

From skills to impact: exploring practices in participatory music

Brussels Hub meeting

22 April 2026, 13:30 - 16:15

entrance: ticketshop Flagey, Place Sainte-Croix, 1050 Ixelles



Participatory music practices can be empowering, socially impactful, and meaningful in society. But what **skills** do musicians need to work with communities, schools or cultural organisations? What **effects** do these practices have on participants and artists? And **how do you get started** in bringing together artistic creativity and social engagement?

On **22 April 2026**, Brussels Philharmonic, Klarafestival and the Academic Chair Jonet/CESAMM warmly welcome you for the second Brussels Hub meeting at Flagey, where we explore these questions together. Expect a **mix** of **research insights** and **hands-on workshops**, with room to exchange ideas, learn from peers, and share your own experiences. There will be time for discussion, questions, and networking. This session is open to anyone active in participatory music practices, looking to integrate them into their work, or simply curious to explore.

Language: English

To **register**, please fill in [this form](#)

PROGRAMME:

13:30	Welcome
13:40-14:20	Research insights
14:20-14:40	Discussion + coffee
14:40-16:00	Workshops
16:00-16:15	Reflections + closing

DETAILED PROGRAMME

- 13:30** **Welcome** (Foyer 3)
- 13:40-14:20** **Insights from research** (Foyer 3)
- 1. Musical leadership in participatory music practices**
In this lecture, An De bisschop shares insights from her research into the skills and experience musicians need to effectively lead participatory music practices. The perspective of the accompanying musician is central.
- 2. The effects of participatory music practices on participants' wellbeing**
In this lecture, Filip Verneert presents research findings on how participatory music practices impact various aspects of participants' wellbeing. The perspective of the participant is central here.
- 14:20-14:40** **Discussion & coffee** (Foyer 3)
- 14:40-16:00** **Workshops**
- Participants are divided into two groups for the practice workshops. Each workshop is offered twice, allowing every participant to attend both sessions.*
- 1. Teenage Drumclub** (foyer 3)
How do you keep young people engaged from their first contact with a drum to their first performance? In this workshop, Jo Zanders shares practices from his experience with youth drumming groups outside the context of a music school.
- 2. Vocal Improvisation** (Studio 2)
In this workshop, Ilse Duyck explores vocal improvisation through simple, playful exercises that transform musical ideas into more abstract forms. Personal input and active engagement are at the heart of the process. Using simple words and short phrases, we collaboratively build our own vocal symphony.
- 16:00-16:15** **Reflections & closing** (Foyer 3)

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SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOPS LEADERS

An De bisschop is a visiting professor at Ghent University and a lecturer at KASK-Conservatorium Gent. She holds the Academic Chair Jonet/CESAMM. Her research focuses on participatory art practices, with a special emphasis on music, social impact, and the training of artists in this field.

Filip Verneert is a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University, affiliated with the Academic Chair Jonet/CESAMM, and director of Muziekmozaïek. His research focuses on community music, collaborative creativity, and music education, with a special focus on the social impact of improvisation.

An De bisschop and Filip Verneert are the authors of De Klank van Verbinding. Participatieve muziekpraktijken in Vlaanderen en Brussel that was published in 2025 (Borgerhoff & Lamberigts).

Jo Zanders is a percussionist and instrument maker. He was a member of Al-Harmoniah, a saxophone orchestra with a predominantly Moroccan percussion section. In 2000, Jo participated in the Brussels Zinnekeparade, which led to the creation of Fanfakids – a percussion group made up of young people from Molenbeek. It was the need for instruments adapted to young players inspired him to building his own drums.

Ilse Duyck holds a master's degree in Jazz Vocal, a bachelor's degree in Social Work, and a certificate in Music Therapy. She is a versatile musician, active as a jazz singer, composer, and bandleader. Ilse teaches at the Academy of Performing Arts in Ghent, where she also coordinates the jazz department. In addition, Ilse was active as a coach for the participatory music project The Ostend Street Orchestra (TOSO), organised by the non-profit organization kleinVerhaal.