

Anima Eterna Brugge

Founded in 1987 by Jos van Immerseel, Anima Eterna Brugge is an internationally renowned project orchestra based in Bruges, Belgium. The aim of Anima with each project: to explore the original soundscapes in which composers have lived, worked and created each piece.

Depending on the programme, the orchestra can range from 7 to 80 musicians, while the repertoire ranges from Monteverdi to Gershwin. Research, sourcing period instruments and extensive preparation precedes each new project: which instruments inspired a composer, how did those instruments sound at the time, what were the playing techniques and what were the relevant editions. All elements that define the sound and character of each performance.

In short, Anima Eterna Brugge is a collective of dedicated musicians, all of whom are acknowledged specialists in their field, coming together to share their experience, research and passion with an audience.

Anima can be seen regularly performing as a resident company in Concertgebouw Brugge, and as “Ensemble Associée” at l’Opéra de Dijon. The orchestra strives to continue to share their unique sound with over 50 cd’s distributed worldwide by Outhere Music, and with their 90 000 followers on Spotify.

Our history

- 1985 Jos van Immerseel brought together 5 string players, among them Jaap Schröder and Roel Dieltiens, and started performing ensemble works of the Baroque period
- 1987 a new Baroque orchestra – with a play on the name of the founder – was born: Anima Eterna. Expanded to 17 musicians, the ensemble began discovering classical Viennese and French Baroque works and gained increasing international recognition
- 1990 recording of all (21) Mozart piano concertos (10 CDs issued by Channel Classics) and the complete performance of all the concertos in Kyoto and Tokyo
- 1996-1997 innovative performance and recording of Schubert’s 6 symphonies, based on the composer’s manuscripts: the Viennese wind instruments from Schubert’s era were used here for the first time (35 -45 musicians). The 4 CDs from Sony Classical were enthusiastically received by the international press (Diapason d’Or of the year for 1998)
- 1999-2000 surprising pioneering work and restoration of the well-known compositions of Johann Strauss, Jr: based on a critical edition and in collaboration with professional dancers, Anima Eterna once again makes it possible to dance to Strauss’s waltzes

Weigold & Böhm

International Artists & Tours GmbH

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- 2002 Zig-Zag Territoires Paris launches the “Collection Anima Eterna” with 2 pioneering internationally acclaimed recordings: Johann Strauss, Jr. and Tchaikovsky. The orchestra opens the brand new Concertgebouw Brugge on 20.02.2002
- 2003 Anima Eterna is named ‘Orchestra in residence’ of the Concertgebouw Brugge
- 2004 Eagerly received ‘revisiting’ of the late Romantic repertoire on period instruments: Liszt, Brahms, Rimsky-Korsakov and Borodin. The Liszt CD wins the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik (German record critics’ prize)
- 2005 never heard since Ravel: his orchestral music on early 20th century French wind instruments – a festive (re)discovery of the authentic sounds to celebrate 20 years of Anima Eterna
- 2006 International Mozart year: absolutely everyone wants to hear Anima Eterna play Mozart. The ensemble’s first love is relived with a new repertoire (concertos for horn, for violin, for flute and harp, etc.) and new award-winning CDs
- 2008 3 years of preparation and 5 recording sessions result in a new jewel in the crown: the Beethoven 6 CD box set with all the symphonies and various overtures demonstrate the mature orchestra’s tried and true vision and perfection of the Viennese repertoire (Editor’s Choice – Gramophone, among others)
- 2010 Anima Eterna is renamed Anima Eterna Brugge, as the offices move to the Ezelpoort in Bruges and Jos van Immerseel & Anima Eterna Brugge become ‘Artiste et Ensemble Associé de l’Opéra de Dijon’; release of a DVD of ‘Beethoven’s 5th Symphony’, which includes a documentary about Anima
- 2011 release of Poulenc CD
- 2012 release of Debussy CD and re-issue of the entire series of Schubert symphonies
- 2013 recording of ‘Pictures at an Exhibition’ by Mussorgsky
- 2014 concert debut in Frankfurt, Alte Oper; concert tour and CD release of Carmina Burana with the Collegium Vocale Gent
- 2015 release of Schubertiade CD box set, Beethoven in Mexico & Jos van Immerseel 70!
- 2016 Beethoven in Sydney & New York

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- 2017 Anima crosses over to jazz for the first time, exploring the oeuvre of George Gershwin.
- 2018 Jos van Immerseel is awarded a lifetime achievement award by Flemish classical radio station KLARA

As of Season 2019/2020

Please get into contact with Weigold & Böhm for any changes.