

/// CURRENTLY & UPCOMING 06.03.2023 ///

### Umva! (Listen!)



photo A.N. Lierman

### Dear friends and dear colleagues,

It has been a while since I last sent a newsletter, but with all the amazing things happening it was about time! I'll try and keep you updated a few times a year. If you don't want any further mailings, simply unsubscribe at the bottom of this email. No hard feelings!

Some of you might know about my grandfather [Kanyoni Ladislas](#), one of the oldest people that ever lived on this planet. **He just turned 113 (!)** and is said to be **one of the last traditional medicines** in northern Rwanda. People sometimes travel up to 100 km, often barefoot, to get cured by him. In his younger years he would go for epic walks into the subalpine forests of the **Virunga mountains**: to collect herbs and minerals for his medical practice and to hunt all sorts of wildlife.

Ever since I met my grandfather he has continued to inspire me, leading to various artistic sonic creations, including [Umva!](#) my newest **performative installation** for 6 moving musicians. And I am over the moon that it's about to premiere in my hometown, at [Concertgebouw Brugge](#) (BE) **this Wednesday March 8th.**



photo Anne van Zantwijk



As Jasper Croonen quotes me in [De Standaard Magazine March 4th 2023](#):

(...) a brand new synthesis work in which all Lierman's facets come together. It starts with the title: 'umva' means 'listen' in Kinyarwanda. It is the provisional end of the search for Lierman's own voice, an expression of her multi-layered artistic identity. A creation between sound and performance art, averse to musical

traditions. Lierman works with binaural audio that gives you a 360° experience and uses elements from her beloved radio art. Viola player [Maya Felixbrodt](#), duduk player [Raphaëla Danksagmüller](#), Burkinabé multi-instrumentalist [Kaito Winse](#), foley-percussionist [Gaetan La Mela](#) and dancer [Soa Ratisfandrihana](#) move around on stage.

(..) "It's kind of like going back to being myself as a six-year-old. I may have been born in Rwanda, but I have lived all my life with my adoptive parents in Bruges. The Rwanda I knew was that from the [AfricaMuseum](#) back then: the stuffed elephant, the gigantic canoe... I want to tap into that childlike wonder again, but this time use it to give Africa a



*fair chance. That exactly seems to me the power of audio. It might perhaps liberate us from the stigmatizing image we have of the continent.”*

Lately I have discovered another impressive part of my grandfather's life: him, in his younger years, as a **master of cows**, leading large herds all around my ancestral region. How that gave him - together with his already exceptional work as a doctor and as a hunter - an even more unique position in Rwanda's society. My grandfather's epic biography helped me better understand **the beauty of the inyambo cow** and **the refined complexity of Rwanda's underexposed ancient esoteric cow cultus**.



*photo KMMA*

*Umva!* tries to give the audience a glimpse of the world of my grandfather, starting about 100 years ago. We move at his current pace, trying to understand **what it means to be living for a hundred and thirteen years on this planet**. And I am very proud to bring this layered story on stage in a multi sensorial and immersive way, together with five amazingly talented performers.

*As Huib Ramaer quotes me in New Music Now, March 3rd 2023*

*(...) She has cast her performers and musicians as if it were a film production. 'I deliberately chose people who would like to be challenged in a process of research into questions such as: where is the borderline between African and European? Between movement and sound? Between performance and installation?'*



photo Anne van Zantwijk

If you want to know more about the making of Umva!

- [DS Magazine](#), March 2023
- Radio 1 (VRT) [Culture Club](#), Feb 2022 (Dutch spoken)

Meanwhile I look forward to seeing you on one of the following confirmed concerts

- 08.03.2023 Concertgebouw Brugge (BE) - world premiere (nearly sold out, be quick)
- 02.06.2023 Brakke Grond, Amsterdam
- 24.10.2023 de Doelen, Rotterdam
- 07.11.2023 November Music Festival, Den Bosch
- 10.11.2023 Korzo Theater, Den Haag

⇒ Tickets and updates of new international tour dates via [Silbersee](#) or [HERMESensemble](#)

**Concept, Direction, Composition** Aurélie Nyirabikali Lierman | **Final Director** Keren Levi | **Musical Dramaturgy** Yannis Kyriakides | **Text** Aurélie Nyirabikali Lierman partly inspired by *The Glorious Cow* by Scholastique Mukasonga (ed. Gallimard) | **Performers** Aurélie Nyirabikali Lierman, Gaetan La Mela, Kaito Winse, Maya Felixbrodt, Raphaela Danksagmüller, Soa Ratsifandrihana, | **Scenography** Jeroen Smith | **Light design** Jeroen Smith and Niels Kingma | **Production and audio engineering** Stefan Bos | **Creative producer** Dominique Slegers, Jimmy-Pierre de Graaf | **Choreography** Aurélie Nyirabikali Lierman, Kaito Winse, Maya Felixbrodt, Soa Ratsifandrihana | **co-producers** Concertgebouw Brugge, HERMESensemble, Het Laatste Bedrijf, Silbersee | **With thanks to** Boris Bischoff, Denis Wouters, Gallop Taxshelter, Municipality of Rotterdam, Gil Gomes Leal, Inne Goris, Katia Truijten, Vlaams Cultuurhuis de Brakke Grond, Wim Becker. This production was made possible with the support of the Tax Shelter of the Belgian Federal Government.

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(Connor Whyte) | Robert Taylor, Mia Imani Harrison, Enata Vandenbussche, Carine Plancke, Christian Nyampeta, Sara Moonen, Luc Mishalle, Peter Van Rompaey, Greet Brauwers, Marie-France Collard, Seb Bassleer