

Press presentation of opening events for the Belgian  
Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Tuesday 22 June 2010 – IPC

**2 July 2010**      **Concert by José van Dam & Friends in Laeken Castle  
Park**

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**3 July 2010** **Belgium dances for Europe! – Modern ball in 12 Belgian  
cities**

Preliminary programme: presentation of the Belgo-Dutch candidacy for the  
organisation of the 2018 World Cup

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**3 July 2010** **"I ♥ EU" concert on the esplanade of the European  
Parliament and Place du Luxembourg in Brussels**

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**8 July 2010** **"Best of Belgium" show**

## 2 July 2010: Concert by José van Dam & Friends in Laeken Castle park

The ceremonial opening of the Belgian presidency of the Council of the European Union will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the career of José van Dam, one of the most famous and talented Belgian lyrical singers. In the fairylike surroundings of the Laeken Castle Park, José van Dam and his friends will perform a one-off concert for over 3,000 people, in the presence of the Belgian royal family, European High Representatives and members of the Belgian federal government. The event will end with a fireworks display and will be broadcast live on both of the country's national television channels, RTBF and VRT.

The singer has brought together some very special guests, including his friends from back in the day, his former students and two rising singing stars, one a Spanish soprano, the other a Hungarian tenor, showing the continuity between Belgium and the countries in charge of the previous and following presidencies.

Under the direction of Patrick Davin, the Symphony Orchestra and Monnaie Choirs will accompany 'José van Dam & Friends' in an anthology of opera excerpts, where ensembles will be able to showcase their talents, as well as a few entirely new partnerships – Philip Catherine's guitar for the serenade in Don Giovanni, or Jacques Brel's *Le plat pays* (*The Low Country*) sung by Maurane and José van Dam. French opera from the 19th century and Mozart's most beautiful operas will be at the heart of the concert which will also include a brilliant piece for violin, and a few melodies. Film-maker Gérard Corbiau, one of the singer's oldest friends, has created a few 'moving' interludes. More information at <http://www.vandamandfriends.be>

### Schedule (start 10 p.m.):

Preludium

*José van Dam, 25 years on* – Gérard Corbiau

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869) *Faust's Damnation*

Hungarian March

*50 years...* – Gérard Corbiau

*"Devant la maison de celui qui t'adore"* (Mephisto)

José van Dam

*"Une puce gentile (Mephistopheles' Song)"* (Mephisto)

José van Dam

P.I. Tchaïkovsky (1840-1893) *Waltz-Scherzo*

Yossif Ivanov

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) *Le Nozze di Figaro*

*"Giunse al fin il momento... Deh, vieni non tardar"* (Susanna)

Sophie Karthäuser

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*

*"Durch Zärtlichkeit und Schmeicheln"* (Blonde)

Hendrickje Van Kerkhove

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) *Don Giovanni*

*"Deh vieni alla finestra"* (Don Giovanni)

José van Dam, Philip Catherine

*"La ci darem la mano"* (Don Giovanni, Zerlina)

José van Dam, Hendrickje Van Kerkhove

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) *Così fan tutte*

*"Soave sia il vento"* (Don Alfonso, Fiordiligi, Dorabella)

José van Dam, Sophie Karthäuser, Sylvia Tro Santafé

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901) *Macbeth*

*"Patria Oppressa"*

Choir

*"O figli miei"* (MacDuff)

Szabolcs Brickner

Georges Bizet (1838-1875) *Les Pêcheurs de perles*

*"Au fond du temple saint"* (Nadir et Zurga)

Szabolcs Brickner, José van Dam

Charles Gounod (1818-1893) *Faust*

*"Le veau d'or est toujours debout"* (Mephistopheles)

José van Dam

Jules Massenet (1842-1912) *Don Quichotte*

*"Alza!"* (Dulcinée, the crowd)

Sylvia Tro Santafé, choir

*"Riez du pauvre idéologue"* (Sancho Panza)

Werner Van Mechelen

*"Me marier! Moi ?"* (Dulcinée, Don Quichotte)

Sylvia Tro Santafé, José van Dam

Gabriel Fauré (1842-1924) *Les Berceaux*

José van Dam, Philip Catherine

Jacques Brel (1929-1978) *Le plat pays*

José van Dam, Maurane

arr. D. Brossé & N. De Cock

*L'Homme de la Mancha*

"Poursuivre un impossible rêve

(Chasing an impossible dream)"

José van Dam

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) *Don Giovanni*

"Finché dal vino" (Don Giovanni)

José van Dam

Georges Bizet (1838-1875) *Carmen*

"Votre toast, je peux vous le rendre" (Escamillo)

José van Dam and Friends

**Organised in partnership with the non-profit organisation Belgium to the Tops, in association with the Queen Elizabeth Musical Chapel.**

Dans le cadre de l'ouverture de la présidence belge du Conseil de l'Union européenne  
In het kader van de aanvang van het Belgische voorzitterschap van de Raad van de Europese Unie

# *José van Dam* *and friends*



*eu* triple

*2 juillet - 2010 - 2 juli*  
*Château de Laeken - Kasteel van Laken*

## Belgium dances for Europe!

On 1 July, Belgium will take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. This event will be widely celebrated across the country.

On Saturday 3 July 2010, the 'Belgium dances for Europe' event will take place, along with an original and grand 'Modern Ball' organised by the state authorities. In 12 Belgian cities, professional dancers will teach a dance to the public, who will be gathering in various public places. After the rehearsals, everyone will dance at the same time in the 12 cities.

The cities taking part are Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Charleroi, Eupen, Ghent, Hasselt, Liège, Leuven, Louvain-la-Neuve, Namur and Tournai. This major dance event is free and will be broadcast live on both state TV channels, RTBF and VRT. The show will start everywhere at 8 p.m. and end at 9:45 p.m.

The public will dance to the song *Ici Bruxelles (This is Brussels)* by Jaune Toujours, to a routine created by Maria Clara Villa-Lobos. *Ici Bruxelles* is a dance which pays homage to Brussels and to Europe, with Brussels as its capital city. Wholly inspired by the music of Brussels group Jaune Toujours, the dance highlights the multi-cultural nature of the city and the sometimes 'surreal' atmosphere which pervades it. With a nod to the Belgian presidency of the European Union, the music and dance celebrate diversity and friendliness, from Liège to Bruges, Antwerp to Namur, despite the differences...

The Modern Ball (*Bal Moderne* ©) is a production by the non-profit organisation Arenal. This dance event has been organised in partnership with the Communities, Regions, the 12 cities and the Belgian National Lottery.

### More information :

- Facebook group: La Belgique danse! België danst! Belgien tanzt! Belgium dances!  
<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=124164504290303&v=app2344061033#!/group.php?gid=124164504290303>
- 'Bal Moderne 2005' video:<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qajWeifCY7Y>
- [www.myspace.com/jaunetoujours](http://www.myspace.com/jaunetoujours)
- [www.balmoderne.be](http://www.balmoderne.be)

### **On 3 July, Belgium is set to dance to *Ici Bruxelles/Brussel Hier* by Jaune Toujours**

Belgium's presidency of the Council of the European Union will be launched in a most festive manner along to the melody of a bilingual song: *Ici Bruxelles/Brussel Hier*. On 3 July 2010, thousands of people will simultaneously learn and dance to a routine in 12 Belgian cities, along to this song.

*Ici Bruxelles/Brussel Hier* has been a big success since its first version in 2004, and has been worked on again especially for the opening of the Belgian Presidency. The song describes the genuine Brussels, and by extension, Belgium as a crossroads of language and culture. A buzzing, cosmopolitan place where real people live and dance.

This is clearly a positive note after the strange period which Belgium just experienced. Jaune Toujours has travelled extensively in Europe and throughout the world for a long time, proving that Brussels is not a stuffy city filled with eurocrats. Thanks to a winning musical mix and committed lyrics, this song highlights our specific features.

Thanks to Jaune Toujours and their song *Ici Bruxelles/Brussel Hier*, Belgium is bringing a gleam to its star in the European firmament. We discover there is room for a vision, for commitment and for emotion. A magical interpretation of European thought, and what Belgium can bring to it.

#### **JAUNE TOUJOURS *Ici Bruxelles/Brussel Hier* (chou 1001)**

[www.myspace.com/jaunetoujours](http://www.myspace.com/jaunetoujours) – [www.itunes.com/jaunetoujours](http://www.itunes.com/jaunetoujours)

Label & Management: Choux de Bruxelles – 04 78 82 57 63 – [www.choux.net](http://www.choux.net) – [info@choux.net](mailto:info@choux.net)

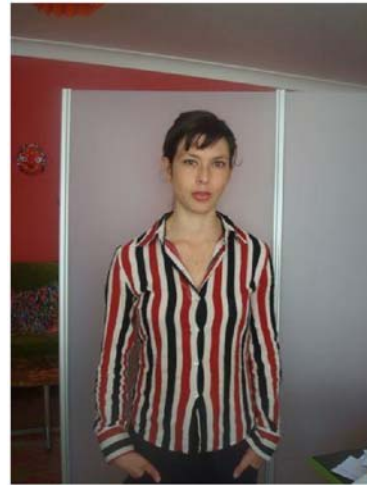
Perscontact Nederlandstalig/Dutch-speaking contact: Annemie Arnauts – 04 74 91 14 54 – [annemie@kardini.be](mailto:annemie@kardini.be)

Contact presse francophone/French-speaking contact: Isabelle Fagot – 049 811 08 82 – [isa.fagot@skynet.be](mailto:isa.fagot@skynet.be)

## Biography of Maria Clara Villa-Lobos

**Maria Clara Villa-Lobos** was born in **Brasilia** in **1972**.

Since her father was a diplomat, she lived in several countries and on many continents from the age of three. At sixteen, in **1989**, she moved to East Berlin to study classic and modern dance at the prestigious **Staatliche Ballettschule Berlin** before leaving for Sweden, to join the **Caprioli Dance Co**, which offered her a contract. In Stockholm, she worked on a freelance basis with many Swedish choreographers. She also worked in Brazil with **Endança**, a company based in Brasilia.



In **1995**, she left for Brussels to study for a year at **P.A.R.T.S.** under the artistic direction of Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker. After her studies, she worked with various choreographers such as Rui Horta, David Hernandez, Willi Dorner, Christine De Smedt and Les Ballets C. de la B., Sasha Waltz and Thomas Lehmen.

Since **1997**, she has also developed her choreographic work with pieces like **Crash, Home Sweet Home, TRIO, Pin-up stories, Love affairs mostly turn sour** (choreography created for the **Bal Moderne**), then in **2000, XL, because size does matter** (in connection with Brussels 2000, capital of culture).

In **2002**, she created **XS**, a piece for younger audiences, then was invited by *Tanz Performance Köln* to create and interpret a solo piece, **Faces / a solo under influence**, created in partnership with Portuguese choreographer Lilia Mestre.

In **2003**, she created **M, a medium-sized piece** which completed the trilogy begun in 2000 with **XL**, and then went on to tour with the pieces **XS, XL** and **TRIO**.

In **2004**, she toured with the pieces **M** (*Belgium, France, Canada, Germany, Austria, Brazil*), **XL** (across France) and **Mono Subjects** by Thomas Lehmen

In **2005**, she presented **M, a medium-sized piece** at the Hivernales d'Avignon winter festival, carried on her trilogy with the solo **XXL, because big is beautiful** created for the **Bellone-Brigittines** festival in September of that year.

In **2006**, she created an unusual musical called **Super!** based on the theme of superpower, in Malines, Belgium. After this initial work stage, she carried on the project with a residency at the **Théâtre de la Place in Liège** where the piece was performed in **2007** during the **Charleroi-Danses** festival. They also co-produced the **Super!** project.

In **2007**, she took part in the **Dysfashional** project in Luxembourg, creating a solo with a costume by Walter van Beirendonck, the *enfant terrible* of the Antwerp fashion scene. She also created a piece for 14 dancers in Quebec, in connection with the **Osez!** (Dare!) project.

Since the creation of the company in 2000, her shows have toured in fifteen or so countries, mainly in Europe, but also in Brazil, Canada and South Korea.

She is currently developing a project for younger audiences, called *Têtes à Têtes* (*Face to face*) along with a solo project called *Head On*, which will be premiered at the Brigittines in Brussels in March 2011.

In the teaching domain, Maria Clara Villa-Lobos has for all these years given training classes in contemporary dance and improvisation, linked to her way of working and tours of her shows.

She has also taught contemporary dance to enthusiasts at the Espace Catastrophe, and as part of the P.E.P. (Performance Education Programme) in Leuven.

She is currently undertaking teacher training in Iyengar yoga, and regularly teaches dance and yoga to children via "Dancing Kids".

For more information: [www.mc-villalobos.com](http://www.mc-villalobos.com)



XL, because size does matter



M, a medium-sized piece



XXL



Head On

## Jaune Toujours – *Kick Ass Roots Band* – Album **KOLEKTIV**

Jaune Toujours, a group which had a "cult" status right from the start, is now hot property on the international live circuit. Its mix of explosive and urban styles, sung in several languages, is appreciated by public and press alike, far outside Belgium's borders. With the energy of a rock group (but with no guitars!), the pleasure of improvisation from a jazz combo, an openness of spirit encompassing world music and the charisma of street musicians, they look at the condition of the world in a poetic, relevant way. Add to this a pinch of typical Brussels self-deprecation and the recipe is complete.

The unique identity of Jaune Toujours is reflected in the committed lyrics penned by singer-cum-accordionist Piet Maris. Thanks to its social and cultural diversity, Brussels gives them an inexhaustible mine of social themes to deal with. But the overriding note is one of optimism, which convinces us that another world is possible. More a fist in the air than a middle finger. Their music invites us to dance until our feet are sore, but it also merits a closer listen.

The myriad joint working partnerships of Jaune Toujours also prove that the group is anything but opportunistic. For instance, in Radio Transit, they bring together artists of great talent, whose only handicap is that they do not (yet) have any official ID papers. With the group Mec Yek, they invite two Roma (traveller) singers to sing, so that they can get their Balkan "Motown" heard by the public without having to stick to every tired old cliché about travellers.

Their live album, *cluB*, released in 2006, opened doors at an international level for Jaune Toujours. In Britain, they were invited to the prestigious WOMAD festival, the Cambridge Folk Festival and the studios of BBC3. In Germany, they bowled over audiences from the Tanzfest to Rudolstadt, from Popdeurope to Berlin and from Bardentreffen to Nürnberg. In the Netherlands, they attracted fans to the Paradiso in Amsterdam, to the Oerol in Terschelling and to the Fiesta Mundial in Tilburg. They fell in love with the West coast of Canada when playing concerts in Vancouver, in Fort McLeod (think Brokeback Mountain) and in Calgary, with the assistance of the CGRI. In Belgium, we saw them on posters advertising a multitude of festivals: Couleur Café, Francofolies, Dranouter, Esperanzah!, Blue Note, Polé Polé, etc.

In April 2010, **KOLEKTIV**, the fifth Jaune Toujours album was released. Jaune Toujours is keeping the momentum up, a momentum that earns them international praise: no linguistic barriers, or any other frontiers (French, English and Dutch), verve-filled songs with a punk attitude, drum and bass, Balkan folly, accordion dub and Belgian ska.



**KOLEKTIV** Tracklist: 1. Bienvenue chez Moi / 2. About this Life / 3. La Rue / 4. Barbelé, pas Rasé / 5. Un Nouveau Rêve / 6. La Bruxelloise / 7. Well Yeah / 8. Leur dt / 9. L Arme / 10. Mentalithé à la Menthe / 11. Song 2 / 12. Temps Belge

**KOLEKTIV** Line-up: vocals & accordion Piet Maris / drums & percussion Théophile Raballand / double bass & ukulele Mathieu Verkaeren / soprano sax & clarinet Mattias Laga / trumpets Dirk Timmermans & Bart Maris / trumpets & flugelhorns Sam Versweyveld & Yves Fernandez-Solino

Recorded and mixed by Werner Pensaert, Motor Music.  
Mastered by Uwe Teichert, Elektropolis



### Jaune Toujours in the press:

Songlines (\*\*\*\*): Anyone who has seen this outfit live knows that their sheer musicianship ensures these sounds go together like moules et frites...Jaune Toujours prove once again that far from being boring, Brussels is hot, hot, hot fROOTS: The sound of Brussels octet Jaune Toujours is one of the most instantly recognisable on the roots music scene and all of the expected elements are present and pretty darn correct on this, their sixth album...In all, this sounds like their best album yet The Guardian (\*\*\*\*): For anyone who has ever made jokes about Belgium, here's an album to make you rethink. Surely destined to become one of the great European party bands. The Independent on Sunday (\*\*\*\*): This Belgium band's brass and accordion-led music seems born of the beer-steeped venue and nourished by the enthusiasm of a responsive audience. You'll love it. The Oxford Times: no greater surprise than Jaune Toujours – Belgium's finest export since beer. A hot mix of ska, gypsy, jazz and rock that had audiences on their feet demanding more and more Andy Kershaw, BBC3: What attracts me in Jaune Toujours is that they combine a punk attitude with an international hunger to present different styles from all over the world on their plate. Blue Rhythm: Jaune Toujours put on an eclectic firework display of enthusiasm and ideas that blows you away Jazzcorner: Highly energetic, catchy music from all over the world with loads of feeling Westzeit: When the Belgians play in club, it's electrifying – their heady brew of Ska/World/Jazz/Balkan is really hot Jazzdimensions: Their live shows are a true feast, extremely lively but without losing sight of musical quality and far from any cliché Die Abend Zeitung: If Brussels really is a dull city of eurocrats as many think, Jaune Toujours is just the thing to blow away the cobwebs The Ticket: This is THE manual you need to understand Brussels De Morgen: Unbridled energy, set in binary code. Jaune Toujours creates a perfectly natural fusion of rock, ska, klezmer, chanson, Balkanfolk and jazz.

### Choux de Bruxelles:

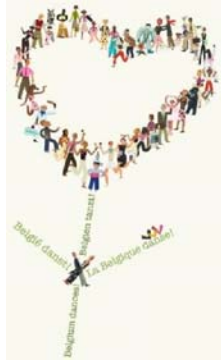
For Jaune Toujours, actions are as important as words. That's why they decided to produce their albums themselves. It seemed insane to them to defend a cause on stage if they were not living it on a day-to-day basis, with all the restrictions this entails. This allows them to realise what their responsibilities are, and to take part in debates with the full weight of knowledge on their side. Absolutely spot-on business ethics.

As an artists' collective, Choux de Bruxelles takes charge of a major share of the workload in terms of management, label and booking agency. To achieve this, they forge national and international alliances, while remaining independent.

Jaune TOUJOURS "KOLEKTIV" (chou 0902) - Choux de Bruxelles label - digital distr. worldwide Pias Digital  
Benelux distr. Play it again Sam, UK distr. Discovery Records, GAS-countries distr. Broken Silence  
contact: [info@choux.net](mailto:info@choux.net) +32 478 82 57 63 - [www.myspace.com/jaunetoujours](http://www.myspace.com/jaunetoujours) - [www.choux.net](http://www.choux.net)

### **Press contact:**

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## A CALL TO ALL DANCE FANS

**Belgium dances for Europe.**

To celebrate the beginning of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union

### GRAND MODERN BALL

on 3 July 2010 at 8 p.m. in 12 Belgian cities

We are on the lookout for volunteers to take part in the Ball, which will take place simultaneously in: Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Charleroi, Eupen, Ghent, Hasselt, Liège, Leuven, Louvain-la-Neuve, Namur and Tournai

#### **Be among the first to lead the dance!**

This Grand Modern Ball is an initiative by the public authorities organised in partnership with the 12 cities selected.

The 12 simultaneous Modern Balls will propose a dance routine that has been specially created for the occasion. This collective challenge will be broadcast live by RTBF and VRT.

The idea of the Modern Ball is simple: to give the public the chance to dance in a way that is not only visual, but literally physical, not just settling for watching, but dancing it yourself, in an open-air party atmosphere.

Professional dancers will be in attendance to teach the dances. **To help them, we need dynamic volunteer dance assistants who wish to take part in this original experience: you!**

**The training session with the professional dancers will take place on Saturday 3 July from 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in each of the 12 cities.**

Interested? Please send your contact details to [bedans2010@gmail.com](mailto:bedans2010@gmail.com) **indicating in the subject line "assistant + your desired city"**

**We are looking for around 100 volunteer assistants who meet the following criteria:**

- available on Saturday 3 July between 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., and then from 7:30 p.m. who love to dance and who want to transmit their passion**

**No particular level is required, *just enthusiasm and energy***

The Modern Ball (Bal Moderne ©) is an initiative from Michel Reilhac, and a production by ARENAL asbl, a non-profit organisation. "Belgium dances for Europe" is an initiative by the public authorities in connection with the opening of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union



## Belgo-Dutch candidacy for the organisation of the 2018 World Cup

**Setting:**

3 July 2010 in 12 Belgian cities

**Objective:**

To present and federate the Belgian population around the Belgo-Dutch candidacy for the organisation of the World Cup in 2018 and to highlight the partnership club, thus creating a buzz around the event.

**List of cities:**

- Antwerp
- Bruges
- Charleroi
- Eupen
- Ghent
- Hasselt
- Leuven
- Liège
- Louvain-la-Neuve
- Namur
- Tournai

**Schedule:**

5 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Set-up of promotion (2018 banners and cubes)
6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	2018 badge and partner gadget sampling by various teams
7:15 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Podium presentation (Introduction of World Cup 2018 / Presentation of partner club / Various competitions with attractive prizes)
8 p.m.	Start of Belgian Presidency Activities / Belgium dances for Europe
8:50 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Prize-giving during the BEDA 10 break

## **Transport**

We advise you to use public transport. The Brussels site can be accessed via Trône/Troon metro station.

## **Press contacts**

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For the event on 3 July in front of the European Parliament:

Delphine Colard  
04 95 87 48 00  
[delphine.colard@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:delphine.colard@europarl.europa.eu)



Piet Maris

Jaune Toujours - Ici Bruxelles / Brussel Hier  
 all CDs available on [www.itunes.com/jaunetoujours](http://www.itunes.com/jaunetoujours)  
 web [www.myspace.com/jaunetoujours](http://www.myspace.com/jaunetoujours)  
 management Choux de Bruxelles - [info@choux.net](mailto:info@choux.net)  
 illustration Tom Schamp

België danst voor Europa is een initiatief van de overheid in het kader van de opening van het Belgisch voorzitterschap van de Raad van de Europese Unie.

 trio.be

La Belgique danse pour l'Europe est une initiative des autorités publiques dans le cadre de l'ouverture de la Présidence belge du Conseil de l'Union européenne.

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Jaune Toujours