



**Vox Luminis** is a Belgian early music ensemble created in 2004 by its artistic director Lionel Meunier. Today, the ensemble performs over 60 concerts a year, appearing on stages in Belgium, across Europe and around the world.

The **size and composition of the group depends on** the repertoire being performed but the core of soloists, mostly from the Royal Conservatory of the Hague, is joined by a *continuo* and additional (orchestral) instrument performers. Its repertoire is essentially Italian, English and German and spans from the 16th to the 18th century.

Since its inception, the ensemble is defined by its unity and seduces as much through the personality of each timbre as it does through the colour and the uniformity of the voices. It is more than a fixed repertoire, the ensemble members wholeheartedly communicate their passion for early music and love for the audience.

Amongst the feathers in its cap, Vox Luminis can boast **twelve recordings** that have appeared on the labels Alpha Classics, Ricercar, Ramée and Musique en Wallonie. Its latest album, *Actus tragicus*, was released by the label Alpha Classics. All the albums have enjoyed international critical acclaim and been awarded many prizes: Diapason d'Or from Diapason, Editor's Choice from Gramophone, Gramophone Recording of the Year (2012), Baroque Vocal Recording of the Year, International Classical Music Award, the Belgian press Caecilia prize, Preis der Deutschen Schallplatten Kritik, Choc de Classica, Joker de Crescendo, Coup de Cœur from the Académie Charles Cros, Supersonic from Pizzicato, 10 from Luister, Incontournable from Passée des Arts, Clef de Mois from Resmusica, Disque de l'année Prélude Classical Music Award. Télérama's ffff prize is also one of the ensemble's great honours.

Vox Luminis has performed at many **festivals** in Belgium, Europe and overseas. In Belgium, these festivals include the Festival de Wallonie, the Festival van Vlaanderen and Musica Antiqua in Brugge; in the Netherlands, the Oude-Muziek festival in Utrecht; and in France, the Ambronay festival, the Saintes festival, the Rencontres Musicales, the Académie Bach in Arques-la-Bataille. They have also performed in **prestigious halls** like Wigmore Hall in London, the Oratoire du Louvre in Paris, the Auditoria Nacional de Música in Madrid, the Centre for Fine Arts and the Flagey Radio House in Brussels, the Bijloke in Gent, the Concertgebouw in Brugge and Belem Cultural Centre in Lisbon while the Muziekgebouw in Amsterdam and the Tivoli Vredenburg in Utrecht, the Netherlands, have likewise welcomed Vox Luminis over the past few years.

Vox Luminis has also held many **residencies** for performing and perfecting its already exceptional work. Thus the walls of the Abbey of Sainte-Marie-des-Dames were opened to the ensemble, as were those of the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels, the Concertgebouw in Brugge, the prestigious Festival of Early Music in Utrecht, and the "Musique et Mémoire Festival". In 2017, the Aldeburgh Festival in England, founded by Benjamin Britten, hosted the ensemble for the first time.

Also in **2017**, the ensemble participated in many major international events, in particular, a concert at the Philharmonies in Berlin and in Köln, a concert in Arnstadt's Bachkirche, the Thüringer Bachwochen and the Bachfest Leipzig. The year 2017 is also marked by the débuts in the grand Salle Henry Leboeuf in Brussels, to inaugurate the beginning of a five-year residence. For the next few years, Vox Luminis will also be "huisartiest" at the Concertgebouw in Brugge.

At the moment, the ensemble is busy preparing several **recordings**: the Dixit Diminus by G.F. Handel and the Magnificat by J.S. Bach. In addition to its own orchestra, Vox Luminis works with other renowned ensembles and orchestras. In 2017, a first project with the Franco-Canadian ensemble Masques and two collaborations with the Freiburger Barockorchester have also been scheduled.



**One project, one objective, one path: introduce today's audiences to early vocal music, passionately convey its quintessence and touch the light through the voice. Vox Luminis.**

Vox Luminis receives support from Federation Wallonia-Brussels, the city of Namur and Namur Confluent Culture and is recognised by the Art and Life Tours.

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### Lionel Meunier, Artistic Director

Lionel Meunier is musician and singer, and founder of Vox Luminis, early music vocal ensemble (2004). He is conductor and artistic director for Vox Luminis and ensures its international reputation.

Being passionate about music from a very young age, he started his musical education in the city of Clamecy (France) with the trumpet, recorder and solfège. Lionel then continued his studies at *Institut Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie* (the Superior Institute of Music and Pedagogy - IMEP) in Namur where he earned his degree in recorder with great distinction. He took classes from Tatiana Babut du Marès and Hugo Reyne and masterclasses with Jean Tubéry.

He then focused his attention on vocal studies with Rita Dams and Peter Kooij at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague (NL). At the same time, he started a career as a concert musician; he was soon in great demand as a soloist and he joined prestigious ensembles like Collegium Vocale Ghent (P. Herreweghe), World Youth Choir, Arsysis Bourgogne (P. Cao), Amsterdam Baroque Choir (T. Koopmann), the Chamber Choir of Namur, the Favoriti de la Fenice (J. Tubéry), the Soloists of the Chamber Choir of Namur, Cappella Pratensis (S. Bull) and the soloists of the Dutch Bach Vereniging (J. Van Veldhoven).

Over the past two years, Lionel Meunier has been increasingly in demand from many ensembles throughout Europe as coach, conductor and artistic leader. His passionate yet thoughtful approach to the early music and a capella repertoire, combined with the understanding of and respect for the singers, has allowed him to achieve progressively ever-higher standards. Moreover, he is jury member for many international festivals and competitions.

In 2013, Lionel Meunier was given the title of Namur Person of the Year for Culture.

Just as mindful about education, Lionel and Vox Luminis regularly offer masterclasses, coaching sessions and conferences on the repertoire from the end of the Renaissance period and from the Baroque period.



## VOX LUMINIS

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Vox Luminis can boast **twelve recordings** in its oeuvre, acknowledged by numerous prizes including the prestigious Gramophone Recording of the Year en 2012 for the Musicalische Exequien by Heinrich Schütz.

L'Actus Tragicus with music by Johan Sebastian Bach and the double CD Ricercar *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* with Luther and the music of of the Reformation, were released in 2017 by Alpha and Ricercar.

"In just a few years, Vox Luminis has become one of the world's icons of early music" [Larsen, 12/2014]. Sound illuminations that bring to life "the eloquent winners" that "enchant" [Musiq'3, 10/2016] like "the energy of the vibration of the soul" [Diapason d'or, 09/2015]

## Lionel MEUNIER

Today, Lionel Meunier has achieved international renown as conductor and artistic director of the Vox Luminis ensemble, which he created in 2004.

Being passionate about music from a very young age, he started his musical education in his city of birth, Clamecy (France), with the trumpet, recorder and solfège. Lionel then continued his studies at *Institut Supérieur de Musique et de Pédagogie* (the Superior Institute of Music and Pedagogy - IMEP) in Namur and at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague (NL).

At the same time, he started a career as a concert musician and was soon in great demand as a soloist in many prestigious ensembles.

Lionel Meunier is also in great demand from many ensembles throughout Europe as coach, conductor and artistic leader. Additionally, he is jury member for many international festivals and competitions.

Along with Vox Luminis, he regularly offers masterclasses, coaching sessions and conferences on the repertoire from the end of the Renaissance period and from the Baroque period.