

Maria Palatine – vocals, harp

German virtuoso vocalist and harpist Maria Palatine was blessed with extraordinary creativity.

The third generation of harpists in her family, and the rightful heir of her grandmother, a traveling theater director, Maria left the orchestra pit right after her classical studies of the harp, piano and composition in Mannheim, to perform her original repertoire of compositions, singing, playing, and dancing with her own band in Europe, Russia and the US.

Her music has been defined as "a soundtrack composed by Björk, Kate Bush and Loreena McKennit" (GTB Agenda Brussels) or "Sounds with a feline elegance steering an extremely original course where moments of enchantment and excentricity alternate..." and "in Maria Palatine's hands, the harp sounds mysterious, dynamic, erotic, radiant as if it had been invented for her only" (Hildesheimer Allgemeine Zeitung).

She is a socially conscious artist, deeply committed to be a voice for all women of all ages, conditions, beliefs, and ethnic backgrounds. She shares her unshakable love for mother earth, mankind, poetry, world peace and beauty with a wide variety of emotions (from deep sorrow to jumping joy to simmering rage), styles (she is at home with world music, classical, singer-songwriter, pop, country folk, jazz, spoken word, ...), and even expressions (singing, playing the harp and piano, dancing, poetry, composing, and painting). Having set many great poets' work to music, she also wrote many pieces inspired by existing women (both famous and unknown), and by social situations or events.

Maria was the recipient of the "music award for young song-poets" by the Hanns-Seidl-Stiftung and Bayerischer Rundfunk (German radio) in 2005, and then went on to many radio and television appearances, eventually reaching international recognition. She was chosen to represent Belgium's French-speaking community at the 2008 Expo in Saragossa, and created there her original composition "Water Celebration" for choir, narrator and a jazz ensemble.

Ms. Palatine established the "Harp Center Brussels" in 2008 in Saint-Gilles (Brussels), where she shares her passion for her instrument with international students. Besides teaching there, as a guest professor at IMEP Namur, and in several renowned masterclasses, she keeps performing internationally.

Maria Palatine was awarded the 2017 Brukmer Golden Artistic Award of the Female Artist of the Year for the ensemble of her artistic career, from the hands of Ms. Maria Arena, a member of the European Parliament.

Her latest album "My Voice is My Plea" features her unique musical universe, where her crystal clear voice and virtuoso harp playing are the paint brushes she uses effortlessly to convey her take on our world, its utter beauty and desolation, where humans experience extreme joys and heartbreaking pains, and where her love for mother earth is shared by her: a strong voice of 21st century womankind – without compromise or corruption. Like her music: pure and universal.