# World Music Contest

concert division

2 of August 2026

# REFLECTIONS

DE VOLKSGALM
HARMONIE ORKEST
VZW

conducted by Frenk Rouschop

# Reflection

has dozens of literal and figurative meanings, including...

- contemplation, consciously reflecting on one's own experiences
- the reverberation of sound, as in an echo
- reflection on the past and looking towards the future
- the reflection of light into a warm glow

and so much more...

In **REFLECTIONS,** the conductor and musicians explore these four reflections in their own way and take you on a musical journey of self-reflection...

*REFLECTIONS*

## March op. 99

Sergej Prokofjev

The Ukrainian composer Sergei Prokofiev,
best known for his most famous work Peter and the Wolf,
wrote March Op. 99 in 1943 - 1944 for a Soviet military band,
to mark May 1st, an important Soviet public holiday,
but also an annual highlight from the history of our wind band,
which has its roots in the socialist labour movement.

A nostalgic look back at our origins...

*of existence*

REFLECTIONS



# Bachseits

Johannes Stert

For Bachseits, composer Johannes Stert drew inspiration from Johann Sebastian Bach and has written this three-movement fantasia for large wind orchestra, based on motifs from the 'Ciaccona in D minor' for solo violin by the aforementioned master.

'Bachian' motifs echo throughout the movements: Elegy or Lament, Intermezzo and Andante Pomposo, Fugue and Finale.

A constant interplay of sound...



*of origin*

ELECTIONS

# Sanctio Pragmatica

Wim Bex

Damian Hugo von Schönborn, Land Commander of Alden Biesen, was one of the most influential figures in the Habsburg Monarchy and played a key diplomatic role in the enactment of the Pragmatic Sanction. This revolutionary law, amongst other things, made female succession to the throne possible in the absence of a male heir. It turned out to be a prophecy for the future ...

In the first part, Wim Bex's Sanctio Pragmatica depicts the festive atmosphere surrounding the birth of the long-awaited male heir. The future of the Habsburg Empire is secure! Festive trumpet fanfares and regal melodies depict joy and celebrations throughout the imperial realm.

But soon the atmosphere of joy turns to one of concern; the little prince's health is gradually deteriorating and people fear the worst. Despair begins to creep into Von Schönborn's voice, and the fear becomes reality. Death bells ring out across the entire empire.

*of legacy*

REFLECTIONS

Part two portrays the vulnerability of the father mourning his lost son,
the emperor who must come to terms with his dynastic failure.
In the darkest moment, the lament of a German 'Kindertotenlied' resounds.

In the third and final part, hope begins to dawn slowly;
there is a new heir, a little girl who will grow up to become an influential
and successful woman, Maria Theresa.

Not a footnote in history, but a legacy for the future.



**Solist Vincent Kusters**

Vincent is a Dutch baritone who is equally at home in oratorio, opera and classical art song, with a repertoire ranging from the Middle Ages to contemporary compositions. His list of achievements includes numerous international awards, amongst them the Vocallis Lied Prize on two occasions, and several first prizes at Liedkunst im Schloss vor Husum.

**Solist Maarten Vergauwen**



Maarten studied the saxophone at the Royal Conservatoire of Brussels and the Conservatorio Verdi in Milan, and obtained his master's degree with first-class honours at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne, as well as a second master's degree in Brussels, supplemented by a specialised study in Live Electronics. As a chamber musician, he is a member of the Belgian Saxophone Choir, the Koi Collective, the Moondog Company and our orchestra.

# Sanctio Pragmatica

Scan this QR code for the lyrics and translations by soloist Vincent Kusters

**Would you like to find out more about Sanctio Pragmatica?**
Scan this QR code for an entertaining and insightful podcast about this composition commission, featuring composer Wim Bex and conductor Frenk Rouschop

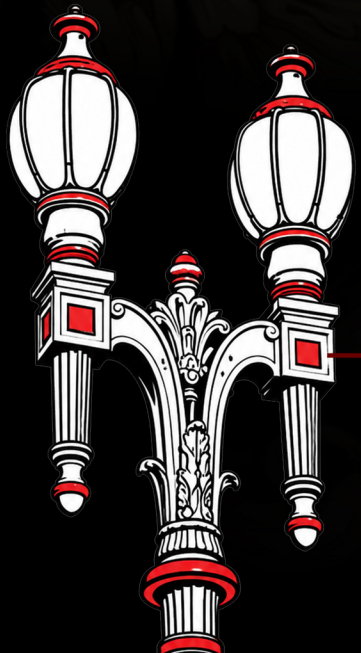
# Simfonia nr. 1 “Urban Light”

Vicente Ortiz Gimeno

Urban Light is an art installation at the entrance to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, comprising 202 restored vintage street lamps from the 1920s and 1930s, a work by the artist Chris Burden.

This installation forms the starting point for the composition and draws a parallel with the author’s experiences during the four years he lived in Los Angeles.

In the four parts Daybreak, Equinox, Dusk and Skyglow he describes, for each part of the day, the interplay between the Californian sunbeams and the reflections of light on the beautiful lanterns, ultimately culminating in a luminous glow that one constantly sees radiating over cities.



Reflections examined...

*of light*

REFLECTIONS