

A la Rum

In the early seventies three young musicians - *Paul Rans, Wiet Van de Leest and Dirk Van Esbroeck* - found they had plenty in common and started what was to become the legendary band *RUM*. They clearly had captured the spirit of the times and became extremely popular, not only in their native Flanders but well beyond Belgium's borders.

After their first two LPs they were joined by Argentinian guitarist Juan Masondo and singer Vera Coomans and released two further LPs. But nothing lasts forever and the Rum story also came to an end.

In 2005 Universal released a longbox with the first four Rum LPs on two CDs plus a DVD with TV recordings. This brought the original members back together, they even toured with the *Lais* girls and also gave some performances on their own as a trio. However, fate had it that *Dirk* became very ill and he died, far too young, in May 2007.

Paul Rans, Wiet Van de Leest and Jocke Schreurs first worked together in a number of concerts commemorating *Dirk Van Esbroeck*. In that programme they picked out some old Rum hits to honour *Dirk* and they decided they'd like to take this further. That is what they do now in '*A la Rum*', performing old *Rum* songs but also plenty of new material. *Jocke* and *Wiet* often throw themselves into very exciting instrumentals and to complete the harmony singing the trio has been joined by *Marc Hauman*.

With *Paul* and *Marc* two of the best singers in Flanders are together on stage, and with *Wiet* and *Jocke* two of the most brilliant instrumentalists.

'A la Rum' delivers gripping voices as well as instrumental fireworks.

Paul Rans: voice & lute
Marc Hauman: voice & guitar
Jocke Schreurs: guitar & voice
Wiet Van de Leest: violin & voice

... the wealth of vocal colours which A la Rum produced for the songs 'Maschéro' and 'Duizend soldaten' (Thousand Soldiers) was a rare plea for depth and roots - De Standaard 23/04/2012

... with Jocke Schreurs and Marc Hauman, Paul Rans and Wiet Van de Leest injected new life into Rum. 'Maschéro' made you dream and they gave us a beautiful version of 'Duizend soldaten' - De Morgen 23/04/2012