

# ORCHESTRE INTERNATIONAL DU VETEX

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## PRESS KIT



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## Biography - Orchestre International du Vetex

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The Orchestre International du Vetex was formed in 2004 in the small Flemish town of Kortrijk for a special occasion: the aim was to gather professional and amateur musicians from Flanders, Wallonia and the North of France in order to publicize the wish to renovate the old textile factory Vetex located in an deserted part of the city. Some local associations took part in the project and a couple of weeks later, the Orchestre International du Vetex gave its first concert at the "Fiesta Mestiza"-festival in Kortrijk.

This moment is the beginning of a great adventure. The band is quickly noticed in the musical world in Belgium thanks to its crazy mixture of brassmusic, always dotted with a punky rock'n'roll attitude. It shows energy everywhere it goes, but not only because of the style or the numerous musicians, also because those ones don't like to be too serious and certainly want to have fun with the audience. It's a cross-border band, with people from three different regions in two different countries but they all share the same values and fight for the same ideas. Fascinating? Of course. Easy? Not always...

In 2005, after several concerts in Belgium and France, the Orchestre International du Vetex recorded its first album, "Le Beau Bazar", a CD and a DVD with 12 songs and a documentary about the life of this cross-border band. Then, they recorded "Flamoek Fantasy" in 2007. Both albums received very good critics in Belgium but also in other European countries.

Until now, the Vetex played more than 500 concerts... From little clubs and parties to big and famous stages... From the streets of Sarajevo to the underground in Praha. From the Olympic Games in Turin to prestigious street and world music festivals in Graz, Jelenia Gora, Nis, Santander, Amsterdam, Bansko, Berlin, Montréal, Budapest...

In 2008 and 2009, the band headed more and more east-wards, spending a lot of time touring through the Balkans (Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Bulgaria). They did it for the pleasure of touring, they did it because they are a cross-border band, but also because Balkan music had always been a big inspiring influence for the band. During this travelling and tours, they started a friendship and a musical collaboration with musicians from these regions such as the great Serbian accordion-player Ivo Vucelja, the young talented Bosnian trumpet player Ivan Sucac and the phenomenal female singer from Mostar, Jelena Milusic. Soon, they started to work on a new project: they created a show where both the music of the Vetex and traditional songs of the Balkans are played. Moreover, Adela Jusic, a young artist-filmmaker that survived the war in the surrounded city of Sarajevo, gave us a very personal view of the life near the borders and the way to live with our neighbours despite our differences through images and videos. And here is the result: an international production called 'Balkan Banquets'. A fascinating show with a lot of joy but with sadness and nostalgia too. A show that makes us think about the borders, here and there. Physical and psychological borders. Musical and geographical ones...

On the 5th of November 2009, the Orchestre International du Vetex presented "Balkan Banquets" at Kortrijk's City Theater. This concert was recorded and filmed in order to be broadcasted on a Walloon TV, "No Télé", but also in order to be part of a DVD box "Mix Grill" which was going to be released in June 2010.

Spring 2011 the Orchestre will present a brand new album, already its third one, and will be on the road again all over Europe and abroad.



# PRACTICAL INFORMATIONS

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Full Instrumentation:

The « Orchestre international du Vetex » is a band that can either play acoustic (street gigs) or amplified on stage.

The band is made up of: 2 or 3 trombones, 3 or 4 trumpets, 2 tubas, 1 baritone saxophone; 1 alto saxophone, 1 bass drum, 1 snare, 1 percussion, 1 clarinet and 1 accordion. Some small modifications are possible depending on specific conditions.

Technical contact:

For every concert on stage, the band comes with its sound engineer:  
Greet Vyvey – [greet@hurryupandwait.eu](mailto:greet@hurryupandwait.eu) - +32 497 54 54 37

If necessary, the band can also come with a light engineer and/or a monitor engineer.

Management contact :

Via Lactea asbl  
Rue Beyaert 57  
7500 Tournai  
Belgique

Trui Dewaele is the band's contact. She can be reached:

- On her email : [info@vialactea.be](mailto:info@vialactea.be)
- On her landline phone : +32 69 770 900
- On her mobile phone : +32 472 23 25 97

Contact for tour and concerts in France and French speaking part of Switzerland:

Déravage Prod – Grégoire Bouquet  
126 rue Baudin  
93140 Bondy FRANCE  
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[www.derapageprod.fr](http://www.derapageprod.fr)  
<http://www.youtube.com/derapageprod>  
<http://mymondomix.com/derapageprod>  
<http://www.facebook.com/people/Derapage-Prod/1650426810>



## DISCOGRAPHY

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**“Le Beau Bazar” (2005).** This album has been recorded at the Maison Folie of Lille Moulins. It is a kind of bizarre French-Flemish mixture of catchy balkanmusic, energetic gypsie and streetmusic, ska, polka, java, latino... But beside the up-tempo extravert themes, the album also offers space for some more intimist and silent songs (like Licht a.u.b. = Light please). The DVD 'Les Beaux Temps' then again is like a little road-movie from the 'Vetex on the road'.

**Label:** Via Lactea Records - **Mix:** Hein Devos & Ruben Deprez (Kortrijk, Belgium) **Mastering:** CCR Recording Studio (Zulte, Belgium)



**“Flamoek Fantasy” (2007).** This album, recorded in Courtrai’s Muziekcentrum, contains 19 tracks. It is the result of 3 years of the musicians sharing work and life. The theme of this album is travelling and it is made up of almost only original composing. There also is a collector’s edition of this album which comes with a remixed album.

**Label:** Via Lactea Records - **Mix & Mastering:** Karel De Backer, “Rat & Kabel” studio à Aalst (Belgium).



**“Mix-grill” (2010).** This DVD pack was released in June 2010. It comes with a live-CD, 2 DVD’s and a nice photobooklet: one DVD is a video recording of a live concert, the other one is made up of a few documentaries about the band’s experience in the Balkans: the country, the people, the music...The live-recordings were made in different European countries (Belgium, Holland, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina).

**Label :** Via Lactea Records - **Mix & Mastering:** Karel De Backer, “Rat & Kabel” studio à Aalst.

## REFERENCES of live concerts and projects (2004 – 2010)

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Belgium :

Festival « Big Bang » of the radio 1 (national radio) – Vooruit - Gand / Festival Dranouter (2x) / Cactusfestival – Brugge (2x) / Supporting act for Young Blood Brass Band & Dirty Dozen Brass Band - Ancienne Belgique – Bruxelles / Festival « Klinkende Munt » - Bruxelles / Festivals « Les Zurbaines » - Liège / Fiesta Mundial – Balen / Airbag Festival – Centre Culturel – Bruges / Fêtes de Gand (2x) / Musée le Grand Hornu – Mons (2x) / Colora Festival – Leuven / Festival Balkan Traffik – Bozar – Bruxelles / Klara Festival – Radio national « Klara » / Couleur Café Festival – Bruxelles (2x) / Festival Bis-arts 2Hors – Charleroi / Fêtes de Wallonie – Andenne / Te-Kiela Festival – Anvers / Esperanzah ! Festival – Abbye de Floreffe / « Serres royales » of Laeken for the european justice ministry meeting / Festival Leffingeleuren / Festival Toernee Mond'alle Halle ...

France :

Festival « Les Transes Cévenoles » - Le Vigan / Festival « Cultures Equitables » - Lille / Maisons Folies de Wazemmes, MF Lille-Moulins, La Condition Publique (Roubaix), Ferme d'en Haut (Villeneuve d'Asq) – plusieurs fois dans / Ouverture Lille 3000 – parade / Lille 3000 – Midi-Midi / l'Hippodrome – la scène nationale Douai / Festival d'Accordéon à Roubaix / Wazemmes l'Accordéon / Festival Les Fondus du Macadam - Thonon les Bains / l'Aéronef – Lille / Festival les Francophonies – Limoges / Club Mains d'oeuvre – Paris (Saint Ouen) / Festival Europavox – Clermont-Ferrand / Festival Les Noctibules – Annecy / Chalon dans la Rue – Chalon-sur-Saône / Rheinfest – Strassbourg / Festival Rues & Cie – Epinal / Festival Les Uburlesques – Laval / ...

Holland :

Zomer Zondagen – Rotterdam / Festival Karavaan – Schagen, Calantsoog, Heerhugowaard, Zijpe, Bovenkarspel, Schoorl, Bergen aan Zee, Hoorn / Oerol Festival – Ter Schelling / Global Cultural Night – Maastricht / Reuring Festival – Purmerend / Amsterdam World Festival / Stadsfestival Tilburg / Lowlands Festival / Tolhuistuinfestival – Amsterdam / ...

Central and eastern Europe :

Sziget Festival Budapest / Festival La Strada Graz (Autriche) / Olala Festival Lienz (Autriche, 2x) / Festival ViaThea Jelenia Gora (Pologne) et Görlitz (Allemagne) / Palaç Akropolis Prague (2 x) / A38 – club-bateau Budapest / 2 tournées en Bosnie-Herzegovine et la Serbie (Sarajevo, Mostar, Nis, Subotica, Novi Sad, Banja Luka...) / Bansko Jazz Festival (Bulgarie) / ...

Autres :

A few tours in Italia and Sicilia ; Festival Desfolca't in Catalonia ; Street Festival in Malaga (Spain) ; 5 days in the Jazz Festival of Montreal (Canada) ; Vernissage of the exhibition "Flandriens" of Stephan Vanfleteren, in London...

Musical and visual production « Balkan Banquets » (2009) :

This is a cooperation in between the Orchestre International du Vetex and Jelena Milusic (Bosnian singer from Mostar), Ivan Susac (Bosnian trumpet player from Sarajevo, Ivica Vucelja (Serbian accordion player) and Adela Jusic (VJ, plastic artist from Sarajevo)

Concerts between march 2009 et end of 2010 : Maison de la Culture Tournai (Belgique)- Festival 'La Piste aux Espoirs' / Théâtre de Ville Louvain (Belgique) / Sinksenfeesten Courtrai (Belgique) / Fêtes de Saint-Jean – Mons (Belgique) / Etnofest - Subotica (Serbie) / Lille 3000 à Lomme et Maison Folie de Wazemmes / Tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina / Théâtre de Ville de Courtrai (Belgique) / Bal à Five (Lille, France) / Festival Mano Mundo Anvers (Belgique) / Festival Airbag Brugge (Belgique) / DVD release « Mix Grill » in Courtrai and Tournai (Belgique) / Festival Dranouter (Belgique) / Theater Le Palace à Ath (Belgique) / Theater Aan het Vrijthof in Maastricht (Hollande)

Other musical cooperations:

- 2004 : on the occasion of Krakrock festival in Avelgem (Belgium) and opening festival of the venue « Condition publique » in Roubaix (France) – musical creation with the catalan bands « Cheb Balowski » and « Kinky Beat ».
- 2007: on the occasion of the « Fêtes de Gand » - cooperation with the cuban trumpet player José Alberto Varona from the band "Amparanoia" and the Belgium trumpet player Bart Maris (Jaune Toujours, FES,...)
- 2007 : on the occasion of the « Spikkerelle »'s venue opening in Avelgem : special creation with the actor and musician Wim Willaert ("Quand la Mer Monte")
- Regularly, the musicians of the Orchestre International du Vetex also lead some workshops with children (making music instruments, making costumes, teaching songs, creating puppets and musical art mobiles...). Those workshops always happen in a social-artistic context, throw the borders and, as a result, are bilingual.



# L'ORCHESTRE INTERNATIONAL DU VETEX ON PICTURES

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ORCHESTRE INTERNATIONAL DU VETEX — OPENINGSFEEST / INAUGURATION PLACE FLAGEYPLEIN

## CROSS-BORDER BRASS

**EN** The Orchestre International du Vetex is one of no fewer than 20 brass bands that will be along to inaugurate the brand new Flagey square. You can see them onstage, too, in the evening. What began back in 2004 as a praiseworthy socio-artistic project has become a musical force over the last few years. "We are ready, as a brass band, to appear on a stage and to go to the Balkans too!"



Vetex emerged in 2004 as a socio-artistic project in the Kortrijk-Tournai-Lille region. The idea was to work across the language frontier between Kortrijk (in Flanders) and Tournai (in Wallonia) and across the national border with the northern French city of Lille. "The social project was meant to last three months, but it got completely out of hand, as we're still in existence!", laughs Ruben Deprez, trombonist and frontman/driving force behind the ensemble. The regional cooperation project dates from before the establishment of the *communauté urbaine* that now fosters cooperation between the three cities. "Genuine cooperation across language and national borders is possible, because culture knows no borders. None of us knew each other when we started off, now, four years on, we rehearse every week and play about 100 live gigs a year. There is no better way to develop better understand-

ing. And it has caught on with audiences too. We get very favourable reactions to our cross-(language-)border work."

### Under the bridge

Most of the tracks on their second album, *Flamoek Fantasy*, were written by Thomas Morzewski. But the album goes well beyond the Balkan clichés that so many brass bands settle for. There is Yiddish music, for example, on "Klezmer Amer", two Italian tarantellas ("La Fiduciosa" and "La Dottoressa"),

and some Latino influences on "Vetex Mex". And what great titles! The likes of "Funky Wallouks" or "Flamoek Fantasy", an anthem in praise of openness.

The album has been criticised for musical shortcomings. "It's true that we are more of a live group; we rely on our energy and exuberance onstage. Don't forget that we started from nothing and that of the 19 musicians only nine are professional musicians. The others are volunteers who have learned as they went along. Our performances are our school. We get asked more and more to appear onstage, so we are paying more attention these days to the musical side of things: That fits in fine with the socio-artistic project: bringing these people to a higher level," says Deprez, who, as well as being a musician, is also a social-artistic worker. A number of the musicians have some kind of "social" link: people who, thanks to this project, have had opportunities to develop artistically and improve themselves.

Last week Vetex were at Couleur Café as a brass band and the band also played during the Balkan Trafik festival. "They were so enthusiastic there that we can go back next year with our new project with Serbian musicians. In March I went to Serbia with Thomas Morzewski and squeezebox-player Jean Baptiste Lison to lay the groundwork for a new project. We have adapted seven traditional Serbian and Macedonian pieces. Next year we will present that project at Balkan Trafik and that will be followed by a theatre tour. We're thinking of recording our third album live, because it's onstage that we're at our best. This summer we're off, the whole group, to Serbia and Macedonia to play there, under the bridge at Mostar, among other things. Really exciting. Those people went through terrible things during the war. We'll try to cheer them up with our energy and our pleasure in playing." (BT)

•• ORCHESTRE INTERNATIONAL DU VETEX  
5.7.2008, 17.00 & 20.00, free

**NL** Het Orchestre International du Vetex is een van de twintig fanfares die het splinternieuwe Flageyplein mag inhuldigen. Wat in 2004 begon als een mooi socio-artistiek project heeft de laatste jaren ook aan muzikaliteit gewonnen. (Originele Nederlandse tekst: [www.brusselnieuws.be/agenda](http://www.brusselnieuws.be/agenda))

**FR** Fondé en 2004 par 19 musiciens issus de l'axe Lille-Tournai-Courtrai, l'Orchestre International du Vetex fait partie du cortège des vingt fanfares qui inaugureront la place Flagey samedi à 17 heures. En soirée, il nous emmène au pays du klezmer, des tarantelles, des rythmes latinos et des tics balkaniques.

## Orchestre International Du Vetex - Flamoek Fantasy

Posted July 3rd, 2007 by aidan



I was very lucky on Saturday when I chose to walk into that unassuming little record store (Sax) in Leuven. The guy behind the counter was understandably sceptical about my taste in music when he noticed the Rock Werchter armband I was wearing. I asked for something local and this is what I got - what a treat.

I'm glad I sacked off the festival to head back to Leuven to see them play that night. The performance was fantastic. Great energy, great fun, great act - gypsy ska at its best. Jos from the record store proved to be wonderful company with fine taste in music.

A wonderful experience - the memory of which I'll treasure all my life.

[http://undertheinfluence.me.uk/music/orchestre\\_international\\_du\\_vetex/flamoek\\_fantasy](http://undertheinfluence.me.uk/music/orchestre_international_du_vetex/flamoek_fantasy)