

concerti

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PORTRAIT OF ANNELIEN VAN WAUWE

In balance

The successful Belgian-Flemish clarinettist Annelien Van Wauwe always has a yoga mat and a pillow with her on her concert tours.

By [Teresa Pieschacon Raphael](#), March 29, 2021

© Joëlle Van Autreve



Annelien Van Wauwe

Clarinet, turquoise fingernails, yoga and a cup of tea. You could characterize the clarinettist Annelien Van Wauwe with these attributes – at least at first glance. However, when you hear her playing music, you think of the words of the composer Christian Friedrich Daniel Schubart, who wrote in 1784: "Whoever blows the clarinet soulfully seems to be making a declaration of love to the whole world, to the heavenly beings themselves". Still, her online video series Wauw! Warm Up" that Van Wauwe has a thing for the art of yoga, with which she practices breathing, posture, concentration and condition, all important prerequisites for a successful interpretation. She loves it "hot": the strenuous

Bikram Yoga, for example, in which you train "for an hour in a room heated to forty degrees", until your heart races – like "on stage at a concert". In keeping with her passion, the Belgian composer Wim Henderickx wrote a clarinet concerto for her. He called it "Sutra" after the guiding principles of the Buddhist spiritual tradition. In Spring 2022 she will premiere the concerto in Glasgow with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra conducted by Martyn Brabbins and then, combined with **Mozart's** Clarinet Concerto, recorded on the Pentatone label with the NDR Radiophilharmonie Hannover under **Andrew Manze**.

"Foundation product test for musicians"

As a young girl, the daughter of a lawyer and a clerk in the Flemish Parliament dreamed of a career in track and field. But an injury put an end to this, so after the recorder she concentrated on the clarinet. "Their sound reminds me of the human voice and I've always loved to sing," she says. The second prize in the ARD competition in 2012 – a first prize had not been awarded – confirmed her in her vocation. For her, competitions are like a "Stiftung Warentest for musicians," she says in accent-free German. You really don't hear from her that she grew up in Belgian-Flemish Hamme. Perhaps this is also due to the music academy in Lübeck, to which she came in 2004 at the age of seventeen to study with **Sabine Meyer** to study. She is still in contact with her today and describes her as a "second mother". In 2009 Van Wauwe continued her studies at the Paris Conservatory with Pascal Moraguès and from January 2010 at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome with Alessandro Carbonare. Then it went to the Academy of Music Hanns Eisler in Berlin. At the Musikhochschule Trossingen she acquired skills in historical performance practice.

Always has a yoga mat with her: Annelien Van Wauwe

Other important stations have followed in recent years. In addition to her appointment in 2018 as a lecturer in modern clarinet at the Royal Antwerp Conservatory - today she also teaches in The Hague - she founded the Brussels chamber music ensemble Carousel with ten other musicians, which plays the latest literature in various formations from trio to octet. In 2020 she was awarded the OPUS KLASSIK Prize in the category "Young Artist" for her album "Belle époque".

She is now a regular guest at international festivals, whether in Lucerne, Schleswig-Holstein, Bad Kissingen, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania or at the Montpellier Festival. In general, she likes to travel. Always take the yoga mat and a pillow with you. In one photo, Annelien Van Wauwe elegantly and gracefully performs the yoga pose Natarajasana, a standing pose often seen in classical dancers. An attitude that stands for harmony, stability and self-confidence, for a woman in balance. As an artist, she not only takes care of her mind and body, but also of her instrument. She bought twelve mouthpieces during a master class in Los Angeles. That should be enough for a very long clarinet life.

CD tip



Belle Epoque

Works by Debussy, Trojahn, Pierné, Brahms & Widor

Annelien Van Wauwe (clarinet), Orchester National de Lille, Alexandre Bloch (conductor)

Pentatone

portraits Annelien Van Wauwe

Events

Sunday, 02/12/2023 11:00 a.m

Frankfurt Old Opera

Annelien van Wauwe, Frankfurt Opera and Museum Orchestra, Mario Venzago

Webern: Passacaglia in D minor, Op. 1, Mozart: Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622, Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98

Monday, 02/13/2023 8:00 p.m

Frankfurt Old Opera

Annelien van Wauwe, Frankfurt Opera and Museum Orchestra, Mario Venzago

Webern: Passacaglia in D minor, Op. 1, Mozart: Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622, Brahms: Symphony No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98



PORTRAIT IL POMO D'ORO

Without rest

The early music ensemble Il pomo d'oro doesn't seem to take any breaks from concerts and recordings - which is great luck for all music lovers.

album of the week



REVIEW BERTRAND CHAMAYOU - MESSIAEN: VINGT REGARDS SUR L'ENFANT-JÉSUS

Sounding Meditations

Pianist Bertrand Chamayou makes an impressive contribution to the 30th anniversary of the death of French composer Olivier Messiaen.

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Munich Nuremberg Stuttgart



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