

Vocal ensemble LA FOLIA

It sounds like a joke, a 'folie', but no, it is the name of a mega-hit created by Jean-Baptiste Lully. In 1672 he published *Les folies d'Espagne*. The melody was picked up by a long list of composers who each wrote variations: Corelli, Vivaldi, Bach but also Liszt and Rachmaninov.

La Folia is also since 2016 the name of a vocal ensemble that had earlier already earned a reputation under the name La Furia. But because the repertory of La Furia in principle restricted is to music from the renaissance and baroque period can La Folia without hesitation go beyond these lines. The singers each had a solid musical education and sing in different choirs on a project basis, for example in Ex Tempore, Currende, Cathedral Choir Brussels, Frascati vocals and additional regional choirs.

Both La Furia and La Folia operate without a steady conductor. They thus show their flexibility and openness to the interpretation of competent directors. It also gives them the possibility to look themselves for directors for the projects they initiate. La Furia thus sang earlier on with Richard Egarr, Patrick Peire, Florian Heyerick, Bart van Reyn, Willem Ceuleers, Nico van der Meel, Aart Bergwerff, Erik Van Nevel, Patrick Beuckels, Dirk De Nef, Luc Laurent, Kris Stroobants, Marnix De Cat, Adrián Rodríguez Van der Spoel and Stephan MacLeod.

In 2007, the label Quintone published a recording of Bach's Johannes Passion (version 1725) where La Furia sang with the Concerto d'Amsterdam directed by Nico van der Meel. The first project of La Folia were the sacred concerts by Duke Ellington in collaboration with the VRT-Big Band, Tutu Pouane and Fred Brouwers, directed by Dré jr. Peremans and performed in march 2017.