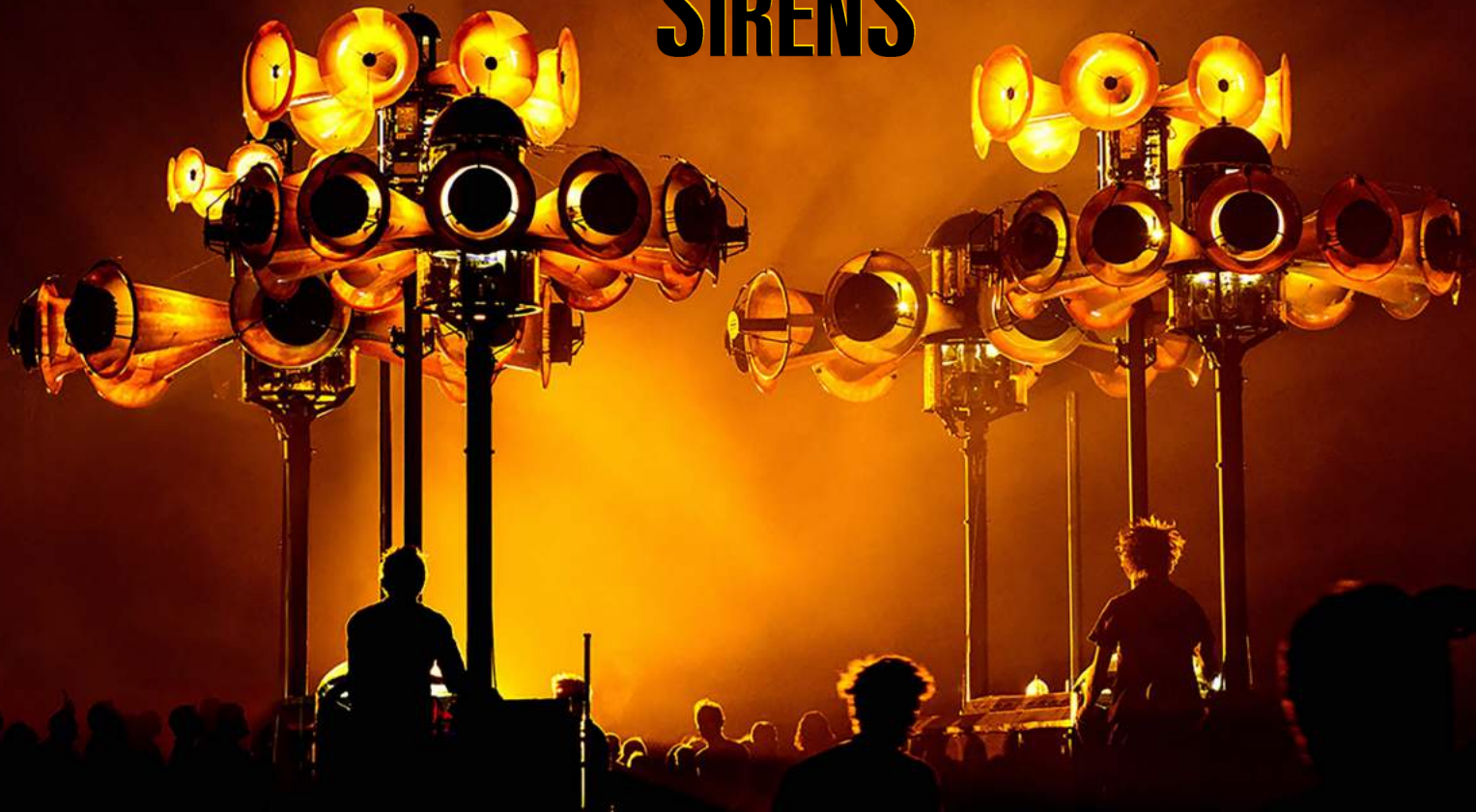


SONG OF THE SIRENS



Street Harmonics

**MÉCANIQUE
VIVANTE** 
Invention & Performance

With the invention of the musical Siren and the advent of a seven-piece Siren Orchestra performing original, polyphonic compositions, Franz Clochard and Mécanique Vivante open the doors to a fascinating world of unprecedented music and harmonic texture...

Artistic director : Franz Clochard
Composer: Benoit Louette
Lighting designer: Pierre Wendels

Street Harmonics

The Siren Orchestra cavalcading through town

The Siren Orchestra, dressed up to the nines in its exuberant colours, cavalcades through the town on two prancing vehicles, drawing the audience to it like a modern-day Pied Piper.

This polyphonic parade rolls through the streets spreading joy, delight and laughter as it goes. The locomotives, designed by Mécanique Vivante, dance to the rhythm like gangsta lowriders, thanks to a system of compressed air*.

Making the town buzz

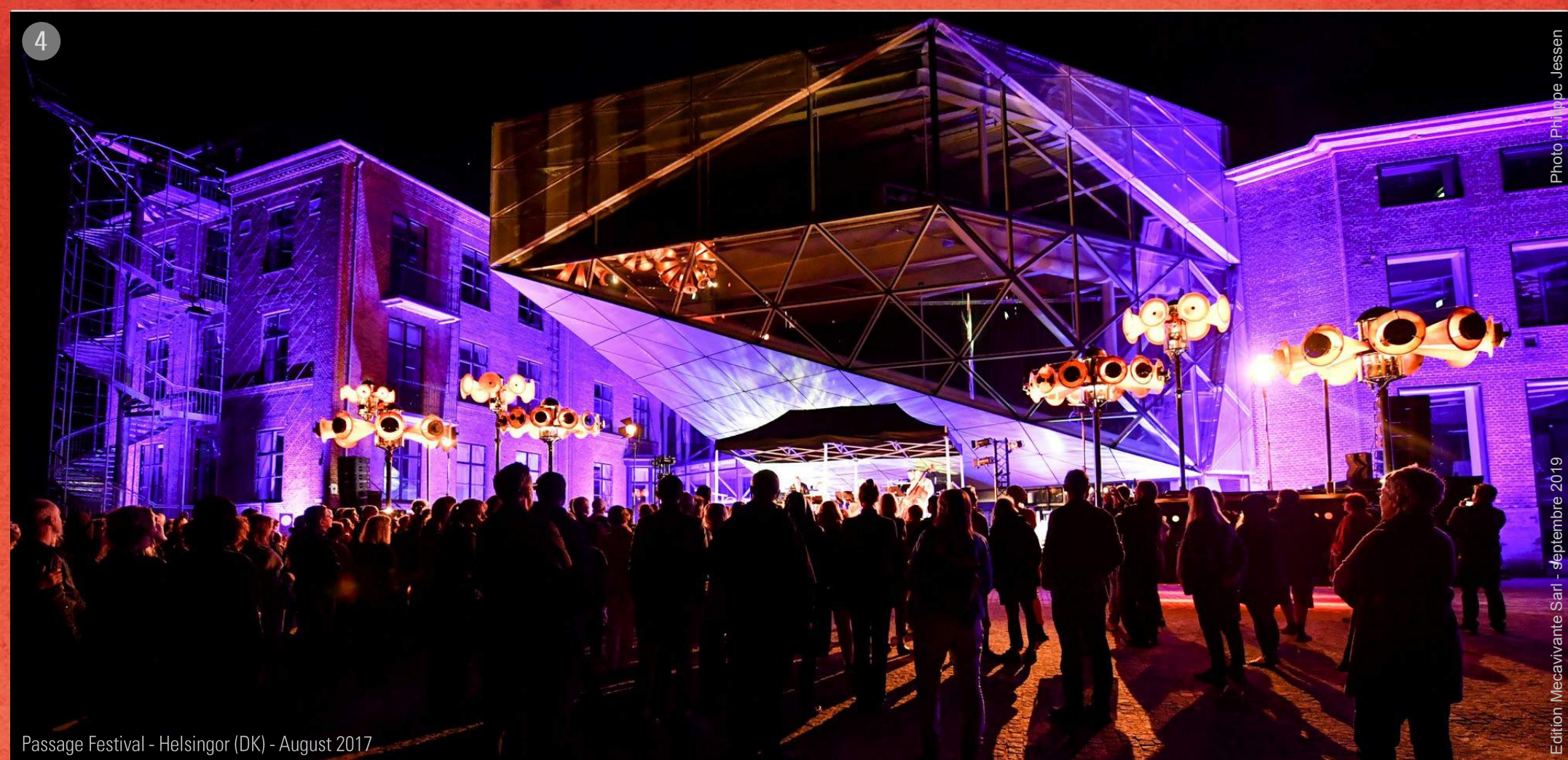
On the double down the main road, gently ambling through its pedestrian heart, from the suburbs to the city centre, the elusive journey of the Sirens invites the spectator to see the town in a new light.

Creating made-to-measure shows in close collaboration with the organiser is Mécanique Vivante's stock-in-trade - adapting the repertoire and scenography to the visual and acoustic qualities of the site, the orchestra, the musicians & invited artists, thus creating a harmonic soundscape unique to each location.

* dynamic suspension linked to the musical score

Photo Jérémie Bernard

Edition Mecavivante Sarl - septembre 2019



Passage Festival - Helsingør (DK) - August 2017

A tailor-made show: Stunning architecture, a magnificent square; concrete jungle, gloomy streets; the docks, rivers and canals... every town is sculpted by its history and its architecture and this creates the backdrop to the humdrum of daily life.

At *Mécanique Vivante*, we like shaking up the perceived view, staging tailor-made shows in contexts as surprising as they are varied - from disused mines to hillsides; on land, on sea and air. Buildings become décor, town squares become auditoria, streets and canals become the stage and the itinerant Siren orchestra creates the link.

At its simplest, *Mécanique Vivante* proposes a parade with the *Sirens & Locomotives*, a live performance of the 'Sirenium' and an encounter with the *Flying Chainsaw & Foghorn* (page 5) along the way.

Depending on the scope of the project, this basic formula can be enriched with more artistic encounters, either along the route or combined on a single stage to create a stunning Finale with *Giant-belled Trombones*, *Orchestral Tympani* and *Icarus Guitar* (page 6).

The Flight to the Foghorn

Back after thirty years, the grand return of the **Flying Chainsaw** which wowed audiences around the world in the famous circus *Archaos* – progenitor of modern alternative circus. Like a real-life Spiderman, Franz Clochard flies 15 metres into the air on his chainsaw, triggering the **Foghorn** of the ocean liner 'France'.

A staggering performance which will have the whole town talking.

This feat illustrates the creative process at Mécannique Vivante: an explosive cocktail of spectacular invention and potent, universal symbolism which thrills & delights the spectator.



A mechanical, stringed instrument, the **Sirénium** allows the Sirens to be played live.

Sharing a unique moment with the public



The Giant-belled Trombones

Stationed like two giant statues on pedestals in the heart of the square, two trombonists play into giant horns. They call and answer, before pirouetting together madly, like birds in a courtship dance.

The Icarus Guitar is one of Mécanique Vivante's finest spectacular devices to date. High above the crowd, a guitarist appears nowhere and advances over the audience who is swept away by this extraordinary apparition. And as the solo crescendos, the guitarist plunges head first into the void and disappears into the night! He reappears 12 metres above the ground, hanging by one foot, riffing away on his guitar as he descends slowly to the crowd.



For thirty years, **Mécanique Vivante** has been applying its experience, stagecraft, and its wonderful world of invention to creating exceptional events for all audiences.



Orchestral Tympani

In a marked change from their usual position, hidden away at the back of the orchestra, a set of **Orchestral Tympani** take centre stage. Accompanied by the Siren Orchestra on its locomotives either side, the percussionist performs a tour de force.

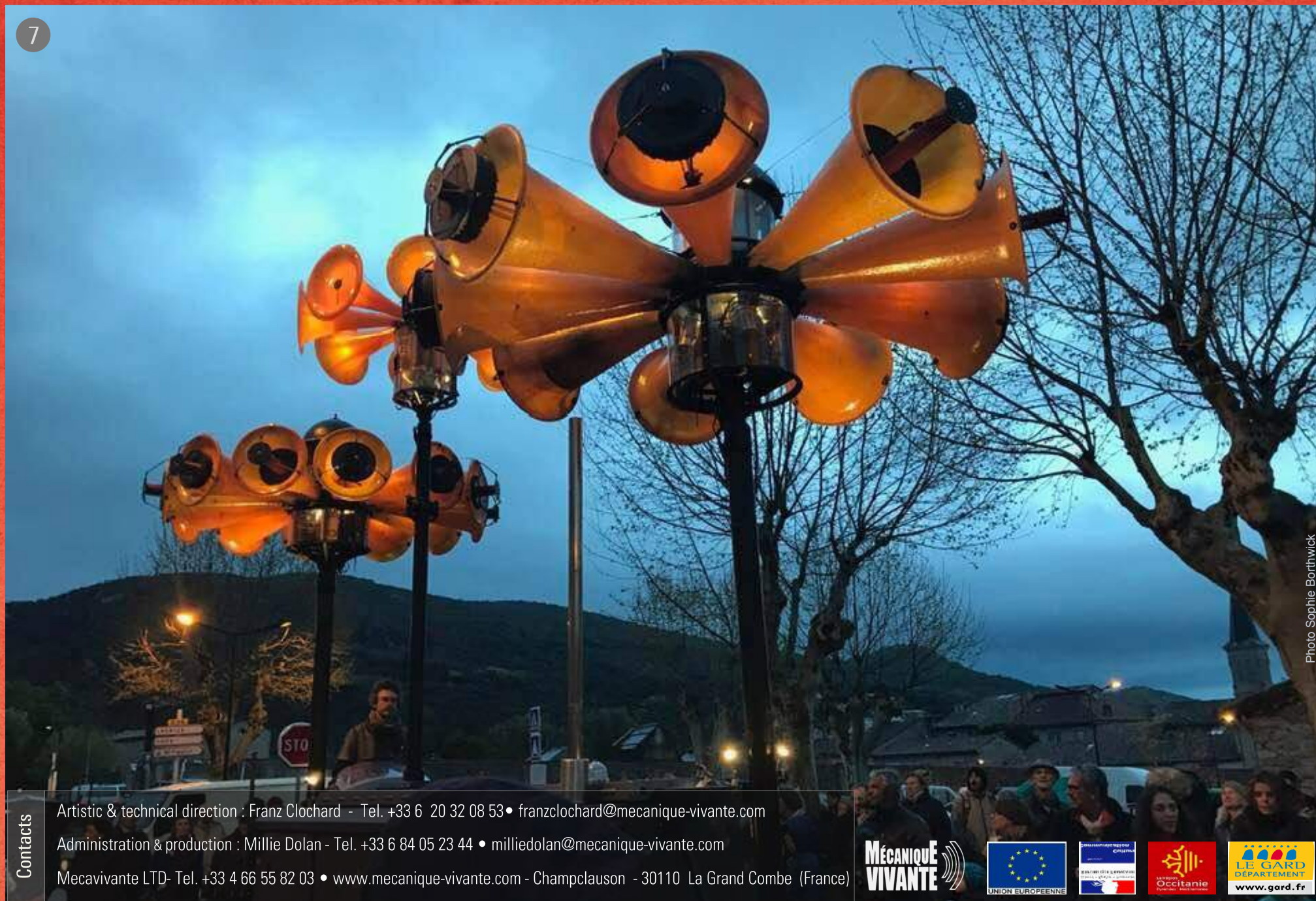


Photo Sophie Borthwick

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