

SONG OF THE SIRENS

MÉCANIQUE
VIVANTE 

Contents

Mécanique Vivante inventions and shows	p 3
Ouïes [siren symphony]	p 4
Street Harmonics	p 6
Alfresco Recitals	p 8
Carte Blanche Events	p 10
The Musical Siren, a new invention	p 12
Franz Clochard & Mécanique Vivante	p 14
Contacts	p 16

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photo p 6: Jérémie Bernard

photo p 8: Philippe Cibille

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Mécanique Vivante

Inventions and Shows

To go where the hand of man has never set foot is Mécanique Vivante's motto. For 30 years, the company has explored hitherto unknown areas in the performing arts where mechanical and musical invention have free reign. This is an uncompromising quest for spectacular and sensational innovation and creativity.

At the heart of the enterprise, Franz Clochard, musician-inventor and creator of a new musical instrument: the musical Siren. The prodigious task of subjugating the raucous sound of an air raid siren into an agile, expressive voice has culminated in the creation of a seven-piece, polyphonic orchestra of musical Sirens, the 'Song of the Sirens'.

This madcap project combines 19th century invention with 21st century technology. The range and expression of the musical Siren is unrivalled and its acoustic resonance is without equal amongst musical instruments.

Now the stars of the show, the musical Sirens travel the world, performing in extremely varied contexts and environments. Virtuoso musicians, guest ensembles and stunning lighting and staging make for an unforgettable and unique spectacle.

You've never heard anything like it!

The Shows

OUIES [siren symphony]

Soloists and Sirens on stage

Street Harmonics

The Siren Orchestra cavalcading through the town

Alfresco Recitals

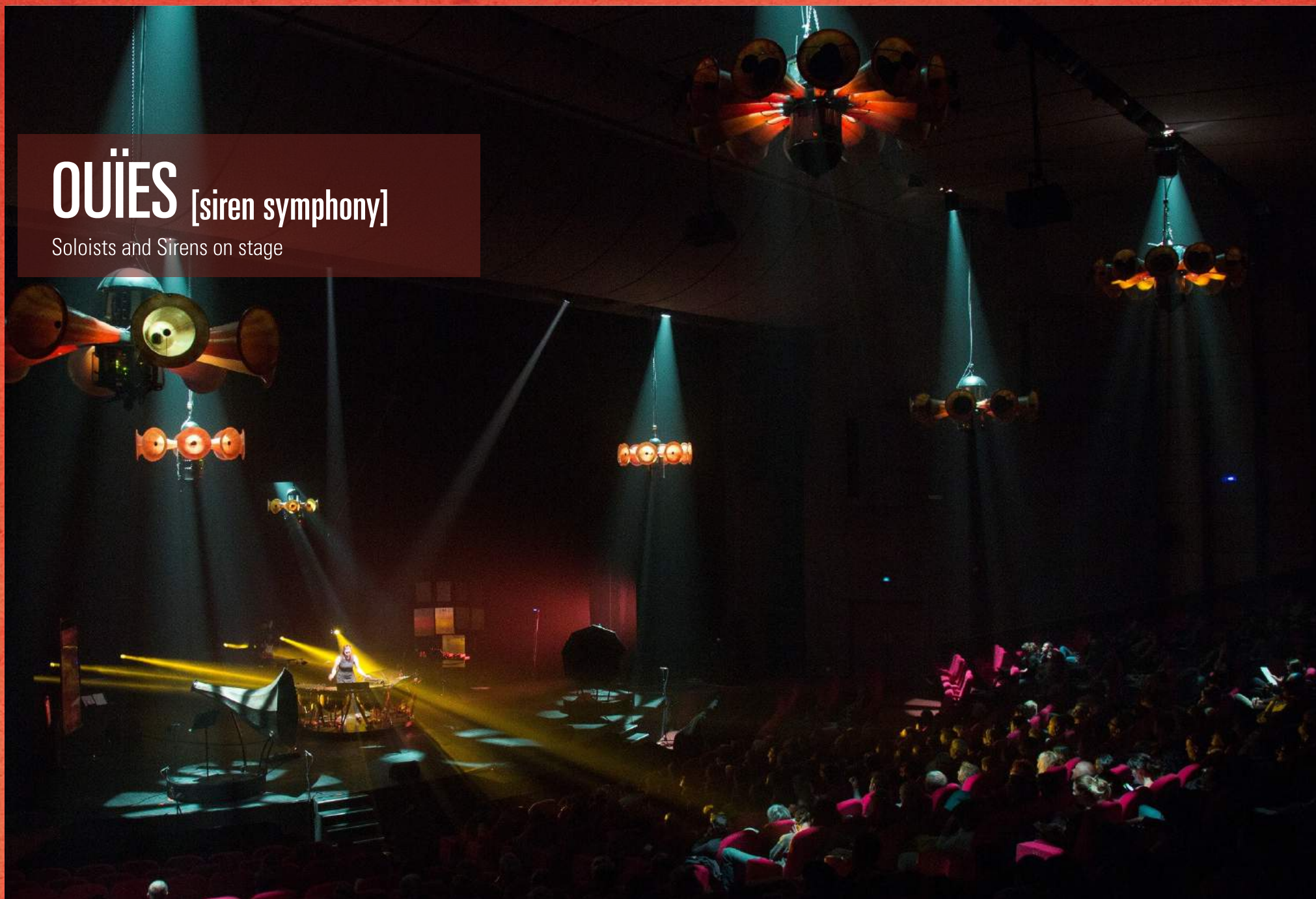
Discover the Siren Orchestra lazing in a deckchair

Carte Blanche

Close collaboration for a made-to-measure event

OUIËS [siren symphony]

Soloists and Sirens on stage



Song of the Sirens

OUIES [siren symphony] is a unique experience, a highly creative mixture of the familiar and the unknown, the surprising mutation of an air raid siren into a symphonic musical instrument. Accompanying the orchestra is an eclectic ensemble of virtuoso musicians, for an unrivalled performance.

This is a meeting of the acoustic and the electric; the mechatronic world of *Mécanique Vivante* transferred to the stage.

with

Laurence Meisterlin - percussion

Seb Martel - electric guitar

Benoit Louette - trombone

Franz Clochard - trombone and sirénium

Taming the shrew : adapting the Sirens to an indoor venue

The resonance of the musical Siren is an integral part of its sound and it determines the disposition of the orchestra and the musicians in and around the public.

For *OUIES*, careful staging combines the visual and sound qualities of the orchestra, balancing the harmonies of the sirens and the musicians, and adapting the configuration to each auditorium.



Street Harmonics

The Siren Orchestra cavalcading through town

Song of the Sirens

Street Harmonics

The Siren orchestra cavalcades through the town on two prancing vehicles, drawing the audience to it like a modern-day Pied Piper. The seductive resonance of the musical sirens in the narrow streets of the heart of the city; a serene encounter with the Sirenium on the street corner; smiles all round as this joyful parade weaves through the town, showing it off in a completely new light.

Mécanique Vivante's Siren Song takes the listener on an unprecedented musical journey with a brand new voice. You have literally never seen or heard anything like it !

An outstanding encounter with the audience

A potent blend of the ordinary and the extraordinary, the real world with the electromechanical world of Mécanique Vivante.

The Sirens' Song on Street Parade will enrapture the crowd with its fantastic music and jubilant energy.



Alfresco Recitals

Discover the Siren Orchestra whilst lazing in a deckchair

Song of the Sirens

Alfresco Recitals

A moment of reverie, lying in a deckchair, gazing at the sky, with the Song of the Sirens flowing over you - a charming musical siesta. From bass to piccolo, seven voices blend perfectly to create a harmonious soundscape the like of which you've never heard.

The astonishing range and expression of this new instrument is flaunted in the music, composed in-house. Sometimes sweet, sometimes low and melancholic, every colour and nuance is there.

Let the singular Sirens' Song bewitch you.

Musical siestas

Mecanique Vivante's *Recitals* are based on a symphonic form with music in several movements.

From high-tempo trance to fluid adagios giving infinite and minute variation in tone, the colourful music of the Siren Orchestra is both stirring and moving.

Carte Blanche

Create a made-to-measure event



Song of the Sirens

Carte blanche events

Stunning architecture, magnificent squares, gloomy streets, a concrete jungle, the docks and industrial heartland, rivers, canals.....

Every town has its history and its architecture which creates the backdrop to the humdrum of daily life.

At Mécanique Vivante, we like shaking up the perceived view, staging *Carte Blanche* shows in contexts as surprising as they are varied - from a disused mine to a hillside ; 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.

Along the way, virtuoso musicians in spectacular settings : orchestral tympani and percussion, a duo of giant belled trombones and a death-defying guitarist.....

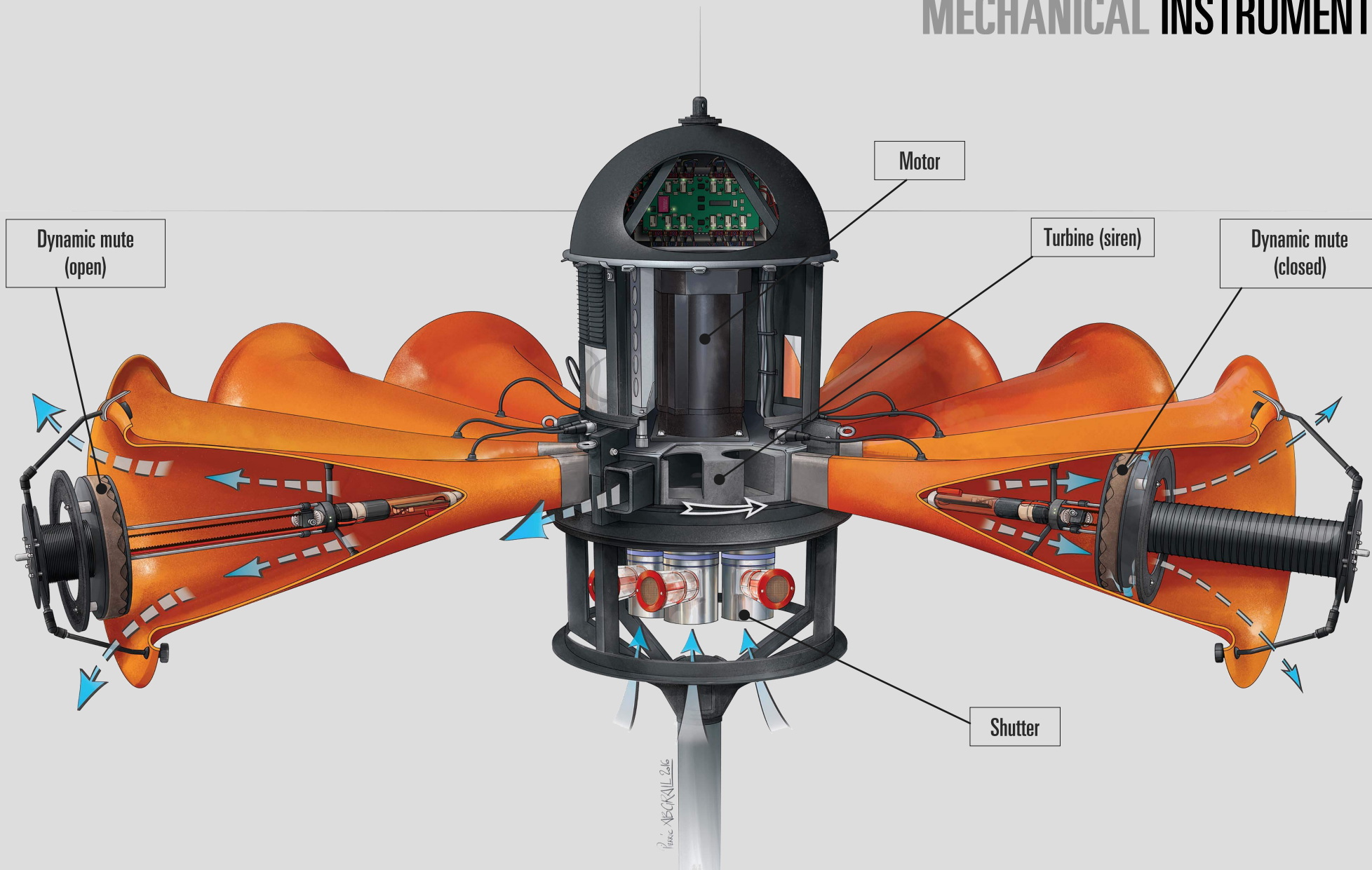
A tailor-made show

For 30 years, Mécanique Vivante has been applying its experience, stagecraft, knowledge and its wonderful world of invention to creating exceptional events in close collaboration with the organiser.

These tailor-made shows are design to harmonise with natural, urban and industrials and combined with careful staging and stunning lighting, will stay indelibly in the mind of the spectator.

The CLOCHARD Musical Siren©

ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENT
MECHANICAL INSTRUMENT



The Musical Siren

The invention of a new musical instrument

There's a newcomer in the parley of musical instruments, an instrument with a range and timbre to rival the violin: the musical Siren. Incredible to think that the humble air raid siren could produce such eloquent music; and it took Franz Clochard, artist-inventor, to recognise its pure sound and astonishing capabilities.

20 years of artistic and technological R & D have led to the creation of the seven-piece Siren Orchestra: a piccolo, two sopranos, two altos, a tenor and a bass.

The orchestra is 'conducted' by robotics: 71 control systems piloted by 105 processors allow the sirens to interpret the musical score.

How a standard Air Raid Siren works

The siren produces sound by sucking in air as it rotates, which is then fragmented and driven through the horns.

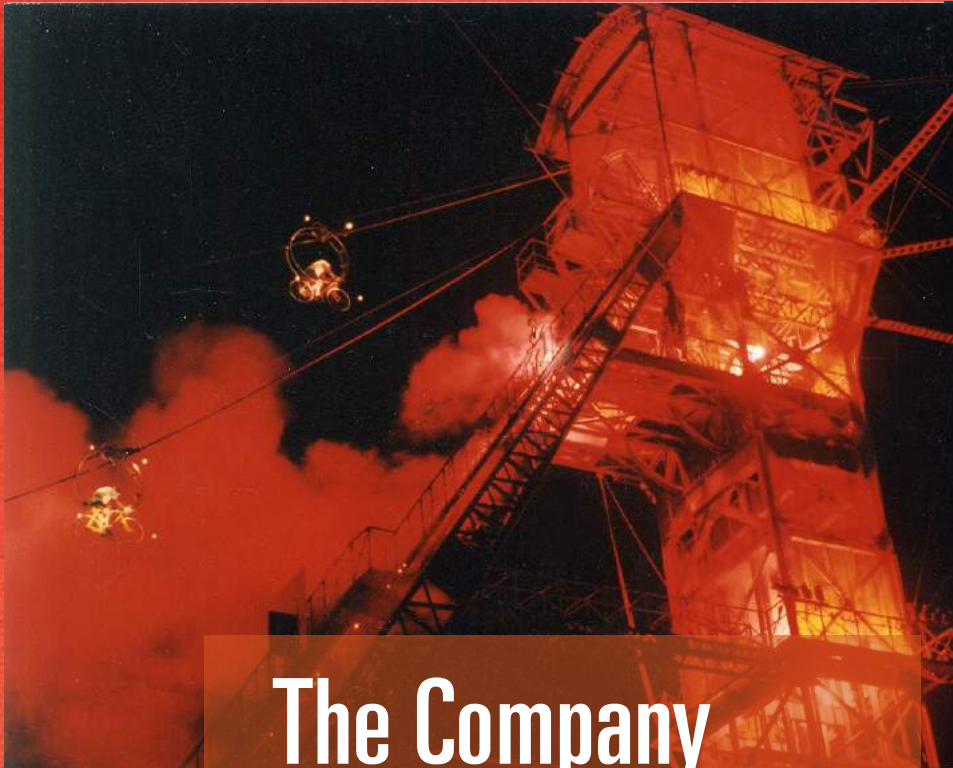
The faster the rotation, the higher and louder the sound.

How a Clochard Musical Siren© Works

In order to make the Siren sing, there are three principles involved:

- 1) precise control of the turbine speed (using the motor) gives full range to the Siren
- 2) controlling the airflow to the Siren (using the shutters) gives attack, expression and subtlety
- 3) muting the horns modifies the volume of the sound produced, allowing closer proximity to the audience.

Precise and highly responsive technology regulates turbine speed and controls airflow, keeping the musical Siren in tune and giving it colour and tone.



The Company

Franz Clochard & Mécanique Vivante



Franz Clochard & Mécanique Vivante

Artist-inventor Franz Clochard, founder

Classically trained musician and mechanical whizz, Franz Clochard pursued his two loves, creating 'musichanical' hybrids. His research and development of show-stopping contraptions and performances drew him to the circus where he discovered a world bounded only by the limits of his imagination.

From piano-playing chickens to acrobatic stunts accompanied on his violin, Franz Clochard traipsed around France from village to village until he came across the 'Cirque Bidon' in the south, in 1985.

This meeting gave rise to the circus Archaos.

From its humble beginnings, where the headlining act was a bunch of chickens, mechanics and motorbikes soon took over and it was an overnight sensation.

Not content to sit back on his famous ascending motorbike and chainsaw, Franz invited jazz musicians and sporting champions into his sensational, metal, ultra-violet universe. The public loved it! At a time when traditional circus was in the doldrums, Archaos arrived like a breath of foul air! '

The Incredible Chainsaw Circus', as the British press called it, played to great acclaim in London and Paris in 1988, and then went on a World Tour.

Alternative circus was born.

The Company

Constantly looking to innovate and create, in 1989 Franz Clochard founded 'Mécanique Vivante' (living mechanics). He couldn't have chosen a better name: spectacular, musical machinery starring in shows created for urban and rural landscapes, ranging from the human to a monumental scale.

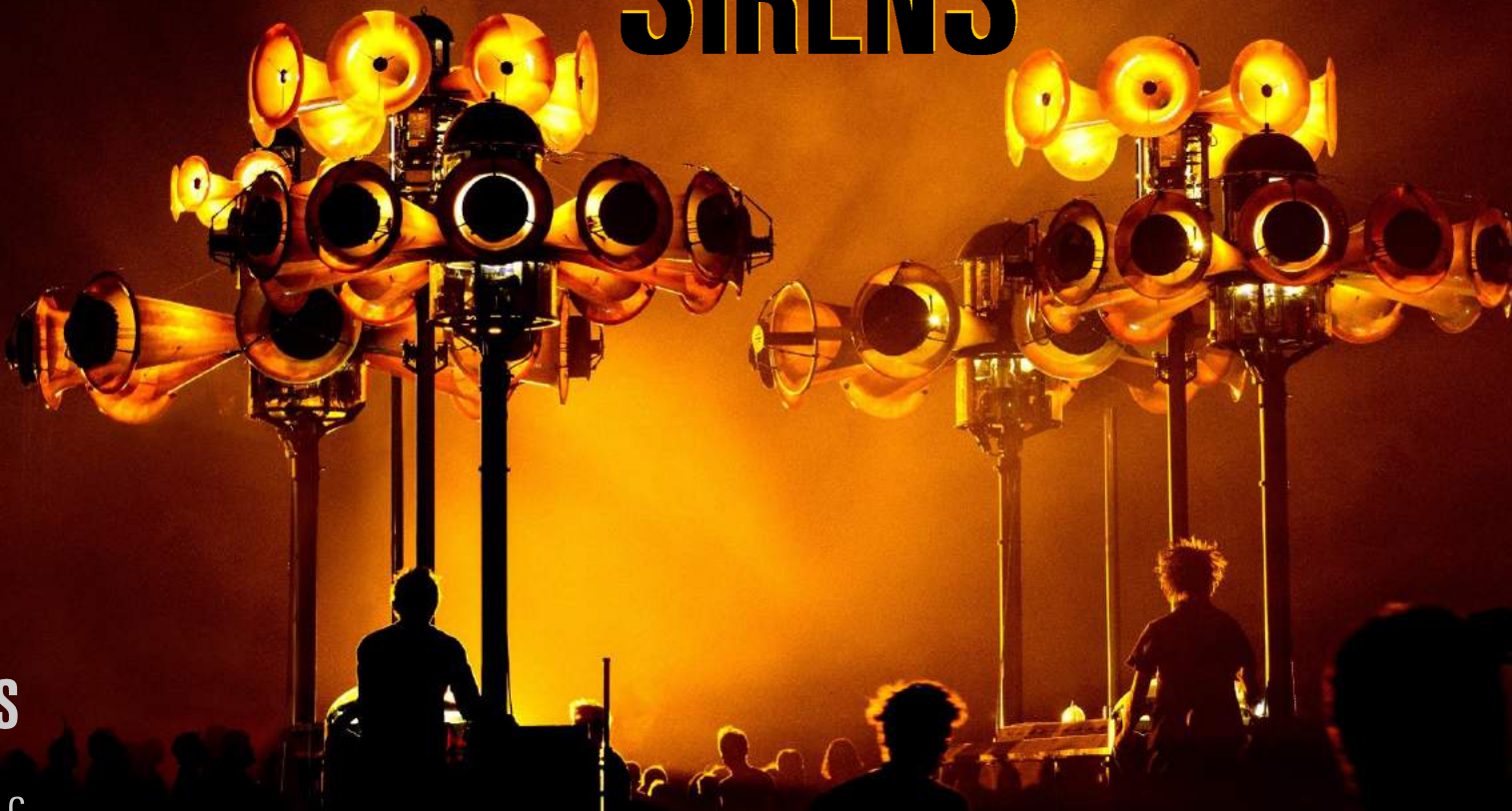
In 2002, Mécanique Vivante relocated to Champclauson in the Cevennes mountains in the south of France. This disused industrial site has seen the production of many a dream machine. The team of engineers, designers, musicians and craftsmen work closely together, combining mechanical and musical invention with technological innovation and artistry.

Mécanique Vivante breathes new life into humdrum objects, misappropriating them to make them spectacular, mechanical, musical and oddly unfamiliar.

Made by people, reworked by people and utterly surprising, just like people!

**MÉCANIQUE
VIVANTE** 

SONG OF THE SIRENS



Contacts

MecaVivante LLC

Director: Franz Clochard

franzclochard@mecanique-vivante.com

Administrator : Millie Dolan

milliedolan@mecanique-vivante.com

Champclauson - 30110 La Grand Combe

Tel : +33 4 66 55 82 0

www.mecanique-vivante.com

