

# TRIO 03



Lydie Thonnard, flutes

Eugénie Defraigne, cello

Léna Kollmeier, piano

*Always exploring new sounds, Trio 03 approaches the contemporary repertoire with audacity, sensivity and poetry !*

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# Trio O3 Biography

The **Trio O3**, winner of the Supernova Competition 2018, is composed of **Eugénie Defraigne**, **Léna Kollmeier** and **Lydie Thonnard**. The three members came to know each other through their common interest in contemporary music. They decided to work together and form a trio in 2014 while discovering and playing "Vox Balaenae" by George Crumb. Training themselves in 20th century and improvisational music, they have been collaborating as a trio alongside musicians like Michel Massot, François Deppe, Vincent Royer, Mia Elezovic, Olivier Vanderschaeghe, Jean-Pol Zanutel, Eric Leleux, Toon Fret, Kim Van den Brempt and Bart Bouckaert.

In 2016, having by then established their own style and creative universe, the three musicians presented their first project "Échos de la Terre" at the Espace Senghor in Brussels. Currently, they continue to present this project at different festivals and venues in Belgium, especially at Flagey in Brussels and the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Charleroi, while at the same time developing their second project, centered around new compositions from Belgian artists, created for the occasion.



# « Échos de la Terre »

An astonishing programme that will make you vibrate to the rhythm of nature !

## **Kaija SAARIAHO, *Cendres* (1998)**

for alto flute, cello and piano

Kaija Saariaho says about her own work: "While writing *Cendres*, I was mainly concentrating on the interpretation of particular musical ideas by the three different instruments of the trio, each of which has its unique character and palette of colours. Musical tension is created and regulated by sometimes bringing the instruments as close together as possible in all ways (pitch, rhythm, dynamics, articulation, colour etc.), or, at the other extreme, letting each of them express the music in their most idiomatic fashion. Between these two extremes there is an unlimited number of possible ways to create more or less homogenous musical situations. (...)".

## **Kaija SAARIAHO, *Mirrors* (1997)**

for flute & cello

This work by Kaija Saariaho evokes an intense grey light that is typically northern. It is based on a search for timbre and the will to sculpt the sound. In a sensual and contemplative atmosphere the composer focuses on progressive and contrasting transformations with symmetrical and mirroring effects, up to the point that the different constituting fragments can actually be assembled in different ways. In the middle of the piece you will recognise an old poem that was made famous through the medieval tapestry of the lady and the unicorn, with the lady holding a mirror in which the unicorn is reflected.

## **Erkki-Sven TÜÜR, *Dedication* (1990)**

for cello & piano

This work was composed in 1990 and is dedicated to the memory of Kuldar Sink, who was one of the most influential personalities of the Estonian avant-garde in the 1960ies. Erkki-Sven Tüür considers this piece as one of his best works of chamber music from that period. With its clear and sober structure, "Dedication" offers the listener an invisible theatre full of colours and emotions, in which one could easily imagine a dance of fantastic figures, at times delicately tormented, at times deliciously bucolic.

## **Tõnu KÕRVITS, *The songs from Thule* (2002)**

for flute & piano

Tõnu Kõrvits has always admired and was inspired by great Estonian composers like Arvo Pärt, but also by his country, Estonia, itself. His music reflects the atmospheres of his native country, the change of the seasons, the wide and open spaces of its nature, inhabited by so few people. His acoustic universe proves to be very poetic and full of visionary fantasies.



**George CRUMB, *Vox Balaenae***  
***for three masked players (1971)***  
amplified flute, piano & cello  
sound engineer: Delphine Dupont

As its title suggests, "Vox Balaenae" draws inspiration from the song of the humpback whale. George Crumb decided not to literally transcribe the whale song into music, but to use the instruments in a very special manner that suggests the sound and the sensation of the song of this marine mammal. The use of the prepared piano on the one hand and the versatile flute and cello techniques on the other hand transform the trio into a hybrid ensemble and echo the sounds of the sea on the surface of the earth. An enveloping blue light supports and enhances the performance of the piece. The masks worn by the musicians erase all sense of possible human projection and invite to an association with the powerful and impersonal forces of nature. "Vox Balaenae" is a real pearl of oxygen that allows the listener to be instantly immersed into the heart of the ocean.

*[Click here to watch the presentation's video](#)*



# « Détours ouverts »

## Belgian new works

*"Nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed"*

A. Lavoisier

The above motto by A. Lavoisier very well illustrates the current artistic approach of the trio. Already with their first project, "Echos de la Terre", the three musicians experimented with acoustic textures that are characteristic of the cello, the piano and the flute. The two emblematic pieces of this programme allowed them to directly work on the acoustic substance, the play with the timbre, the raw sounds and the synergy between the three instruments. Both "Cendres" by K. Saariaho and "Vox Balaenae" by G. Crumb have actually been composed in a very organic manner, in an attempt to create a collective energy between the three musicians and the public. **This collective energy is also the starting point of O3's new project.**

By turning towards present-day composers the trio is looking for a **direct connection with the process of musical creation**. This invaluable kind of collaboration allows for a real and lively exchange that results in an authentic interpretation. The world changes constantly, and so does music: this is where the trio's desire to work with today's composers comes from. As a result, the three musicians turned towards several Belgian personalities who are all different but share the same sensitivity.

Besides these Belgian new works, the three musicians are also bringing in Nicolas Marchant for a **collective improvisation**. Nicolas' electronic musical universe enhances and multiplies the potential of the trio. The four artists dive head first into the heart of the moment in order to offer the listener a musical moment that connects with the environment in which they play. The setting, the emotions and the energy of the audience are all factors that are prone to feed into these creations.





## PRESENTATION OF THE NEW WORKS

### **Melopoia by Adrien TSILOGIANNIS**

*for flute, cello and piano*

The piece unfolds along one or several melodies that resemble ornamental chants, spreading through the colours of the instruments and emanating from unexpected waves of energy. The sole movement oscillates between a quiet, meditative mood and a stronger, livelier one.

### **Work by Fabian FIORINI**

*for flute, cello and piano*

In the process of writing this piece, Fabian Fiorini draws his main inspiration from the general idea of sensuality, mixing written and improvised passages.

### **Free improvisation by Nicolas Marchant & Trio O3**

*for flute, cello, piano and electronics*

When we talk about current contemporary music, we automatically talk about – among others – electronic music: that's why the trio has chosen to collaborate with electronic music artist and composer Nicolas Marchant. The creative approach starts off from musical and improvisational gestures with a relatively wide thematic background (the peripheries of silence, extreme density, two alternating propositions, resonances...).

**More belgian new works will soon be added to this programme including one piece by Sarah Wéry and one by Jonas Blumenthal.**



# SUPERNOVA'S TOUR IN BELGIUM

[www.supernovaclassic.be](http://www.supernovaclassic.be)

*"It is Trio O3 which has been selected to represent the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles. The young trio distinguished itself with its interpretation of "Vox Balaenae" by George Crumb, which seduced the whole audience."*

Laurent Graulus, Musiq'3



[www.trioo3.com](http://www.trioo3.com)

- 19.03.18 KLARAFESTIVAL**  
Théâtre du Vaudeville (Brussels)
- 01.07.18 FESTIVAL MUSIQ'3**  
Flagey (Brussels)
- 22.07.18 ROYAL JUILLET MUSICAL DE SAINT-HUBERT**  
Eglise Saint-Paul (Arville)
- 29.07.18 FESTIVAL DE STAVELOT**  
Abbaye (Stavelot)
- 15.08.18 WATER FESTIVAL**  
Étalle
- 15.09.18 ODEGAND**  
Sint-Baafsplein (Gent)
- 23.09.18 FESTIVAL MUSICAL DU BRABANT WALLON**  
Château de La Hulpe
- 13.10.18 CENTRE CULTUREL DE PERWEZ**
- 02.02.19 PALAIS DES BEAUX-ARTS**  
Charleroi
- 26.04.19 ABBAYE DE GRIMBERGEN**
- 19.05.19 CHAPELLE DE WILLEBROEK**



# PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



**Lydie Thonnard** has been immersed in music from early childhood onwards. While she soon made first attempts at the piano and was attracted to everything just faintly connected to music, it was through dance that she first approached the world of arts. She started to take piano lessons at the music school in Malmedy at the age of six. Always eager to try out new things, she discovers the flute two years later, and it is this instrument that in 2008 motivates her to take up studies at the “Conservatoire Royal de Musique de Liège”. It is here that she approaches chamber music with great enthusiasm and also develops the urge to share her passion. During her studies she has been working alongside Toon Fret, Vincent Royer, François Deppe and Michel Massot, crossing musical styles and eras from baroque to modern jazz. During the studies for her master’s degree in music teaching she continues her education in classical music under Valérie Debaele.

Being curious and constantly on the search for novelties, she likes to discover other cultures and education styles. This is why she took part in an educational project organised in Ecuador and also travelled to Morocco and India to meet up with local traditional musicians.

She participates in the world of arts in several functions: e.g. as the director of a choir, by organising concerts or by conducting music courses. Currently she teaches music education in several schools in Brussels and continues her own training in courses given by musicians from the world of folk and jazz like Philippe Laloy, Marie-Sophie Talbot 9 and Manu Hermia. She regularly performs in different locations with different groups such as Les surprises du chef (under the direction of Michel Massot), Cassys (world music/jazz), the “Vibrations” ensemble, consisting of seven flutes, as well as Auster Loo (world/alternative music). The latter group, a project she shares with percussionist Simon Leleux, recorded the album “Rhythm & Breath” for the Belgian label Home Records in June 2016.

Alongside Eugénie Defraigne and Léna Kollmeier she has been part of the contemporary music trio O3 since its creation in 2014. In parallel, Lydie teaches musical education at the music school Etterbeek and conducts various workshops centred around the voice, creativity and rhythmical body percussion.



**Eugénie Defraigne** grew up with music and was very quickly attracted to the cello in particular. She first took cello lessons at the music school in Marche-en-Famenne and then at the “Conservatoire Royal de Musique de Liège” in the class of Jean-Pol Zanutel. During her studies and in the context of multiple masterclasses she had the opportunity to work with several great cellists like Jeanne Maisonhaute, Pieter Wispelwey, Marc Coppey and Philippe Bary. Around the same time she also developed a passion for chamber music following excellent experiences under the supervision of François Deppe, Vincent Royer and Olivier Vanderschagen. Being generally curious and very interested in contemporary music, Eugénie has collaborated a lot with composers of both her own school and the city of Liège. She also familiarised herself with electro-acoustic music and had the chance to work with the composer Marcin Stanczyck at the IRCAM (Institut de Recherche et Coordination Acoustique) on the occasion of a collaboration with the CNSM in Paris.

With her master’s degree obtained in June 2014, Eugénie performed during two years with the ensemble Musiques Nouvelles (conducted by Jean-Paul Dessy) in places like the Arsonic theatre, Bozar or the Flagey studios and continues to work with present-day composers in various workshops.

Always on the lookout for new artistic experiences, Eugénie also participates in numerous trainings for free improvisation and jazz, be it for music or dance. This open spirit already made this eclectic musician participate in different shows mixing dance, theatre or poetry... Her urge for creation manifests itself in her group "Lago" (folk/pop/progressive), which published its first EP “The Spider is Gone” in November 2017 and which just signed with "Roxrecords" Label.

Eugénie also performs chamber music with Trio O3, a contemporary music trio she founded in 2014 alongside Lydie Thonnard and Léna Kollmeier.

In parallel to her activities, Eugénie teaches cello at the “Conservatoire de Ciney”.

**Léna Kollmeier**, Belgian pianist, mastered her instrument remarkably well at an early age. This naturally led her to being accepted as a young talent by Liège Conservatoire, at the age of 15. She obtained her Master of Arts in piano with honours from Brussels Conservatoire after having studied with teachers such as Daniel Blumenthal, Pierre Thomas and Etienne Rappe. She has also actively participated masterclasses taught by Dominique Cornil, Natacha Zdobnova, Dana Protopopescu and Boyan Vodenitcharov.

At the age of 17, she won First Prize at the Dexia Classics Competition and performed a recital in the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels which marked the beginning of her career. She soon had the pleasure of performing with various orchestras, and has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Europe, the United States and the Caribbean, in prestigious venues like the Carnegie Hall in New York, the Philharmonie in Luxembourg, El Ateneo in Madrid and the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Santo Domingo.

Léna Kollmeier is co-founder of the DUO ROSA, together with soprano Stephany Ortega since 2014. The duo launched their first album « Return » in 2016 in the Philharmonie Luxembourg, under the label Etcetera Records. They followed up on their release with a promotional tour - Return World Tour - across 18 cities around the world.

## CONTACTS

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