



*The Akhtamar Quartet,
Freestyle Lab and Guillaume Sanchez present:*

FREESTYLE CLASSICS

The show "Freestyle Classics" forms bridges between two vastly different artistic and cultural worlds: classical music and Freestyle dance. Through performance and video reportage, the "Freestyle Classics" project breaks traditional artistic codes and advocates diversity. In uniting artists from "opposing" disciplines, the project proves that we can still create entirely new sensations and emotions.



The Freestyle Lab ASBL



The Akhtamar Quartet



The partners

Presentation

"Freestyle Classics" is a unique performance that mixes the classical music universe with street dance, thanks to the unexpected meeting of two groups of established artists: the Freestyle Lab collective and the Akhtamar String Quartet. This exchange between freestyle (an eminent form of street dance) and classical music (a domain too often directed towards privileged audiences) breaks traditional codes and gathers people from different walks of life to the same event. The artists involved wish to bring classical music to the street and urban culture to classical concert halls. The show will allow for genuine exchange and connection between the artists. Everyone involved will have the opportunity to express themselves through both movement and music. The performances, adaptable to various interior and exterior spaces, will propose a wholly new artistic form: a mix of improvisation and choreography, adapted to the needs of both dancers and musicians. First performances will be held during the summer of 2022, thanks to the program "CultureCultuur 1060", an initiative from the Dutch-speaking Culture and News services of Saint-Gilles.

Presentation of the report

Thanks to a documentary series by Guillaume Sanchez, the public will understand the creative process and relationships between the dancers and musicians. The film, set out in 3 episodes, will convey the variety and depth inherent to each art form and how they complement each other in so many ways.

The Team



The "Freestyle Lab" ASBL was created in 2016 by Anissa Brennet. With the financial and marketing support she won from a dance competition, Anissa launched "Freestyle Lab": a **platform offering opportunities to street dancers in Belgium to develop their skills and art**. The ASBL contributes significantly to the development of the Belgian hip hop scene and its growing professionalism.

Their objective is to **prioritise the importance of culture and artistic fulfilment in our society**. Hip hop culture's educative and universal values are based on respect, unity, diversity, exchange, discovery, and creativity. To spread these positive waves, the collective creates opportunities for exchange by **organising events that bring dancers of all urban styles, ages, skills and contexts together**. They frequently perform in places at the heart of the Belgian artistic world: the "Kanal-Centre Pompidou", "Tour et Taxi", and "L'Ancienne Belgique", among others.

Click [here](#) to visit their website!



Created in 2014, the Akhtamar quartet chose their name in reference to the "Armenian Miniatures" by Komitas/Aslamazyan, which the ensemble has performed with passion since its foundation. In 2021, they were awarded third prize in the International Johannes Brahms Competition. The Akhtamar quartet's mission has always been **to bring classical music to varied audiences**. This aim has been realised in concerts and shows adapted to different age groups and contexts across Belgium and France. In their last project, "On the Dream String," the quartet brought music to hospitals' medical teams and psychiatric patients.

Their instruments have already resonated in some of the most prestigious halls and festivals in Europe: Radio France Montpellier, Concertgebouw de Bruges (Be), Festival MonteLeón (Sp) and in Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Latvia, Estonia... and of course, in Armenia.

Their CD was awarded **four stars by the leading "BBC Music Magazine", "Classica" Magazine, and four 'diapasons' by the famous "Diapasons" magazine**. The quartet was one of 5 nominated groups in the Classical Music category of the "Octaves de la musique" 2021.

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Guillaume Sanchez has spent the last ten years developing his skills as a **"Visual Storyteller" worldwide**. Now 30 years old, he has produced documentary series and promotional material, as well as reports for the European Commission. He has had the privilege to create content in various forms for diverse purposes. Guillaume dives as deeply as possible into people's stories and emerges with what is needed to share their message.

Click [here](#) to visit his website!