

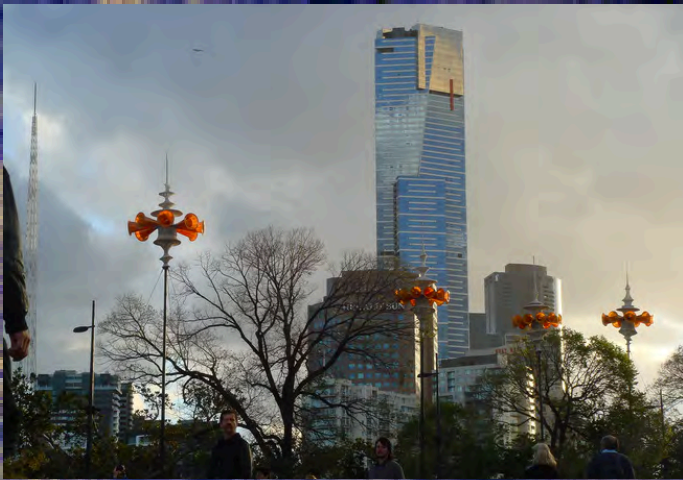


MÉCANIQUE
VIVANTE

The Sirens' Song

MECANIQUE VIVANTE

Founded in 1989 by Franz Clochard, Mécanique Vivante creates hybrid machines that associate artistic invention and technological innovation and puts them on the world stage. Amongst their flagship projects, the Musical Siren, developed from the air raid siren. Partenered since 2004 by the French Ministry of Culture, the Gard Departmental Council and the Region Occitanie, the project has culminated in the creation of a seven-piece, polyphonic Siren Orchestra.



With its unique orchestra, Mécanique Vivante creates unforgettable installations, itinerant parades and aquatic shows..

The shows

Recitals

The orchestra is hoisted to the top of masts, or suspended from handmade arches around the public. Day-time or night-time, several performances per day. Possibility of installing an alfresco auditorium (200 seats in Mécanique Vivante's reclining chairs).

Street Harmonics

The orchestra parades through town mounted on its locomotives. Daytime or night-time, a 60 to 90 minute parade (depending on the site). The parade can end in a live show with the company's associated artists and creative lighting, should the project call for it.

Nénuphar

Installation of the orchestra on 'Nénuphar' - small, navigable floating stages, designed for shallow waters.

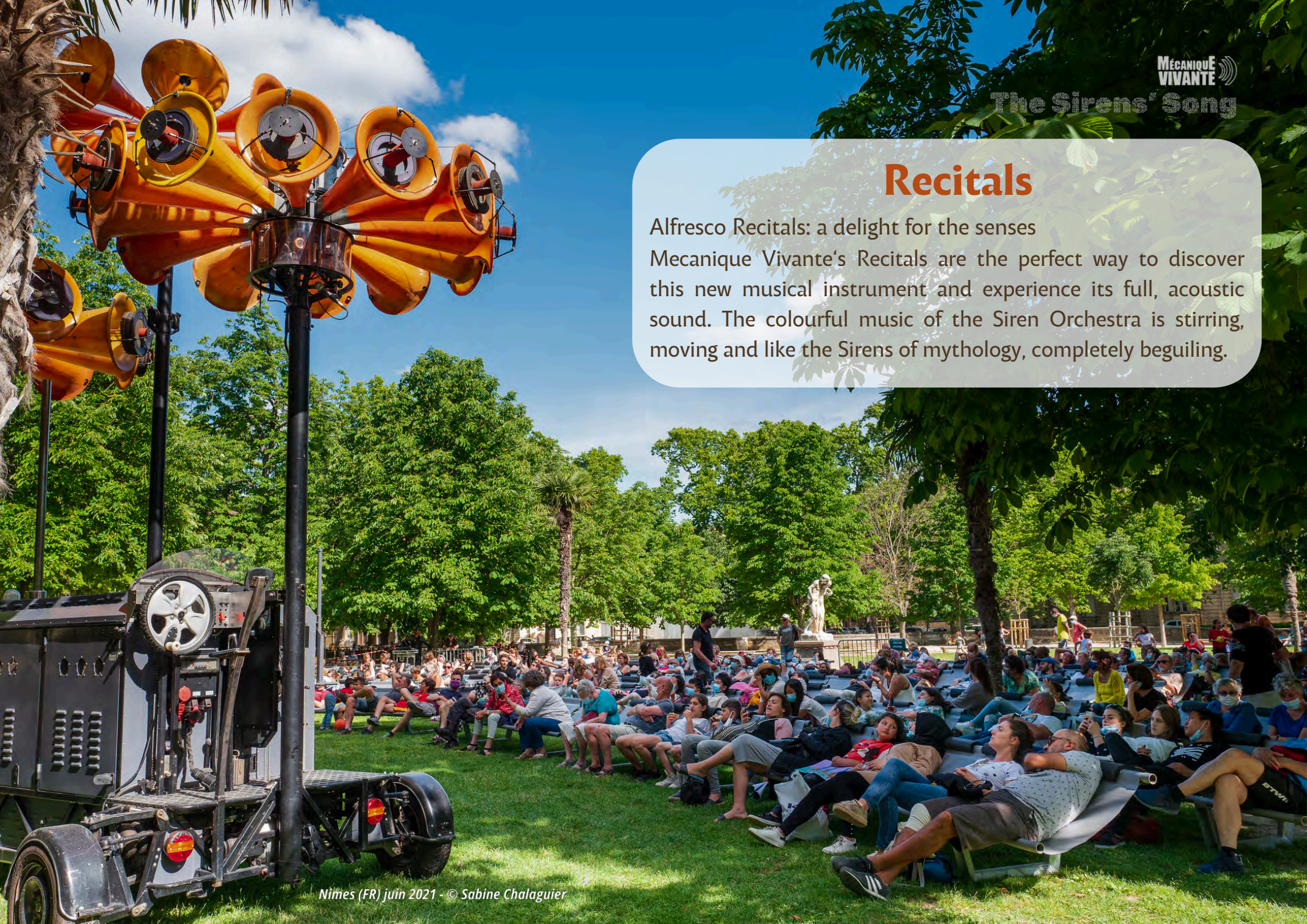
Day-time or night-time, floating recitals, waterborne parades or a full show with the company's associated artists and creative lighting if required.



Recitals

Alfresco Recitals: a delight for the senses

Mecanique Vivante's Recitals are the perfect way to discover this new musical instrument and experience its full, acoustic sound. The colourful music of the Siren Orchestra is stirring, moving and like the Sirens of mythology, completely beguiling.



Street Harmonics

At its simplest, Street Harmonics proposes a polyphonic parade with the Sirens & locomotives and a live performance of the 'Sirenium' along the way.

Depending on the scope of the project, the artists associated with the Sirens can perform with the parade, either along the route or combined on a single stage to create a stunning finale.

Nénuphar

Mécanique Vivante's Nénuphar stages and illuminates the river and its banks in a visual, musical odyssey.

Nénuphar can be a fixed, floating installation of the Siren Orchestra with a live performance from the Sirenist, an aquatic parade, or a full floating show with the company's associated artists.

For nocturnal shows, the company collaborates with Pierre Wendels for lighting and Alain Micquiaux and his waterborne poppy fields. The company can collaborate with local choristers drifting on small, Mécanique Vivante made islands, if appropriate and if the budget allows.

The show is modular, flexible, stationary or mobile, and can be daytime or night-time.



Associated Artists

The Bellringer's Arch

Statuesque and graceful, the bell-ringer sets the rhythm, awakening the audience and hailing the sirens into the public arena.

The Divas & their giant horns

Posed on the riverbank amongst the public, two singers lure the Sirens to come join them. There follows a mechanical ballet where the songstresses and their horns spin, creating Doppler effect & sending waves of song across the public.

The Musical Metronome

Like the pendulum of a metronome six metres in the air, a foghorn adorned with an umbrella sways from side to side, tempting a guitarist out into the open. The foghorn sways drunkenly until the guitarist plays; and then ends the sequence on a majestic, haunting note.

Orchestral Timpani

In a marked departure from their usual position hidden away at the back of the orchestra, a set of orchestral tympani takes centre stage. Surrounded by the Siren Orchestra the percussionist plays timpani, temple block ⁽¹⁾, crotales ⁽²⁾ and a set of gongs.

The Sirenist & his Sirénium ⁽³⁾

The Sirenist improvises and creates ambiance and is joined by the musicians to perform the final number.

Distribution

Percussion : Lucie Delmas

Sirénium : Franz Clochard

Guitar : Eric Lorher

Tubular Bells : Millie Dolan

Divas : Fenna Ograjensek, soprano
Lien Haegman, mezzo

Concept : Franz Clochard

Musical Composition : Patrice Colet
Benoit Louette

Creative lighting : Pierre Wendels

Sound engineer : Rémy Gonin

(1) An eastern Asian instrument with a limited range. Mécanique Vivante has developed a 2 octave chromatic Temple block.

(2) Ancient percussion of Greek origin, made in bronze at Mécanique Vivante. The sound is close to that of bells but the Crotales have a sustain all of their own.

(3) A digital instrument of mechanical fabrication which allows live improvisation and interpretation of one or more of the sirens.

Constantly looking to create the inimitable, Franz Clochard founded Mécanique Vivante in 1989 to synthesise his two great passions: music and mechanics. Over the years he has created a hybrid, artistic universe with humour and a certain knack of transmuting everyday objects to new, unfamiliar purposes.



Invention is the star of the show, so welcome to Franz Clochard's mechatronic world where chickens play the piano, chainsaws fly, the cement mixers are orchestral and the Sirens symphonic...

FRANZ CLOCHARD : MUSICIAN-INVENTOR

At a time when traditional circus was in the doldrums, Archaos, the French punk circus, arrived like a breath of foul air and transformed circus for ever. Franz Clochard co-founded Archaos in 1985. Not content to sit back on his famous ascending chainsaw and motorbike, Franz invited jazz and sportsmen into this sensational, metal, ultraviolet universe. *"The Incredible Chainsaw Circus"*, as the British press called it, played to great acclaim in London and Paris. Alternative circus was born.

MECANIQUE VIVANTE

To go where the hand of man has never set foot is Mécanique Vivante's motto.

For over thirty years, the company has been on an uncompromising quest for innovation. The road has been long and sinuous, rich with encounters and experience - and the desire to never take a well trodden path is still paramount.

MÉCANIQUE VIVANTE

The Sirens' Song

Direction : Franz Clochard
Tel. +33 6 20 32 08 53 • franzclochard@mecanique-vivante.com

Production : Millie Dolan
Tel. +33 6 84 05 23 44 • milliedolan@mecanique-vivante.com

mecanique-vivante.com

Première Nénuphar - Alès - July 2024 - © Marjorie Truchet

Mécanique Vivante is partnered by the French Ministry of Culture for its research and development of a new instrument, the musical Siren.
It is also supported by the Occitanie Regional Council, the Department of the Gard and Alès Agglomération.

conception graphique © Tiz-V

Compagnie Mécanique Vivante
Tel + 33 (4) 66 55 82 03 Champclauson, 30110 La Grand Combe
SIRET : 488 694 043 00016 - TVA: FR85 488 694 043 - APE : 90 01Z - License PLATESV-R-2021-005569

