

# THE SIRENS' SONG – PROJECT NÉNUPHAR



Thirty years ago, Mécanique Vivante set out on a rich adventure – the challenge of creating harmonious music with an air raid siren. The path has been long; but the vision of one man has culminated in the creation of a unique orchestra of seven singing Sirens.

The only one of its kind, the Siren Orchestra travels the world, performing in environments that are as varied as they are surprising, bringing its novel soundscape and harmonic texture to new audiences.



*The Sirens' Song & Nénuphar* is a musical odyssey through Mécane Vivante's world of invention: the unique siren orchestra, virtuoso soloists and ground-breaking performances.



The *Nénuphar* show can be a water-borne parade or a large or medium format in-situ installation.



As the curious sound of the Sirens floats through the air, the magical flotilla comes into view, reflected in the water, and the artists take the stage.



....**The bellringer.** Statuesque and graceful under an arch of suspended tubes, she rings in the start of the show....

....**The sirénist & his sirénium.** He leads the sirens, creating ambient sound and performing solos....

....**The guitarist as figurehead.** He sets the tempo in a meeting of the electric and the acoustic....

...**The Divas & their giant horns.** Singing through their giant horns, 2 divas defy the sirens in an operatic romp...

...**Virtuoso Timpani.** From classical to experimental, the percussionist opens the ball riding high on her Nénuphar...



## Staging

For thirty years Mécanique Vivante has been making tools and staging devices which allow the company to set up just about anywhere with perfect autonomy: in urban, rural and industrial landscapes, in sites of outstanding architecture and now, with Project Nénuphar, in bodies of shallow water.

## Implementation

Be it completely water-borne or encompassing the embankments and wharfs, the installation will depend on the configuration of the site and the means available.

So after a site visit, the company will draw up the outline of the show – its staging, lighting and artistic content – and the technical requirements.

The company balances artistic integrity, feasibility and budget constraints for each new project

**Be it modest or ambitious, Project Nénuphar can adapt to each site and every event.**



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## The Flotilla

The flotilla consists of 6 Nénuphars, a rowing boat and 6 semi-immersed floating platforms. It is separable, each element having an artistic or technical purpose.

A Nénuphar is a small floating autonomous navigable stage, 3m60 in diameter, which can carry artists and instruments both large and small.

The floating platforms, isolated or linked together by articulated arms, can be fixed or mobile, and can each carry 6 artists or the equivalent in equipment.

The rowing boat is the stage for the guitarist.



## Where can the show be performed?

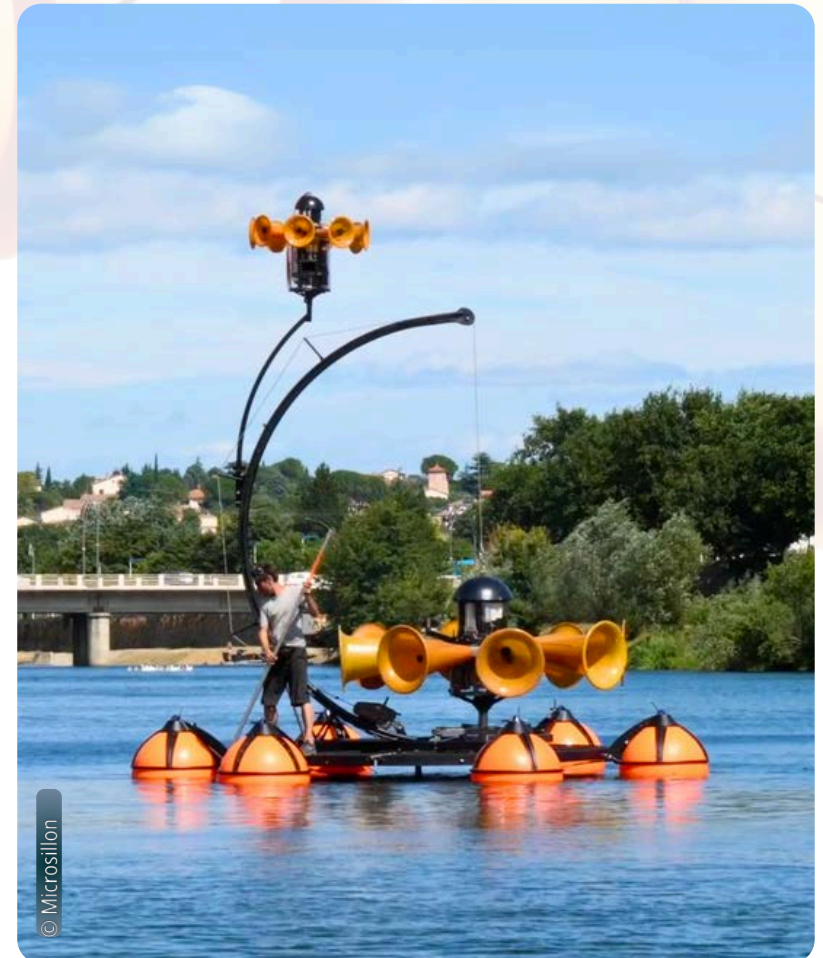
Shallow waters in urban or natural environments

Ponds and lakes in parks and gardens – castle moats

Natural lakes – rivers – canals

Nénuphar require a minimum depth of 70cm.

They are not adapted to fast-flowing or sea water





*The Sirens' Song & Nénuphar* lends itself to artistic collaboration. Thanks to Mécanique Vivante's in-house composer, the company can work with musicians from all walks of life, be they professional or amateur.

Depending on the scale and ambition of the project, the existing repertoire (for choirs, opera singers, solo musicians and ensembles) can be adapted, or new pieces written to create a uniquely local event.

### Synergy - community involvement



Mécanique Vivante works with local clubs and associations, dive clubs, in particular.

The participants are supervised by the company's divers ahead of time and trained to manoeuvre and guide the Nénuphars for the show. Their presence is required for rehearsals and for the final show.







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, a brand new musical instrument, developed from the air raid siren.

Partnered since 2004 by the French Ministry of Culture, the Gard Departmental Council and the Region Occitanie, the project has resulted in a seven-piece polyphonic Siren Orchestra.

With its unique orchestra, Mécanique Vivante creates unforgettable installations, itinerant parades and floating shows in every corner of the world.



## PARTNERS

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.

Additional funding for Project Nénuphar comes from:  
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The project is co-produced by Alès Agglomération (Metropolitan District) - Le Cratère, National Théâtre, Alès - Association Mécanique Vivante



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