

Irma Bilbao
www.irmabilbao.be

Irma Bilbao (1957) (pseudonym of dr. Françoise Vanhecke PhD, soprano ISFV[®], pianist, actress, researcher, improvisator and soundpainter is versatile artist using bel canto, extended techniques and improvisation. She is a Doctor in Arts/Music and the pioneer of a new extended vocal technique ISFV[®] Inhaling Singing with a notation system. She started composing when she was 13 years old. Luc Goosen and Jan Decadt discovered her composing talent. Mauricio Kagel, Boudewijn Buckinx, and Maria de Alvear have encouraged Irma Bilbao. Her music is performed worldwide including choral music, piano music, voice and ensemble music, soundscapes, poetry, electro pop, theatre music, classical and not western polyvalent styles and instruments. Despite a number of clearly recurring elements, Irma Bilbao's compositional oeuvre is globally very eclectic and differentiated. Each of her works is the result of a unique creation process, but always carries a number of typical characteristics, which by analogy with Bilbao's career as a performing musician. Through Bilbao's oeuvre is the frequent presence of strongly theatrical elements in her compositions making use of improvisations moments and humour are implemented. This fact can be linked to Bilbao's strong predilection for melody in the broad sense of the word and to the idea of composing in function of the aesthetic experience of the audience. She has a strong ambition to write more large-scale works in the future.