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Liège, 25th May 07

Press Release : New Album « **IMPORT EXPORT** »

We are very pleased to present you our latest album: « **IMPORT EXPORT** ».

To make a review, please contact us if you want to receive this album, [info@homerecords.be](mailto:info@homerecords.be) .  
**The 6th of June** it will be presented to the public after the live performance at the **Vooruit in Gent**.  
As we have a limited number of seats and if you want to be present at **IMPORT EXPORT**, the 6th of June at the Vooruit, please contact Hilde Debuck [hilde@lesballetscdela.be](mailto:hilde@lesballetscdela.be) as soon as possible.

LES BALLETS C. DE LA B. / KOEN AUGUSTIJNEN  
STEVE DUGARDIN & KIRKE STRING QUARTET LIVE



The performance **IMPORT EXPORT** is rooted in a deep feeling of helplessness towards the dramatic events surrounding us. Awareness of being involved, and reflection about the way we handle it as individuals morph into a creation in which dance and live music illustrate this quest, each in its own way. Bart Vandewege creates beautiful orchestrations of French Baroque pieces that blend particularly well into the concept. Sam Serruys took care of the contemporary electronic music section. Together with the Kirke String Quartet and altus Steve Dugardin, the team has created a particularly moving performance. Without them, **IMPORT EXPORT** wouldn't have been possible.

Koen Augustijnen, May 2007

Altus: **Steve Dugardin**

Musicians: **Kirke string quartet** **Eva Vermeeren** (violin)  
**Saartje De Muynck** (violin)  
**Evelien Vandeweerd** (viola)  
**Herlinde Verheyden** (cello)

Music after the compositions by **Charpentier, Hahn, Clérambault, Couperin** and **Lambert**  
Composer, musical adaptation: **Bart Vandewege**  
Composer electronic music: **Sam Serruys**

A **Les Ballets C. de la B.** production,  
Directed by **Koen Augustijnen**

The enthusiastic collaboration between Steve Dugardin and Koen Augustijnen in 'bâche' cried for a continuation. They share a passion for French Baroque music. Profane songs of composers as Lambert, Charpentier, Clérambault and Couperin contain a high emotional and passionate quality.

Composer Bart Vandewege arranged the music, and in accordance to the process, composer Sam Serruys added electronic music to it. The chemistry and bringing together the existence of Baroque music and contemporary electronic music are intensively explored. The 'Kirke string quartet' of Antwerp interprets and plays the compositions of Bart Vandewege.

Six dancers/acrobats join altus Steve Dugardin and the four 'live' musicians of the Kirke string quartet on stage. Men and women. The main theme is powerlessness on different levels. Besides the thematic and theatrical data, this creation is a further research on a morphology which comes to existence through the combination of different dance styles, performances, theatre, acrobatics, music and visual art.

06/01-02/2007	Frankfurt Am Main (D)	Mousonturm
<b>06/06-08/2007</b>	<b>Gent (B)</b>	<b>Kunstencentrum Vooruit</b>
06/12-14/2007	London (GB)	South Bank
07/21-22/2007	Kalamata (GR)	Kalamata Int. Dance Centre
08/21-23/2007	Zurich (CH)	Zürcher Theater Spektakel
09/11-12/2007	Dusseldorf (D)	Dusseldorfer Altstadt Herbst
09/21-22/2007	Torino (I)	Torinodanza
09/27-28/2007	Nurnberg (D)	Tafelhalle
10/10/2007	Guimaraes (P)	A oficina
10/12-13/2007	Lisboa (P)	Culturgest
10/16-18/2007	Madrid (Esp)	Festival de Otono
10/23-24/2007	Nantes (F)	Le Lieu Unique
10/26/2007	Dunkerque (F)	Le Bateau Feu
10/29/2007	Encausse les Thermes (FR)	Pronomades en Haute-Garonne
10/30-31/2007	Auch (FR)	Circuits Scène Conventionné
11/08-10/2007	Moscow (Ru)	Stanislavsky music theatre
11/15-16/2007	Gijon (SP)	Teatro De La Laboral
11/20/2007	Arles (F)	Theatre Du Pays D'arles
11/22-23/2007	Nice (F)	Salle Pierre Brasseur
12/11/2007	Douai (F)	L'Hippodrome
12/13-14/2007	Strasbourg (F)	Pole Sud
<b>2008</b>		
16/01/2008	Sint-Niklaas (B)	CC Stadsschouwburg
18/01/2008	Luxembourg (L)	Grand Théâtre
20/01/2008	Luxembourg (L)	Grand Théâtre
22/01/2008	Bourges (Fr)	Maison de la Culture
25/01/2008	Mazamet (Fr)	.
26/01/2008	Toulouse (FR)	CDC
29/01/2008	Tarbes (Fr)	Le Parvis
04/02/2008	Amiens (F)	Maison de la Culture
08/02/2008	St. Etienne (F)	l'Esplanade
15/02/2008	Groningen (NL)	Stadsschouwburg
19/02/2008	Delft (NL)	Theater De Veste
23/02/2008	Utrecht (NL)	Stadsschouwburg
24/02/2008	Tilburg (NL)	Schouwburg
28/02/2008	Den Bosch (NL)	Stadsschouwburg
05/03/2008	Dilbeek (BE)	CC Westrand
07/03/2008	Chalons sur Saone (Fr)	Espace des Arts
14/03/2008	Tremblay-en-france (F)	Théâtre Louis Aragon
15/03/2008	Noisy Le Grand (F)	l'Espace Michel Simon
18/03/2008	Turnhout (B)	CC De Warande
02-03/04/2008	Belfort (F)	Théâtre Granit
09-11/04/2008	Décines (F)	Maison de la Danse - Le Toboggan
14-20/04/2008	Mexico (Mex)	Festival de Mexico, in this period

## **Steve Dugardin** °1964, Oostende (BE)

He took up musical studies at age 15 with Aimée Thonon and singing lessons with Marie-Thérèse Maesen, who works as an assistant to Lucienne Van Dijck. He was awarded a First Prize in Music Theory at the Royal Conservatory Ghent and a First Prize as a singer at the Royal Musical Conservatory in Antwerp. Here is where he came into contact with Erik Van Nevel who roused his interest in Early Music. Passionate about his chosen profession, Steve Dugardin is today training with famed English male counter tenor Ashley Stafford as well as Ingrid Voermans.

Having worked on productions staged by Sigiswald Kuijken, Jos Van Immerseel, Ton Koopman, Gustav Leonhardt, Frans Brüggen and Philippe Herreweghe, Steve Dugardin currently finds himself being increasingly invited to perform as a soloist (by Ricercar Consort, Clemencic Consort, Tragicomedia (Stephen Stubbs), Il Seminario (Gerard Lesne), Les Arts Florissants (William Christie), Il Fondamento (Paul Dombrecht), Huelgas Ensemble (Paul Van Nevel), Chœur de Chambre de Namur, Currende (Erik Van Nevel), Ex Tempore, La Petite Bande, Musica Antiqua Köln, De Nederlandse Bachvereniging and the Bach Ensemble (Joshua Rifkin) as just a few. This in turn has led to several CD recordings.

He has starred in operas by Scarlatti (with Opera Mobile), Händel (with Transparant) and in *Ercole Amante* by Cavalli (performing in Boston and at the Utrecht Music Festival). In addition, he has played the lead in Philip Glass' *Akhmaten*. He became more familiar with the dance scene when he joined the cast for *Iets op Bach* by Alain Platel, followed by *Bâche* by Koen Augustijnen where he sang songs by Purcell, as well as playing in *Gilles* by Hugo Claus where he worked with Jan Declair.

Early Music is not his sole source of inspiration however. His passion for Contemporary Music has resulted in the founding of Touchant, a male quartet choir specialising in Close Harmony.

Steve Dugardin teaches at the Herman Teirlinck Institute.

## **Kirke String Quartet**

The Kirke String Quarter owes its name to ancient Greek enchantress Kirke, who lived on the paradisiacal island of Ayaya, where delectable food and drink were in abundance. Moreover, she also had magical powers that would enable her to transform unduly enterprising men into bristly pigs. The members of the Kirke String Quartet are: Eva Vermeeren (violin), Saartje De Muynck (violin), Evelien Vandeweerd (viola) and Herlinde Verheyden (cello).

The four of them, keen musical colleagues/friends from Antwerp, started out by meeting up on a regular basis just to rehearse together, which in turn sparked a close collaboration without much in the way of premeditation. Since then, they have been playing together for well over 4 years. As a quartet, they have since gone on to play at a considerable number of concerts, events and studio recordings.

Having trained at the Orpheus Institute in Ghent, they were tutored by Tony Nys (former violinist for the Danel Quartet), Toon Fret (Oxalys Ensemble), Leo De Neve (Spiegel String Quartet) and France Springuel. The Kirke Quartet's comprehensive repertoire spans anything from classical music to tango and pop.

**Eva Vermeeren** °1972, Turnhout (BE) graduated from the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp in 1994 where she won the First Prize for Violin and a Chamber Music honours degree. She went on to continue her studies at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels and was awarded her Masters Degree in Violin in 1996. In 1999, she won a Performance Diploma for violin at the Peabody Conservatory of The John Hopkins University in Baltimore (USA). When it comes to Chamber Music, Eva has racked up a wealth of experience, both at home and abroad.

**Saartje De Muynck** °1979, Gent (BE) attended her first year violin course at the Royal Conservatory in Ghent in 1997. She continued her studies at the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp. In June 2003, she was graduated. During her time as a student, she attended several summer training placements as a violist with the Jeune Orchestre Atlantique.

**Evelien Vandeweerd** °1979, Turnhout (BE) studied the viola at the Royal Flemish Conservatory in Antwerp, before graduating in June 2003. In September 2002, she found herself invited to take part in a master class in Ferrara (Italy), staged by the Gustav Mahler Accademia with support from Claudio Abbado.

**Herlinde Verheyden** °1980, Leuven (BE) was a graduate of the Axion Classics 1998, the national competition for music and the spoken word staged by Dexia. She then entered the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp to study cello, where she graduated in June 2004. Subsequently, she attended master classes.

## **Bart Vandewege**, °1962, Gent (BE)

Bart Vandewege works as a singer, conductor and composer. He performs with Collegium Vocale Gent (Philippe Herreweghe), Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra and Choir (Ton Koopman), Huelgas Ensemble (Paul van Nevel), La Petite Bande (Sigiswald Kuijken), Concerto Köln, Il Giardino Armonico and Freiburger Barockorchester. He sang in productions under Roy Goodman, Thomas Hengelbrock, René Jacobs, Robert King, Eric van Nevel, Jos Van Immerseel, Christopher Hogwood, Peter Rundel, Michael Schneider, Peter Phillips, Monica Huggett and Markus Creed.

He is often engaged as guest conductor and has made various CDs recordings that go from forgotten compositions by Fétis and Lemmens (NAXOS 8.555890) up to works by the American composer Elliott Carter (VROK 2002/1). He is founder and artistic director of La Hispanoflomenca, ensemble of early music that performs Spanish-Flemish music from the 16th and 17th century. Their recordings of music by the forgotten Spanish composer Pedro Rimonte were greatly praised by the general public and the international press. As a composer he works mainly in the fields of theatre, film and dance; he has received commissions from the Flemish Opera and the VRT (Flemish Radio and Television). Recordings: "Theatrum Chemicum" (Plumage 2002) / "Poëros" (Plumage DVD 1377) / De Tuin van Eden (Universal 982 9131).

**Sam Serruys** ° 1977, Oostende, (BE)

Sam Serruys is a guitarist/composer who graduated from the Dutch Tilburg-based Rockacademie (1999- 2003). In addition, he attended the Audio engineering training course at the School of Audio Engineering in Rotterdam. He toured Belgium and Holland as a member of Bertus Borgers' band (saxophonist with Herman Brood and Raymond van het Groenewoud). His graduation project saw him making a movie documentary about a local brass band in Brazil, while his work training placement was with the Brussels advertising agency "Think and talk". Shortly after, he set up his own studio together with Geoffrey Claeys (Admiral Freebee) where they have been recording their musical ideas for posterity ever since. In 2005, he started out as sound engineer for Les ballets C. de la B. (Bâche/ Koen Augustijnen), then moved to Het Toneelhuis in Antwerp where he worked with Angelique Wilkie (Zap Mama, Deus), Dirk Van Dijck (Marieslijk, Het Eiland), Benny Claessens, Marlies Heuer, Tom Janssen and others. In 2006, he returned to Les ballets C. de la B. where he has since been working with Koen Augustijnen as a sound engineer and composer of electronic music.

Websites: [www.lesballetscdela.be](http://www.lesballetscdela.be) & [www.fransbrood.com](http://www.fransbrood.com)

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