

Vortex

'Ensemble Vortex was born out of a shared passion for medieval music, both European and beyond. Tamara Soldan began singing ancient music as a child, specialized in jazz vocals, and in recent years, returned to her roots, incorporating her singing skills with the medieval Fiddle. Valentina Bellanova has been practicing medieval music since her early years, integrating it with her expertise in playing the ney. This fusion has allowed her to perform with ensembles specializing in classical Arabic and Turkish music in Germany and across Europe.

One of the primary goals of the duo is to revive a repertoire often unknown or misunderstood by many, shedding light on the undeniable commonality of origin between European and Middle Eastern music. They emphasize the modal and improvisational aspects, as well as the playful and spiritual sides of this musical heritage.

Within just one year of its formation, Vortex garnered international attention, performing in six different European countries (Germany, Italy, Hungary, Switzerland, Slovakia, Czech Republic). With their program on music during Dante's time, conceived in the Dante year of 2021, Vortex Ensemble secured funding from Neustart Kultur, enabling them to create their debut album titled "Dante e la musica del suo tempo" (in German, "Dante und die Musik seiner Zeit").

In 2022, Vortex Ensemble won the "Green Tour" project for the Goethe-Institut, a traveling residency across three Eastern European countries. As a result of their close musical collaborations during this period, Vortex performed, among other places, at the prestigious House of Music in Budapest. They also showcased their talent in renowned contexts and festivals such as the Festival di Musica Antica Musica Ahuse in Germany, Fondazione Bormel in Geneva, City Museum of Bratislava, and Mensel Museum in Brno.'

Some proposed Music Programmes:

"East and West - Travelling with Marco Polo"

"The Silk Road: Between Florence and England, Interweaving Wool and Music"

"Francesco Landini: Between Ars Nova and the Black Plague"

"Dante and the Music of his Time"

Links Video:

<https://youtu.be/BiKuInF01TI>

https://youtu.be/WKJ9ocu4_Jg?si=CQfqJvw4iI368jwx

The Ensemble is composed of:

Tamara Soldan: Voice and medieval Fiddle

Valentina Bellanova: Recorders, Arabic and Turkey Ney, Bagpipes. Voice and Symphony



Foto: Anton Tal

West and East: travelling with Marco Polo

On the occasion of the 700th anniversary of Marco Polo's death, the Vortex Ensemble pays homage to the life and legacy of one of the greatest explorers Marco Polo in the history and celebrates the cultural interconnection that characterised his epic journeys among the wonders of the world.

The Vortex Ensemble, a musical ensemble of excellence consisting of Tamara Soldan on vocals and medieval Fiddle and Valentina Bellanova on flutes, symphonia, bagpipes, Arabic and Turkish ney, Hulusi, will lead a musical journey without boundaries. Through a masterful synergy of European, Middle Eastern and Chinese sounds, the duo will guide through the sound textures of the civilisations that Marco Polo encountered on his journeys undertaken with unparalleled courage and curiosity.

The music of this project is conceived as a bridge between epochs and continents, a way to explore the traditions, sounds and rhythms that enchanted Marco Polo during his adventurous travels. The performance by the Vortex Ensemble promises to take the audience on an exciting journey, enveloping them in the evocative melodies of European courts, the mysteries of ancient Eastern cultures and the serene harmony of Chinese traditions.

An opportunity to immerse oneself in the beating heart of the cultures that enchanted Marco Polo's soul and, through music, discover our world in new and meaningful ways.

Taken from the review from the German national newspaper 'Augsburger Allgemeinen':

"...The virtuosity with which they both Master their instruments and voice leaves one speechless. The two artists present improvised games and communicate through imperceptible glances and gestures in perfect harmony... The texts from the Venetian's travel diary enriched the musical programme.... the audience was more than satisfied and thanked the duo with prolonged applause..."

Tamara Soldan - Voice and medieval Fiddle

Valentina Bellanova - Flutes, Arabic and Turkish Ney, Symphonia, Bagpipes, Hulusi, Voice





Foto: Anton Tal

Tamara Soldan

Singer, Fiddle player, performer. Her exploration spans medieval music, jazz, improvisation, contemporary music, and Gregorian chant. Graduating with top honors in Jazz Music from the A. Buzzolla Conservatory in Adria, she furthered her studies at the University of Hannover and earned a Master's degree in Medieval Music from Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen.

Since 2013, Tamara Soldan has been residing in Berlin, actively participating in the ancient, jazz, and contemporary music scenes. Her solo and collaborative projects are frequently featured in prominent festivals across Europe, including House of Music Budapest, Fondation Bodmer Geneva, Museum of City Bratislava, Augustin Library Brno, Festival Musica Antica Ahus in Germany, and Festival Musica Antica Valvasone. Alongside the Nuova Musica ensemble, she presented Luigi Nono's "Diario Polacco n.2" at the prestigious Biennale Musica in Venice and paid tribute to the work of John Cage at the Biennale Arte in Venice.

"Cantus Ecclesiae" is her album released under the Rainbow-Classic label, recorded solo with the Schola Gregoriana Aurea Luce (IT). In 2022, she and the Vortex Ensemble won the "Green Tour" project by the Goethe-Institut, taking their music journey with Valentina Bellanova across Europe. She was also awarded the Musikfonds Germany scholarship in 2022 for her electronic project "Re-flexions," an innovative musical work reinterpreting medieval music through voice, fiddle, electronics, improvisation, and video art.

Together with Latin Award winner Quique Sinesi, she presents the project "Intrecci," where jazz intertwines with Argentinean sounds. With her solo project "A Chantar!," she showcases her unique talent: the art of singing accompanied by the bowed fiddle.

Recently released is the album "From the Darkness to the Light" under the DaVinci Classics label: a contemporary reinterpretation of Gregorian chant in collaboration with electronic musician Michele Pedrazzi. She has performed at the Festival Musica Antica Valvasone, Biennale Arte e Musica Venice, and is also active in the performative art scene with contemporary projects curated and created by her, including "Miniature" - short videos and electronic music compositions in 2022, and "Frauen und Stimmen: die Bestimmen" - an installation and musical performance with Italian artist Barbara Bernardi in Berlin 2023.

www.tamarasoldan.com

Valentina Bellanova

Born in Florence, she graduated in straight flute under the guidance of Maestro David Bellugi at the Conservatorio Statale di Musica 'Luigi Cherubini', graduating shortly afterwards with top marks in Modern Literature (Vecchio Ordinamento, indirizzo storico musicale) at the University of Florence. She continued her studies of early music in Germany at the Musikhochschule für Musik und Theater in Hannover, where she obtained her diploma in artistic training and later her diploma as soloist under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Ulrich Thieme.

From 2009, he also began to devote himself to the contemporary modal repertoire and classical Arabic and Turkish music. She began studying the ney flute with Maestro Ömer Erdogdular (Istanbul) and Maestro Kudsi Erguner

(Paris/Istanbul). In 2014, she moved to Berlin, where she intensified her study and work on this instrument, also beginning to play the Arabic ney. Very active on the international World Music scene, she performs as a soloist at prestigious institutions such as NDR Hannover, Berlin Philharmonie, Komische Oper Berlin, Konzerthaus Berlin, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, Volksbühne Berlin, and many others. She is the first European neyzen to have performed Fazil Say's 'Istanbul Symphony' several times (2018-2020 with the Staatsorchester Braunschweig, 2022 with the Bergische Symphoniker and the Niederreihnische Synphoniker). Parallel to his practice of Middle Eastern music, he continues to study and deepen his knowledge of Western early music: he is a member of various ensembles such as Concerto Foscari, Hannover, 'Ensemble Pera', Munich.

In Germany, he collaborates with the publishing house 'Girolamo' for which he edited the first modern edition of two concertos for recorder and strings by the Neapolitan composer Nicola Fiorenza (ca.1700-1764). In Italy, he is a member of the Orchestra Almar'à, an orchestra of Arab women of the Mediterranean, a project by Fabbrica Europa (Florence) and Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio (Rome).

2022 saw the release of 'Eremos', his first solo album, financed by Neustart Kultur Berlin. This work represents a synthesis of multiple musical experiences, coherently united in a delicate balance between antiquity and experimentation, modality and improvisation, future visions and a return to the roots.

www.valentinabellanova.com



Foto: Anton Tal

Contacts e booking:

vortexensemble@gmx.de

Tamara Soldan:

tamara.soldan@gmail.com

+49 176 76327909

tamarasoldan.com

Valentina Bellanova:

valentina.bellanova@gmail.com

+49 176 84541648

valentinabellanova.com

Link Media:



<https://youtu.be/BiKuInF01TI>



<https://www.facebook.com/vortexensemble>

<https://www.tamarasoldan/vortex>



Foto: Anton Tal