

MA hoe werkt het eigenlijk?

Workshop for starting musicians

28.07.26 – 02.08.26



Are you about to complete your studies at the conservatoire or have you recently graduated? Do you have questions about how the industry works or about your career?

During MA Festival 2026 you get the chance to talk to musicians and experts about what's on your mind. You will also get a look behind the scenes by joining the volunteer crew for a few days.



Tuesday 28/07 & Wednesday 29/07

Workshops

We will spend two days discussing important aspects of your professional career with experts and musicians.

Part 1: Inform

Legal consultant & business leader Robin Goossens will give two workshops:

- **Statutes & institutions:**
 - You will get an overview and explanation of different statutes (self-employed, employee, art work attestation, etc.) and the institutions you can turn to with questions, e.g. about writing grant files or copyright regulations.
- **The business side of a project:**
 - We will discuss the different structures you can use to organise a project (NPOs, grant makers, etc.). We also discuss some examples of project budgets.

Part 2: Reflect

Together with several guests and the MA Festival management team, we will discuss the following topics during four workshops:

- **How is your network doing? with Xavier Vandamme & Adèle Querinjean**
 - The importance of networking is often stressed. But how does a network actually come about? How is your network doing? How can you strengthen it?
- **Do you have a good grasp of your finances? with Gert-Jan Dressen & Adèle Querinjean**
 - As a musician, your income often comes from various sources and varies from month to month. How do you manage this effectively? How do you approach this in the long term?
- **How do you run an ensemble or chamber music group? with Adriaan De Koster & Jan Van den Borre**
 - Setting up and managing a group requires many skills. What can you do yourself, how do you divide tasks, what do you ask external help for?
- **Setting up a project, how do you go about it? With Wim Pelgrims & Jan Van den Borre**
 - You have an artistic idea and a group of musicians who want to go for it together. What to do next?

Thursday 30/07 – Sunday 02/08

Experience the festival from the inside

By volunteering at the festival, you will get to know the sector from a different angle. You will help with the following tasks:

- Setting up concert venues
- Welcoming audience and artists
- Transporting artists and equipment (if you have a driver's licence)

What we offer:

- Two days of workshops with experts and guests (depending on who the participants are, the working language will be English or Dutch).
- Catering: we will provide meals for you from Tuesday 29/07 until Sunday evening 03/08. The experts and musicians we invite for the workshops will join us at the table so you can get to know them better.
- Accommodation: you will be accommodated free of charge in Bruges at boarding school Palaestra (check-in Monday 27/07 - check-out Monday 03/08).
- For the time you volunteer, you will receive an expense allowance of €11 per 4-hour shift
- You will receive a ticket for the opening concert of MA Festival on 31/07

What we expect from you:

- You are available and present in Bruges from Tuesday 29/07 to Sunday 02/08.
- In preparation for the workshops, you will engage in conversation with a musician per topic from the 'reflecting' section (see above). You will make notes of these conversations so that you can discuss them as examples during the workshop. You will receive more detailed information about this.

For whom:

- You are a performing musician
- You are pursuing a bachelor/master's degree or have recently graduated
- You are building a career in Belgium. Because some of the topics we will discuss (such as the different statutes or developing projects) are tied to a specific context, we believe the workshop will be most useful for those who work or will work in this context.
- You are preferably involved in early music, but musicians from other musical genres are also welcome to apply.

How to apply:

Send your CV (max 2 pages) & a motivation letter (max 1 page) to adele@mafestival.be.

Five participants will be selected based on their motivation and match with the criteria above. Only a few places are left.

If you have questions, contact adele@mafestival.be.

The speakers

Xavier Vandamme Xavier Vandamme is director of the Utrecht Early Music Festival, which, with more than 350 concerts a year, is the world's largest early music festival. He trained as a linguist, literary scholar and philosopher. Before moving to the Netherlands to live and work, he taught at



the Catholic University of Leuven (K.U.Leuven) and Erasmus University College Brussels. He was a presenter and producer at Klara, wrote as a music journalist for De Standaard, and served as deputy director and artistic adviser at BOZAR. He was also chair of REMA, the European early music network. He founded Early Music Television (EMTV), an international streaming service for concert recordings.

Percussionist **Wim Pelgrims** has a great passion for contemporary-classical and genre-crossing works. In 2017, he founded Nemø ensemble, a first embodiment of his love for immersive performance. He gives his more playful artistic vision a place in the duo Goggles, which he founded in 2020 together with soprano Esther-Elisabeth Rispens. In 2021 and 2022, he curated his first solo project at Broei Gent, BOLSTER[bubbles]. In addition, in 2022 he attended the 'Curating Diversity' course at Sounds Now, in Finland, as part of expanding his insights and abilities as a curator.





Gert-Jan Dreessen (1995, Genk) is a drummer and composer active on the European jazz scene. His work is rooted in intuition and craftsmanship, with a strong focus on ensemble playing and musicality. He has collaborated with artists including Shai Maestro, Nduduzo Makhathini, Bert Joris and the Flat Earth Society Orchestra, and has performed at venues such as Lincoln Centre, New York. With his quartet, he performs his own compositions, in which his love of rhythm, harmony and melancholic melodies come together clearly. The music remains open and constantly shifts between written material and improvisation. His debut album *Angle of Incidence* (Hypnote, 2025) was selected by Focus Knack as one of the best jazz albums of the year and received international airplay. In addition to his work as a musician, he is also active as a teacher and as a curator at CC De Bogaard.

Adriaan De Koster studied Classical Singing after he studied Economic Sciences and Cultural Management. Since 2010, he has sung as a soloist in (baroque) oratorios and as an ensemble singer with groups such as Huelgas Ensemble, Graindelavoix, Pygmalion and the Nederlandse Bachvereniging. In 2015, he co-founded the Utopia Ensemble. This vocal quintet specialises in polyphony and mainly explores the Franco-Flemish Renaissance repertoire from the 16th century. With the ensemble, the equality of voices and blend is essential. In their programmes, they aim to create a musical narrative through which polyphony is presented in a contemporary context.



Robin Goossens is a legal consultant at Cultuurloket and has been the managing director of Nadar Ensemble since 2022. He also provides legal support to the cultural sector, specialising in contract law, intellectual property and the GDPR. As a managing director, he works on a freelance basis for organisations including DAS HAUS and HISK. As an amateur violinist, he performs with the string quartet TOSCA.

Jan Van den Borre has performed with ensembles such as Collegium Vocale Gent, Vox Luminis, Anima Eterna, Gli Angeli Genève, Millenium Orchestra and Il Gardellino. He has also served as a programmer for Apotheosis and The 1750 Project, artistic coordinator at Collegium Vocale Gent and artistic director of Il Gardellino. Between 2022 and 2025, Jan was artistic director at MA Festival, where he approached early music with an open mind and encouraged innovation rooted in tradition. Since early 2026, Jan has been artistic and general director of Klarafestival. Connections between art and society are central to this role.



Adèle Querinjean is business director at MA Festival. After studying musicology and saxophone, she joined the artistic planning and production department at La Monnaie. She was production manager at B'Rock Orchestra & Collegium Vocale Gent and worked as label manager at Passacaille Records. In addition to her position at the festival, she is business associate at Ghent creation and meeting place De Koer. She is driven by a love for classical music and the conviction that every step prior to a concert deserves as much attention and care as the performance itself.