

**CLAUDE FLAGEL** (voice, hurdy-gurdy) was born in Paris but has lived in Brussels since 1954. His field work, combined with archive research, has resulted in a vast and original repertoire which stretches from ancient French folk songs to baroque music for the hurdy-gurdy. He has worked with Antwerp folk singer Wannes Van de Velde as well as with baroque specialists such as *Sigiswald and Wieland Kuijken* and has sung and played with the *Ensemble Faux-Bourdon, La Grande Ecurie et la Chambre du Roy* and *Stradivaria*.

He has written extensively on folk song and hurdy-gurdies in scholarly journals and has created the traditional music department at the Conservatoire National de Musique de Châteauroux. He also runs the *Fonti Musicali* CD label, specialised in dance music and traditional forms of world music, with an emphasis on Africa.

He was also the driving force behind the *Any Ben Kafö* project in 2003 which saw the last concert tour of the legendary *Momo Wandel Soumah*, in the company of sax player *Pierre Vaiana* and djembe virtuoso *Mamady Keita*.