



# Enluminures

*"Enluminures" is a multidisciplinary work (musical and visual) that awakens the senses. Composed by Judith Adler de Oliveira and designed by Isabelle Françaix, "Enluminures" will be interpreted by the Akhtamar quartet.*

## Introduction of the piece

The piece, composed for the quartet, consists of a series of miniatures based on traditional Armenian themes. The title recalls illuminated manuscripts and their constantly shifting presence between literature and painting. It is the interpreter's decision whether a particular image resembles an alphabetic character or not, and if so, to what extent... illuminated manuscripts are fundamentally open-ended and always offer choice to the onlooker. Their relationship to literature and painting has been explored continually over centuries in a variety of ways. "Enluminures" echoes these historical explorations: at times, the secular, Armenian themes are reworked with an emphasis on authenticity and at others, fresh outlooks take over and therefore break with tradition. Thematic similarities can be drawn between "Enluminures" and the Komitas/Aslamazyan miniatures, a piece that lies at the heart of the quartet's repertoire. These are most prominent in "Grounk" and "Kagavik". Other themes in "Enluminures" ("Eri eri jan" "Yel yel" and "Dle Yaman") pay tribute to Komitas' invaluable work collecting and preserving Armenian music.

 *Duration* 18 minutes

**Judith Adler - Composer**



**Akhtamar - Music**



**Isabelle Françaix - Vidéo**



## Akhtamar quartet's biography

Akhtamar, an Armenian legend. The name of the quartet is a reference to the Armenian Miniatures by Komitas/Aslamazyan, which the ensemble has performed with passion since its foundation.

Formed in Brussels in 2014, the ensemble was one of the six quartets selected for the **"tremplins jeunes quatuors" of Paris' Philharmonie in 2016 and in the same year won the second prize in the Musiq'3 festival.** In 2021, the quartet won **third prize in the International Johannes Brahms Competition.**

The Akhtamar Quartet performs in prestigious concert halls and festivals all around Europe: Radio France Festival in Montpellier, the Concertgebouw in Bruges (Be), the MonteLeón Festival (Sp), as well as venues in Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Baltic States... and of course in Armenia.

In 2020, the quartet released its first CD: "légende arménienne". The label Cypres Records produced the recording of Komitas' miniatures and "un quatuor arménien" by Eugénie Alécian, dedicated to the Akhtamar quartet. Regularly broadcast on national radios (Musiq'3, France Musique, SWR2 in Germany...), **"légende arménienne" as been awarded four stars by the prestigious "BBC Music Magazine" and "Classica Magazine", four "diapasons" in "Diapason Magazine",** and is one of the five nominees in the classical music category of the Octaves de la Musique 2021. The Akhtamar quartet was part of "ProQuartet" before joining the ECMA. They have the privilege of attending courses at the "Joseph Haydn Institut" at the University of Music in Vienna.

The Akhtamar Quartet is supported by the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Wallonie Bruxelles International, the Concertgebouw Bruges, Le Dimore del Quartetto, the Boghossian Foundation, and the Centre National de Musique.

## Judith Adler's biography

Judith Adler de Oliveira is a French / Portuguese composer and librettist. She is a **Global Connections Artist for Opera for Peace.**

She has completed two Master's degrees in History of Art and Musicology, as well as in Compared Literatures at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

**Her research combines music and language, and deals more specifically with the music and poetry produced by communities that have endured war and exile.** Her music often refers to the heritage of other cultures. Her recent compositions feature a rewriting of the Armenian and Georgian musical legacies. **She has collaborated with visual and video artists and set her own texts to music.** In the Confluence project that focuses on the themes of hospitality and the figure of Abraham, she contributed as librettist, and composed an overture to Qoutayba Neaimi's composition. **Her musical works were performed in Belgium, France, Italy, Canada, Germany,** and her next creation is to be held for the inaugural season of Namur Concert Hall.

## Isabelle Françaix's biography

Author, illustrator, photographer and videast, Isabelle Françaix worked successively for Symetrie Music Publishers, a contemporary music ensemble Musiques Nouvelles and Cypres records before devoting herself exclusively to photography and video. **She has directed several projects with different composers and musicians, including short movies in multimedia productions and webvideos.**

In 2019, she creates the film Ophelie, la voix captive on a text by François Emmanuel and music by Benoît Mernier, for the concert of the soprano Clara Inglese. In 2018, after a video-poem shot in Andalusia at the Festival Pause, Finca La Donaira, the video artist shoots "L'île Paradis qu'on ne doit pas dire", a show co-written with the composer Pierre-Adrien Charpy. Her first production in 2007 was a documentary about the violin maker Antoni Jassogne: Le chant du bois. The Goldberg Visions, 32 visual poems conceived in 2020 with the pianist Irina Lankova around the Goldberg Variations, are projected live at the Max Festival (BE) in September 2021. Isabelle creates in 2022 "Au plus près" with Céline Bodson and Sara Picavet, a concert with live projection increased by a photo exhibition: Phosphènes.