

~ Bach Academie Alden Biesen ~

Where Potential blossoms, Connections flourish, and Passion resonates.



Organum Alden Biesen (NGO) has been a beacon of artistic brilliance for the last 25 years; a testament to unwavering dedication, and an embodiment of cultural enrichment. This autonomous organisation, founded on principles of good governance and financial self-sufficiency, has consistently brought exceptional concerts to life that resonate with audiences worldwide. Their efforts have not only showcased the grandeur of the Alden Biesen Castle but have also extended to a myriad of other historical heritage locations in the province of Limburg, in Flanders and abroad, firmly securing their place on the international concert calendar.

A Legacy of Diversity and Artistic Integrity

The hallmark of Organum Alden Biesen is the profound diversity and artistic integrity evident in their programme offerings. With a sustainable and ever-growing audience base, international artists and performers have found a stage that nurtures their talents, and collaborative partners have joined hands in this musical journey.





The Bach Academie Alden Biesen: Where History Comes to Life

At the heart of this musical institution lies the Bach Academie Alden Biesen, consisting of two extraordinary ensembles that breathe life into the rich tapestry of early music.

The Alden Biesen Baroque Choir: This ensemble comprises individuals for whom singing is not just an art form but an unyielding passion. A majority of its members boast professional musical training, which adds depth and finesse to their performances.

The Alden Biesen Baroque Ensemble & Orchestra: Drawn from a roster of professional musicians, this orchestra is a collective of specialists who excel in the art of performing music on authentic, historical instruments. Their commitment to historical accuracy is unwavering.

Historical Informed & Inspired Performances

The approach adopted by the Bach Academie Alden Biesen is twofold – Historically Informed & Inspired Performances, also known as 2x H.I.P. This approach brings the essence and spirit of historical eras to life, immersing audiences in an authentic musical experience.

A Repertoire Spanning Centuries

The breadth of their repertoire is remarkable, from 1600 - the ending Renaissance to the turning Baroque - to 1800, the French Revolution, spanning from Monteverdi to Mendelssohn, with a keen focus on:

- Cantatas, Oratorios, and Passionen by J.S. Bach
- Baroque opera from 1600 to approximately 1800
- Instrumental music and concerti in a variety of ensemble sizes, from duos to full baroque orchestras
- A myriad of works for soloists, choir, and orchestra, including compositions by Monteverdi, Buxtehude, Händel, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and more





A Spectrum of Programmes

The Bach Academie Alden Biesen presents a wide range of captivating programme lines:

- **Organum Imperiale:** An international organ concert series that resonates with the essence of time.
- **Passion concerts:** Transporting audiences through the ages via oratorios and passions from the 17th and 18th centuries.
- **International Summer Academy:** One week of intense courses for experienced choral singers, baroque instrumentalists, and organists. Visit www.summeracademy-aldenbiesen.be for more details.
- **Christmas concerts:** A delightful Christmas celebration, featuring cantatas and oratorios from the 17th and 18th centuries.
- **A variable series of concerts:** Organ and chamber music – in historical (heritage) venues in the region.
- **Composition competition:** A platform for aspiring composers, culminating in a production and presentation during the International Summer Academy in collaboration with the Belgian Public Broadcasting Service (Radio 1).
- From 2024 onwards: **Surprising Baroque Opera** by the Flemish Baroque Opera Company, in unexpected and inspiring historical locations.

Vision Statement

Organum Alden Biesen is the driving force behind a series of innovative initiatives, including Baroque Opera, the Bach Academie Alden Biesen, the Alden Biesen Baroque Ensemble, and the International Summer Academy.

Bach Academie Alden Biesen aspires to be a leading centre of musical excellence, rooted in the rich legacy of Johann Sebastian Bach and other baroque masters. Our vision encompasses nurturing artistic creativity, promoting musical education, and inspiring a profound appreciation for classical music. We aim to create a vibrant community where both talented musicians and passionate listeners come together to delve into the timeless beauty and depth of baroque musical masterpieces.

The Power of Connection





Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide an inspiring environment where musicians of all levels and ages can develop, learn, and flourish in their musical journey. We strive to offer high-quality educational programmes, ranging from masterclasses and workshops to concerts and lectures, all aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of Bach's music and his baroque contemporaries and promoting artistic growth.

We base our productions on rigorous historical research, blend authenticity with contemporary theatre, explore new frontiers, scout talent, and engage diverse audiences. Through collaboration, innovation, and a passion for excellence, we occupy a unique place in the Flemish cultural landscape, offering international appeal within the EU regional context.

Artistic director – Luc Ponet

Luc Ponet is the titular organist of the Basilica in Tongeren, organist-in-residence at the Land Commandery Alden Biesen, professor of organ at Leuven University College of Arts – Lemmens campus, and city organist of Leuven. He is also the curator of the Leuven Organ City Festival. Over the years, he has garnered worldwide recognition as a concert organist. As a researcher, he is affiliated with the University of Leuven, where he is pursuing a doctorate (PhD) focused on the Tongeren Organ Manuscript (1626) and organ practice in the Prince-Bishopric of Liège in the first half of the 17th century.

Additionally, he is the driving force and artistic director/conductor of the Bach Academie Alden Biesen (choir and orchestra, using period instruments) and the artistic director of the Intra Muros Festival. His repertoire preferences include Johann Sebastian Bach (organ works, cantatas, and oratorios), French Baroque music (from the 16th century to the French Revolution), and, of course, the music from the former Prince-Bishopric of Liège (organ and orchestral works). His CD recordings, including those for Naxos, R. Gailly, Pavane, and Et'cetera, are in line with his musical interests and have received praise from critics worldwide.





The Power of Potential

Highlights of Organum Alden Biesen and the Bach Academie - A Non-Exhaustive List

- Martin Haselböck – Vienna (concert and masterclasses: "European Keyboard Music on a Flemish Van Peteghem Organ") (1999)
- Classical & Jazz: The High Voltage Sextet (2003)
- The Goldberg Variations (J.S. Bach) in three dimensions (integral live performance on the Flemish Van Peteghem organ, featuring dance, visual art, and poetry). This production was repeated in Belgium, France (Troyes) and the Netherlands (Rotterdam).
- The European Community Choir and Alessandro Albenga - Rome: a concert marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, in collaboration with EUROPALIA (2007)
- 1st International Summer Academy with D. Innocenzi (2012 - yearly)
- Performances of the St John Passion (J.S. Bach) (from 2013 onwards)
- Performances of the Magnificat (C.P.E. Bach) (2014)
- The Choir of Royal Holloway London conducted by R. Gough (2015)

- Performances of the Weihnachtsoratorium (J.S. Bach) (2016)
- Performances of the Matthäus Passion (J.S. Bach) (2017)
- Performances of the Requiem (W.A. Mozart) (2018)
- Performances of the St John Passion (J.S. Bach), presented in a semi-staged format (2019 and 2023)
- 'I Fiamminghi' at the unique Roma Festival Barocco (Rome) (2021)
- Performances of the Stabat Mater (Pergolesi) (2022)
- 'Les Plaisirs d'Arcadie' - concert at the prestigious Festival of Early Music in Utrecht (2022)
- Performances of The Messiah (G.F. Händel) (2022)
- Performances of the St John Passion (J.S. Bach) in the Philippines and in Belgium, as an international exchange project with the IBOF-Baroque Project of Las Piñas with guest conductor Beverly Shankuan-Cheng (Yale University) (2024)



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