

## Vox Luminis

Since its foundation in 2004 under the direction of bass **Lionel Meunier**, the Belgian early music ensemble **Vox Luminis** has achieved international acclaim for its distinctive sound - in both chamber-scale soloist settings and larger productions.

The ensemble specialises in English, Italian, and German repertoire from the 16th to early 18th centuries. With around 70 concerts each year and an extensive discography, Vox Luminis brings musical masterpieces to life while unveiling hidden gems. The ensemble performs in various formats, from a soloist-based group with continuo and selected instrumentalists to an expanded formation including choir and orchestra with up to 40 performers.

Its mission is clear: to share vocal music with a wide audience, with **excellence** as its guiding principle. Concerts, recordings, workshops and a rigorous artistic approach all serve this goal.

Vox Luminis has twice won the **Gramophone Award**: in 2012 for Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien* (Baroque Vocal and Recording of the Year), and in 2019 for Buxtehude's *Abendmusiken* (Choral). Other distinctions include the **Klara Award** for "Ensemble of the Year 2018", the **BBC Music Magazine Choral Award** (2018), three **Diapason d'Or** prizes, and several **Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik** awards.

The ensemble regularly performs at leading venues and festivals around the world, including Bozar and Flagey (Brussels), deSingel (Antwerp), Auditorio Nacional and Teatro Real (Madrid), L'Auditori and Palau de la Música (Barcelona), Salle Gaveau and Auditorium de Radio France (Paris), Wigmore Hall (London), Philharmonie Berlin and Cologne, Elbphilharmonie and Laeishalle (Hamburg), Konzerthaus Dortmund, Lincoln Center (New York), Jordan Hall (Boston), Zaryadye Hall (Moscow), Festival van Vlaanderen, Festival de Wallonie, Festival de Saintes, Festival Oude Muziek Utrecht, Musikfest Bremen, Bachfest Leipzig, Klangvokal Dortmund, the Salzburg Festival, Aldeburgh Festival and Boston Early Music Festival - among many others.

In 2024, Vox Luminis celebrated its **20th anniversary** with a specially conceived programme entitled *Et resurrexit*, which toured internationally. A commemorative box set was also released on the Ricercar label.

The ensemble also presented a **world premiere** in collaboration with American composer **Caroline Shaw**, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and multiple Grammy Awards, as part of the Thüringer Bachwochen.

In recent years, Vox Luminis has forged a close and lasting partnership with the **Freiburger Barockorchester** and **Freiburger BarockConsort**, with several joint projects taking place each year. The **Mass in B minor** performed together during the 2024/25 season received great critical acclaim and will be reprised on multiple occasions during the 2025/26 season.

Further highlights for 2026 include a new production of **Tallis's Spem in alium** with contemporary dance in January and February, as well as a Christmas tour of **Bach's Magnificat** with the **Vox Luminis Orchestra**, which marked its 10th anniversary in 2024. Vox Luminis continues to explore a wide-ranging repertoire through a variety of formats - from intimate vocal chamber music to large-scale programmes such as **Vox Luminis XL** or performances with its own orchestra.

The ensemble is artist-in-residence at the **Concertgebouw Brugge** and the **Abbaye Musicale de Malonne** (Namur). Vox Luminis is supported by the **Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (FWB)** and **Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI)**.

## Lionel Meunier

Internationally renowned as the founder and artistic director of the award-winning Belgian vocal ensemble Vox Luminis, French conductor and bass Lionel Meunier is widely regarded as one of the most dynamic and highly acclaimed artistic leaders in the fields of historical performance and choral music active today. Praised for his detailed yet spirited interpretative approach, he is now increasingly in demand as a guest conductor and artistic director with choirs, ensembles, and orchestras worldwide.

Lionel's international breakthrough came in 2012 with Vox Luminis' Gramophone Recording of Year award for their recording of Heinrich Schütz' Musicalische Exequien . Under his leadership, Vox Luminis has since embarked on extensive concert tours throughout Europe, North America, and Asia; established multi-season artistic residencies at Wigmore Hall, Aldeburgh Festival, Utrecht Early Music Festival, and Concertgebouw Bruges; and recorded over a dozen critically acclaimed albums. Their recent recording of Buxtehude won them their second Gramophone Award, for 2019 Choral Recording of the Year.

As a guest conductor, Lionel has worked with Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall, Netherlands Bach Society, Danish National Vocal Ensemble, Netherlands Chamber Choir, Salzburg Bach Choir, and the Boston Early Music Festival Collegium and has led projects with Vox Luminis in collaboration with Orchestra B'Rock, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and L'Achéron, among many others. Lionel maintains a close relationship with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra and Consort, returning regularly to lead collaborative projects with Vox Luminis that cover a wide repertoire. He is a regular guest at The Juilliard School, where he leads projects with Juilliard 415 and students from Vocal Arts.

Born in France, Lionel was trained as a singer and recorder player and began his career as a bass in renowned ensembles such as Collegium Vocale Ghent, Amsterdam Baroque Choir, and Capella Pratensis. In 2013, he was awarded the title of Namurois de l'Année (Namur Citizen of the Year) for culture in the Belgian town of Namur, where he lives with his family.