

# Harmonie Royale Union de Lorette



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Updated the 2012/01/03

## Historical background of the band

Founded in 1851, the band was named *Union de Lorette* as a tribute to the chapel *Notre Dame de Lorette* located at the *faubourg de Bruxelles*.

At its origin, the *Union de Lorette* was a band. It became Royal at its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a Harmony in 1980. The Harmony is composed of about fifty non-professional musicians, young and old, living for most of them in the region of Ath and its surroundings. In 2001, the *Union de Lorette* celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which makes it the senior musical society of the city of Ath to date.

In order to perpetuate the team spirit of our group since its foundation, we meet every Friday for rehearsal. The harmony participates in processions and street exhibitions, mainly in Belgium but also in France and Luxemburg.

During the celebration of the *Ducasse d'Ath*, the *Royal Union de Lorette* is accompanying *Mademoiselle Victoire* since 1906. If, according to René Meurant, the *Union de Lorette* participated for the first time in the procession of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in August 1876, it seems that it already participated in this procession since its beginning, as shows the letter of the secretary Henri Daumerie to the Lord Mayor of the time dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 1856. The Harmony is also well-known for its concerts, among which the traditional closing concert of the *Ducasse d'Ath* on the 8<sup>th</sup> September. Since 1952, the Harmony is rated first category in the provincial contest of the province of Hainaut.

Every four years, our society defends its title in front of a jury composed of top level professionals among which directors and teachers from the academy.

The music band is conducted by a professional conductor and an assistant conductor graduated from Belgian Royal academies. Michel Verheylewegen, trumpet's bachelor at the Conservatoire Royal in Mons and teacher at the music academy in Ath is music director. Pascal Créteur, trumpet's bachelor at the Conservatoire Royal in Brussels and musician at the Royal Harmony of *Guides* acts as deputy music director.

The *Union de Lorette* is managed by a committee composed of 7 members. The president is Philippe Bachez and the deputy president is Sophie Blave.

### Our activities

We participate in fairs in neighboring towns and villages and, above all, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in August, we play for Miss *Victoire*, giant of the city of Ath. Let us also remind that since 2005 the *Ducasse d'Ath* has been recognized as "Masterpiece of the intangible heritage of humanity". And finally, we participate in 4 to 5 concerts a year and we are rated as first category harmony.

### Some useful links and information

Secretary: [Sophie.blave@harmonieuniondelorette.be](mailto:Sophie.blave@harmonieuniondelorette.be)

web site: [www.harmonieuniondelorette.be](http://www.harmonieuniondelorette.be)

Multimedia publication:

School's point of contact: Philippe Bachez at [philippe.bachez@harmonieuniondelorette.be](mailto:philippe.bachez@harmonieuniondelorette.be)

CD



You can find it to :

Maison des Géants: Rue de Pintamont, 18 - 7800 Ath

Salting Shop: Avenue Léon Jouret, 81 - 7800 Ath

### Videos

*Videos of the beginning of 2011:*

[http://www.harmonieuniondelorette.be/index\\_fichiers/video2011.htm](http://www.harmonieuniondelorette.be/index_fichiers/video2011.htm)

*Following videos of 2011:*

[http://www.harmonieuniondelorette.be/index\\_fichiers/video2011suite.htm](http://www.harmonieuniondelorette.be/index_fichiers/video2011suite.htm)

### Picatures

<http://picasaweb.google.com/harmoniedelorette>

## Committee members

<b>President</b>	<b><i>Philippe Bachez</i></b>
<b>Vice-president</b>	<b><i>Sophie Blave</i></b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b><i>Bertrand Van den Bogaerden</i></b>
<b>Deputy Treasurer</b>	<b><i>Daniel Creteur</i></b>
<b>Librarian</b>	<b><i>Patrick Bolle</i></b>
<b>Honorary President</b>	<b><i>Raymond Thomas</i></b>
<b>Honorary President</b>	<b><i>André Verplaetse</i></b>
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b><i>Marc Devleeschauwer</i></b>
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b><i>Olivier Patout</i></b>
<b>Commissioner</b>	<b><i>Yohann Dutilleul</i></b>
<b>Music Director</b>	<b><i>Michel Verheylewegen</i></b>
<b>Deputy Music Director</b>	<b><i>Pascal Creteur</i></b>



## **SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS**

- The ducasse of Lorette on June 23 and 24 with the giant Goupil
- The ducasse giants on the fourth Sunday of August in Ath
- Musical Gala in Octobre. Other information you succeed