

BRYGGEN - BRUGES STRINGS // PROJECTS 2025-26

BRYGGEN is a creative and dynamic string orchestra for whom innovation is key, whether in terms of repertoire or performance. Every BRYGGEN concert is an experience, both for the audience and the performers. Founded by artistic director Jolente De Maeyer, the ensemble explores the soundscape of Scandinavia and the Baltic, complemented with keyworks from 20th- and 21st-century postmodern music.

BRYGGEN strongly believes in the power of the string orchestra and in the added value that playing music in a smaller group offers in terms of sound, interaction, communication and focus. The ensemble works without a conductor and makes every effort to bring contemporary music to the heart of the audience not only through their ears but also through their eyes. The symbiosis between text, music, image and performance is therefore in the DNA of the projects that BRYGGEN carefully develops alongside narrators, actors, writers, directors, choreographers, dancers, choir, performance artists and more. For BRYGGEN, the future is very diverse.

October - December 2025, February - April 2026 and upon request

Max Richter Four Seasons Recomposed with dance: four seasons changed

Violin solo: Jolente De Maeyer // Dancer: tbc // Choreography: Michiel Vandevelde // Light concept: tbc

four seasons changed reimagines Max Richter's iconic music *Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi - The Four Seasons* as a choreographed reflection on change as a powerful, yet vulnerable mode of living. BRYGGEN string ensemble not only plays but moves throughout the performance in endlessly varying patterns. Alongside the musicians, a solitary dancer weaves between the strings, both acting as a counterpart and highlighting the emotional structure of the composition.

Richter took on the challenge of recomposing *The Four Seasons* by Antonio Vivaldi. Once more, after Vivaldi and Richter, the four seasons are changed by adding a choreographic layer. Just like the seasons in nature change, interpretations of art keep on changing. Against conservative practices, the performance *four seasons changed* reflects on notions such as progression, change and adaptability.

In a mesmerizing evening, where dance and live music melts their boundaries, *four seasons changed* reminds us that in the face of change, there are always new horizons to be discovered.

In this production BRYGGEN plays from memory, with both dancer and musicians in a choreography by Michiel Vandevelde.

1 soloist, 18 musicians, 1 dancer
Length: 60 min

Availability upon request

WEATHER

BRYGGEN - Bruges Strings under the direction of Jolente De Maeyer // Music: Michael Gordon // Sound installation: Chris Watson // Film installation: Carlos Casas // Concept: Manchester Collective

A treat for the eyes and ears: heavenly sounds accompanied by stunning visuals in a unique 360° sound experience. A musical and visual journey in a unique setting.

BRYGGEN brings the cult piece *Weather* (1997) by Michael Gordon to life as a musical tour de force. This is combined with soundscapes by sound artist Chris Watson and visuals by Spanish filmmaker Carlos Casas, creating a musical tour de force.

Weather takes you on a journey from a rainforest in East Asia to the world's oldest desert, from an Icelandic glacier to the sunken medieval city of Dunwich off the English coast. *Weather* is an artistic account of endangered environments and is urgent, gripping, and unforgettable.

Award-winning sound recording engineer Chris Watson has worked on some of the BBC's most beloved documentaries, including David Attenborough's *Frozen Planet* and *The Life of Birds*. For this project, Chris revisited his extensive archive to create an immersive sound installation that accompanies the hour-long performance by the string orchestra.

**26 musicians
Length: 75 min**

From November 2025

'Road to the East'

BRYGGEN - Bruges Strings under the direction of Jolente De Maeyer // Oud: Bakr Khleifi

Bakr Khleifi will compose a new work for BRYGGEN, for Oud & string orchestra, to fuse both Middle Eastern and Western worlds in a new and unique sound idiom.

For many years Bakr Khleifi played double bass in the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra under Maestro Daniel Barenboim.

Additionally, he became one of the greatest specialists of the Oud and belongs to the new generation of contemporary Oud players who also perform the instrument in recital, on the major stages worldwide. He is always searching for the fine line between the improvisational and the conceptual, between East and West.

**26 musicians
Length: 75 min**

Availability upon request

Tales from the Woods

Nordic Folk

BRYGGEN - Bruges Strings unter the direction of Jolente De Maeyer

In Scandinavia, traditional music goes hand in hand with classical music. Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg knew like no other how to incorporate folk music into his scores like no other. The Danish String Quartet played a CD full of arrangements of their beloved Scandinavian folk music 'Wood Works', for 'four simple instruments made of wood'. BRYGGEN performs these folk, Norwegian melodies in their version for string ensemble.

E. Grieg: Holberg Suite

A. Pärt: Summa

P. Vasks: Lonely Angel for violin and strings

E. Grieg: The Last Spring

Wood Works selection traditional (arr. Danish String Quartet)

17 musicians
Length: 75 min

Availability upon request

Waltz with Bashir

BRYGGEN - Bruges Strings // Musical Direction: Jolente De Maeyer // Film: Waltz with Bashir // Director: Ari Folman // Music: Max Richter

Anyone who has already seen *Waltz with Bashir* on the big screen knows what an overwhelming experience the film is. With his unique, animated documentary, director Ari Folman is rooting in his own past and memories of the Lebanese civil war. Through conversations with his army comrades, the horrors of the time very gradually seep back in. *Waltz with Bashir* pushed the boundaries of genre, winning film award after film award: a Golden Globe, a César, and also... a European Film Award for Max Richter's haunting soundtrack. Rightly so, because with his rarefied strings and rich synthesizer soundscapes, the British composer pumped every frame full of emotion.

BRYGGEN, under the direction of violinist Jolente De Maeyer, makes you experience this animated documentary like never before by bringing the music live to the film.

16 musicians
Length: 90 min

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