those who wish to support this constantly evolving transmission project. Many challenges remain in the coming years, but our ambitions are high and our motivation is intact.

Happy birthday, dear Music Chapel! We wish you a wonderful 80th anniversary!

**Booking :** [www.musicchapel.org](http://www.musicchapel.org)

**Press contact :** [svanderstegen@musicchapel.org](mailto:svanderstegen@musicchapel.org) & 0471 37 52 28

Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, public interest foundation

Under the Honorary Chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Paola

Correspondence: Chaussée de Tervuren 445 - 1410 Waterloo - Belgium

Corporate address: Rue Brederode 14, B-1000 Bruxelles - BCE 459 245 906

Tel: +32 (0)2 352 01 16 - Fax: +32 (0)2 351 10 24

[funding@musicchapel.org](mailto:funding@musicchapel.org) - [www.musicchapel.org](http://www.musicchapel.org)

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