

CAROUSEL

QUINTET & Sofia Avramidou

Carousel in Wonderland



Inspired by *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, this programme opens a musical "hare hole": a world of escape, imagination, and gentle disorientation, where familiar and new sounds constantly shift and reinvent themselves.

At its centre is the work of Greek composer Sofia Avramidou, one of Europe's leading young composers, based in Paris. Her intimate songs for voice and clarinet form the heart of the programme, where poetic text and a personal musical language come together. Around them unfolds a wider landscape of folk-inspired music and some of her key existing works for strings. Like a revolving carousel, the ensemble moves through ever-changing perspectives—between folk music, contemporary sound, and dreamlike transformation.

Carousel in Wonderland

Folk Songs, Transformations and Sonic Labyrinths

Annelien Van Wauwe, clarinet

Sofia Avramidou, voice

Alexandra Soumm, violin

Samuel Nemtanu, violin

Mathis Rochat, viola

Louis Rodde, cello

60 min.

Sofia **Avramidou** (b. 1988):

[*Binôme*](#) - 9 folk songs for voice and B-flat clarinet (2019) - selection of 3 songs / Part 1 > 15'

[*Keep digging the hare hole*](#) - for cello and electronics > 7'

[*What can that be but my apple-tree*](#) - for string quartet > 11'

[*Binôme*](#) - 9 folk songs for voice and B-flat clarinet (2019) - selection of 3 songs / Part 2 > 15'

*New Quintet** - arrangements of traditional songs for clarinet & string quartet (2027) > 8'

*World Premiere May 2027 Belgium

Biographies

Sofia Avramidou



Sofia Avramidou is a Greek composer and singer based in Paris. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Composition from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2009–2014), and a specialized Master's degree from the National Academy of Santa Cecilia in Rome (2014–2016), where she graduated with the highest distinction in the class of Professor Ivan Fedele. She was also awarded an excellence scholarship from the Alexandros S. Onassis Foundation. In 2020, she completed the "Cursus de composition et d'informatique musicale" at IRCAM in Paris.

She has received numerous awards, including the Goffredo Petrassi Prize at the Quirinal Palace in Rome (2016), First Prize at the IX "Francisco Escudero" International Accordion Composition Competition in Spain (2016), and First Prize at the 6th "Dimitris Dragatakis" Composition Competition (2014), organized by the Greek Composers' Union.

She has participated in numerous composition seminars and masterclasses with composers such as Beat Furrer, Philippe Manoury, Georges Aperghis, Francesco Filidei, Yan Maresz, Jean-Luc Hervé, Franck Bedrossian, and Dmitri Kourliandski.

She has received commissions from leading orchestras, ensembles, and cultural institutions, including the Orchestre National de France, the Orchestre National Bordeaux Aquitaine, the Orchestre National de Jazz, the Orquesta Filarmónica de Buenos Aires, the Ensemble Intercontemporain, the Philharmonie de Paris, IRCAM, the Venice Biennale,

Musikfabrik, Ictus Ensemble, Lemanic Modern Ensemble, Ensemble 2e2m, Radio France, Festival Présences, Festival Ensemble(s), Festival de Prades, Festival Nouveaux Horizons, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, GRAME, and the Auditorium de Lyon.

Her works have been performed in major venues, including the Philharmonie de Paris, Musikverein (Vienna), Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), BOZAR (Brussels), Barbican Centre (London), Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg), Kölner Philharmonie, Venice Biennale, L'Auditori (Barcelona), Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Auditorium de Lyon, Auditorium Parco della Musica (Rome), Teatro La Fenice (Venice), Boston University, and the Megaron (Athens).

In parallel with composition, she studies Byzantine music, hymnology, the oud and ney, and traditional Greek singing.

As a singer, she has collaborated with various orchestras and ensembles, including the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, Thessaloniki Municipal Orchestra, and the Raanana Symphony Orchestra.

In 2018, she arranged traditional songs for voice and clarinet and recorded the album *Binôme* in Greece. In 2023, invited by Pierre Bleuse to the Prades Festival, she created *Dimorphos*, a duo with double bassist Nicolas Crosse, in which electronic and acoustic improvisation intersect with traditional Greek singing.

She is currently Composer-in-Residence at the Opéra National de Bordeaux for the 2025–26 and 2026–27 seasons.

Her works are published by Éditions Lacroch'.

CAROUSEL Chamber Music Ensemble

The chamber music ensemble CAROUSEL, based in Mechelen (BE), brings together twelve young, outstanding musicians around the award-winning Belgian clarinetist Annelien Van Wauwe. The musicians come from France, Belgium, Germany, the Czech Republic and Romania and are all active chamber musicians and soloists. CAROUSEL members are prize winners of renowned competitions such as the Internationaler Musikwettbewerb der ARD in Munich, the Borletti Buitoni Trust Award, the International Tchaikovsky Competition, the USA International Harp Competition, the Opus Klassik, the Klara Award, the Aeolus Wettbewerb Düsseldorf, the Bottesini Competition and the Deutscher Musikwettbewerb.

Founded in 2019 by Annelien Van Wauwe, the CAROUSEL Chamber Music Ensemble played its debut concert at Klara in the Singel 2020. Since then, the ensemble has built an impressive international reputation and has been a guest at prestigious venues and festivals such as the Beethovenfest Bonn, the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, the Wigmore Hall London, de Vereeniging Nijmegen, Concertzaal Tilburg, Concertgebouw Brugge, the Bijloke Ghent, the Singel Antwerp, Festival van Vlaanderen, Festival 20/21, Lunalia, Musica Divina, cc Hasselt, the Hindsgavl Chamber Music Festival and the Brucknerhaus Linz.

The ensemble regularly commits itself to charities and organises concerts and master classes to benefit organisations such as Kom op Tegen Kanker. During the Covid-19 pandemic, CAROUSEL took matters into its own hands and organised a successful - coronaproof - concert series in Leuven.

Supporting and training young talent remains an essential part of CAROUSEL's mission. Every year, the ensemble organises the International CAROUSEL Masterclasses in Kortrijk, Belgium, where young musicians take individual masterclasses, chamber music and workshops around yoga and meditation.

CAROUSEL's approach is modern and creative, with a repertoire that includes both traditional and contemporary. The ensemble has the privilege of premiering new music and commissioned compositions for this purpose. It performed works by Wim Henderickx,

Jelle Tassyns and Jeroen D'hoë, among others. In the 2021-22 season, CAROUSEL created three compositions under the title *They have waited long enough* by composers Annelies Van Parys, Aftab Darvishi and Calliope Tsoupaki.

CAROUSEL's programmes are flexible, range from quartet to octet and offer a wide repertoire. The ensemble aims to bring its audiences closer to its core philosophy: togetherness and transcending cultural boundaries through the universal language of music. This is expressed, among other things, in the 'Very Important Passenger' events, where CAROUSEL strives to establish a close and personal connection with its audience.

With CAROUSEL, you step into a lively, inspiring and passionate musical journey!



Bookings

For inquiries and clarification, please reach out to

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