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## Ashes

REBECCA BENOOT

After a well-received performances in Zürich and Paris, choreographer Koen Augustijnen returns to Flemish soil with *Ashes*, his latest production for the Ghent-based Les Ballets C. de la B. The subtitle reads "Nothing lasts forever", which eloquently sums up the central theme of mortality.

The much in-demand Flemish alto Steve Dugardin sings a contemporary adaptation of Händel's beautifully expressive love duets together with a soprano (either Amaryllis Dieltiens or Irene Carpentier), while eight acrobats and dancers provide the visual feast illustrating how far people will go to maintain what they have achieved. For the storytellers, the outcome is sadly inevitable. Holding on is easy; letting go is an art. *Ashes* illustrates the intricate relationship between these dual forces.

Founded in 1984 by Alain Platel, whose role fluctuates between performer, choreographer and

artistic director, Les Ballets C. de la B. is the Belgian leader in theatre/dance fusion. They were in part responsible for "the Flemish Wave" – a turning point in the late 1970s and 1980s when Flemish performing arts took off internationally, thanks to the groundbreaking work of choreographers like Platel, Wim Vandekeybus and Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker.

The company's full name is Les Ballets Contemporains de la Belgique, which served as a commentary on both Belgium's infamous language divide (which hasn't change much in 25 years) and ironic recognition that modern dance was outshining and outselling ballet, which had become characterised as being stuck in tradition and unable to re-invent itself for a modern audience.

Les Ballets soon became famous for its eclectic and often surreal mix of dance, theatre and music. It is an artistic platform that reaps

the benefits of not only the collaboration between various choreographers (which is unique in Flanders) but also of a wide variety of talented young artists with diverse backgrounds.

Far from a vanity project for Platel or anyone else, dancers' personal contributions make each performance a vital entity with a distinct social conscience. These constant and blossoming influences result in a unique contemporary mix that might be summed up by the company's motto: "This dance is of the world, and the world belongs to everyone". ♦

### KVS

Lakensestraat 146, Brussels

26-28 March, 20.00

Leuven: 2-3 April

Bruges: 23 April

## MORE DANCE THIS WEEK

Merlin Spie → Kaaistudio's, Brussels

Needcompany → deSingel, Antwerp

Compagnie Membros → Hallen van Schaarbeek



### Antwerp

#### Amuz

Kammenstraat 81; 03.248.28.28  
MAR 22 11.00 Roel Dieltiens, cello: Bach cello suites, part 1  
MAR 25 21.00 Brussels Philharmonic conducted by Ludo Claesen, with Jan Michiels, piano; Koen Broucke, visual artist: Liszt's religious meditations

#### deSingel

Desguinlei 25; 03.248.28.28, [www.desingel.be](http://www.desingel.be)  
MAR 19 20.00 Arditti Quartet & Alban Berg Quartet: Brahms, Schoenberg, Rihm  
MAR 25 20.00 Asko & Schönberg Ensemble conducted by Reinbert de Leeuw, with Frank Peter Zimmermann, violin; Susan Narucki, soprano: Veress, Vivier, Nancarrow, Ligeti  
MAR 26 20.00 Intercontemporain Ensemble conducted by Pierre Boulez, with Hideki Nagano, piano; Jérôme Comte, clarinet: Boulez' Incises and Sur Incises, Elliott Carter's Clarinet Concerto

### Bruges

#### Concertgebouw

't Zand 34; 070.22.33.02, [www.concertgebouw.be](http://www.concertgebouw.be)  
Concerts at 20.00:  
MAR 18 LOD in Judaspassie, world première written by Pieter De Buysser, staged by Inne Goris, with music by Dominique Pauwels performed by B'Rock, conducted by Frank Agsteribbe  
MAR 20 Poing with Maja Ratkje, voice; Frode Haltli, accordion: music by Kurt Weill, texts by Bertolt Brecht  
MAR 21 Concerto Italiano with Rinaldo Alessandrini, harpsichord and conductor; Monica Piccinini and Anna Simboli, sopranos; Furio Zanasi, baritone: Handel MAR 27 La Risonanza conducted by Fabio Bonizzoni: Handel's first oratorium Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno

### Brussels

Bozar (Paleis Voor Schone Kunsten) Ravensteinstraat 23; 02.507.82.00, [www.bozar.be](http://www.bozar.be)

MAR 18 20.00 Le Concert des Nations conducted by Jordi Savall: Bach's Brandenburg concertos, Purcell's suites MAR 19 12.30 Belgian National Orchestra soloists: Beethoven, Mozart. 20.00 Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin: Verbey, Brahms, Bartók MAR 23 20.30 Film concert: La Chute de la maison Usher by Jean Epstein (1928) with the Belgian National Orchestra conducted by Dirk Brossé MAR 24 20.00 Grigory Sokolov, piano: Beethoven and Schubert piano sonatas

#### De Munt

Muntplein; 070.23.39.39, [www.demunt.be](http://www.demunt.be)  
MAR 20 12.30 Z Kowalski and Femke Sonnen, violin; Yves Cortvint and Tony Nys, viola; C Lardin and K Lievens, cello: Korngold, Zemlinsky

#### Flagey

Heilig Kruisplein; 02.641.10.20, [www.flagey.be](http://www.flagey.be)  
MAR 22 11.30 Brunch piano concert: Enescu, Schubert, Wieniawsky, Ravel, Sarasate

#### Musical Instruments Museum

Hofberg 2; 0475.76.23.32, [www.astoria-concerts.be](http://www.astoria-concerts.be)  
MAR 22 11.00 Daniel Rubenstein, cello; Muhiddin Dürrüoğlu, piano: Schubert, Swinnen, Ravel, Szymanowski

Royal Conservatory of Brussels Regenschapsstraat 30; 02.213.41.37

Concerts at 20.00:

MAR 19 Historical Instrument Orchestra conducted by Philippe Pierlot, with Brussels Chamber Choir: Bach, Charpentier MAR 21 Mosaïques Quartet with Raphaël Pidoux, cello: Mozart, Boccherini, Haydn MAR 23 Julia Fischer, violin; Milana Chernyavska, piano: Mozart, Prokofiev, Beethoven, Martinu MAR 24-27 The European Union Choir and Ensemble Orchestral de Bruxelles conducted by Jacques Vanherenthals: Bach's St John Passion, BWV 245 MAR 26 Les Folies Françaises conducted by Patrick Cohén-Akenine, with Jean-Paul Fouchécourt, countertenor: Couperin's Concerts Royaux, Clérambault cantatas

### Ghent

#### Handelsbeurs

Kouter 29; 09.265.92.01, [www.handelsbeurs.be](http://www.handelsbeurs.be)  
MAR 27 20.00 Gent Hogeschool Conservatory Chamber Orchestra conducted by Dirk Brossé, with Judith Ermert, cello; Eddy Vanoosthuysse, clarinet: The Circle of Nature, a musical evocation of the four seasons (charity concert)



### Antwerp

#### Vlaamse Opera

Frankrijklei 1; 070.22.02.02, [www.vlaamseopera.be](http://www.vlaamseopera.be)  
Until MAR 26 15.00/19.30 Così fan tutte by Mozart with the Flemish Symphony Orchestra conducted by Attilio Cremonesi, directed by Guy Joosten

### Brussels

#### De Munt

Muntplein; 070.23.39.39, [www.demunt.be](http://www.demunt.be)  
MAR 24-APR 5 15.00/20.00 Le Grand Macabre by Ligeti with De Munt Symphony Orchestra conducted by Leo Hussain and Choirs conducted by Piers Maxim, staged by Alex Ollé and Valentina Carrasco



### Antwerp

#### deSingel

Desguinlei 25; 03.248.28.28, [www.desingel.be](http://www.desingel.be)  
MAR 18 20.00 Mahanthappa-Dresser-Hemingway

### Ardoois

#### Cultuurkapel De Schaduw

Wezestraat 32; 0479.80.94.82, [www.deschaduw.net](http://www.deschaduw.net)  
MAR 21 20.00 The Dusk Swing Collective

### Bruges

#### De Werf

Werfstraat 108; 050.33.05.29  
MAR 19 20.30 Hamster Axis of the one-click Panther

### Brussels

#### Archiduc

Dansaertstraat 6; 02.512.06.52, [www.archiduc.net](http://www.archiduc.net)  
MAR 22 17.00 Paul Dunmall's Belgian Quartet

#### Art Base

Zandstraat 29; 02.217.29.20, [www.art-base.be](http://www.art-base.be)  
MAR 20 21.00 Sevdas, Takis Mendis and Stergios Papadopoulos