

## Biography



Benjamin Macke was born in 1983 in northern France. He began his musical career with classical percussion and jazz drums before discovering the diatonic accordion at the age of 18, which he taught himself to play through self-study and meeting other musicians. Since 2005, he has made the accordion his profession, using it in a wide variety of projects:

Dance music with **Shillelagh** since 2002, a trio known for "dance music from Flanders and beyond" with Gabriel Lenoir (violin) and Aurélien Tanghe (guitar).

Baroque music with the **Duo Macke-Bornauw** since 2008, alongside Birgit Bornauw (bagpipes and baroque musette). Together, they have created two concert programs: *It's Baroque to My Ears* and *Curly Music*, and also propose a bal folk, *Le Bal Imaginaire* with dancer Anna Romani. Additionally, there's **Midsummer Dream**, featuring French repertoire with Marieke Van Ransbeeck (baroque musette) and the Ensemble Les Abbagliati.

Cine-concerts with **Le Ciné-concert de Poche** since 2010, performing solo with his 16mm spools, including American slapstick films, Eastern European animations, westerns, and children's tales. Other notable projects include **Et Pendant ce Temps-là Chez les Dugaumier**, a cine-concert with pianist and composer Eloi Baudimont, **La Maîtresse des Ombres** since 2016, a blend of cine-concert and storytelling with Sandrine Gniady based on Lotte Reiniger's films, and **Easy Street** since 2018, a cine-concert created for wind orchestras featuring the Charlie Chaplin classic.

Storytelling with **Les Contes à 1000 Gueules** since 2007, exploring the world of coal mining with Pascal Duclermortier (storytelling) and Gabriel Lenoir (violin).

Teaching is also a significant aspect of Benjamin Macke's work. He has taught accordion and ensemble playing at Cric-Crac Compagnie, the Music Academy of Gooik and Ghent, before establishing his own course at the Conservatoire of Tournai. He also conducts numerous workshops across Europe on accordion, ensemble playing, and music for film.

Benjamin Macke is also known for his work with the "foobass", a curious accordion played with the feet that produces very low sounds. He collaborates closely with its maker, Jean-Marie Paque, to revive this once-obsolete instrument.

Curious and versatile, Benjamin Macke has performed with eclectic artists such as *Hush*, *Henry's Dream Machine*, an opera by **Compagnie Zonzo** based on the repertoire of Henry Purcell with Jan Van Outryve (lute) and Lieselot De Wilde or Julie Calbete (vocals). Other collaborations include **Amazing Airbags**, a children's bagpipe orchestra directed by Birgit Bornauw; **Septembre**, a theater with Géraldine Bogaert and Claudia Bruno; **Une Aventure de Tom Sawyer**, a Radio-France radio drama featuring David Chevallier (guitar); the **Benjamin Macke 4tet** with Christophe "Pher" Motury (flugelhorn), Jean-Christophe Cheneval (vibraphone), and Aurélien Tanghe (double bass); the cine-concert **Odna** with Anne Frêches (vocals) and Raphaël De Cock (Siberian music); directing the **Orchestre Insolite** with disabled musicians; co-directing the **Boarder Orchestra** with 20 French and Belgian musicians; and the **Duo Bastringue**, an unusual blend of folk and musette dance with Philippe Destanque (guitar) and Rachel Bazoge (vocals).



## Discography:

- \*Shillelagh\*: Compilation de Danses de Flandre (Compagnie Macke-Bornauw – 2023)
- \*Duo Macke-Bornauw\*: Curly Music (Compagnie Macke-Bornauw – 2020)
- \*Amazing Airbags\*: Amazing Airbags (Compagnie Macke-Bornauw – 2020)
- \*Shillelagh\*: Hemels Douwe (Compagnie Macke-Bornauw – 2017)
- \*Duo Macke-Bornauw\*: It's Baroque to My Ears (Bémol Productions – 2016)
- \*Shillelagh\*: Le Vagabond (Bémol Productions – 2013)
- \*Benjamin Macke\*: Un Instrument, un Artiste: l'Accordéon Diatonique (Bémol Productions - 2012)
- \*Le Duo Bastringue & Rachel Bazoge\*: l'Arbre à Danses (Bémol Productions – 2010)
- \*Shillelagh\*: Germaine (Bémol Productions – 2009)
- \*Le Duo Bastringue\*: Bruit qui Danse (Bémol Productions – 2007)
- \*Shillelagh\*: Danses sur l'Eau (Bémol Productions – 2006)
- \*Shillelagh\*: Musique à Danser (Self-produced – 2004)