

Wannes Van de Velde

Wannes Van de Velde was an immensely talented singer, guitarist, songwriter, poet, playwright, translator and visual artist. He was the first to really revive Flemish traditional songs but was also the best songwriter Flanders has known. For him tradition and innovation went hand in hand. He was just as happy to sing old songs as his own, which were inspired by urban life and life in general - often poetic, sometimes bitterly critical of all abuse of power and sometimes very funny.

He also loved accompanying flamenco singer Amparo Cortés on guitar and published a book with poetic translations of her lyrics.

Paul Rans feels lucky that he was able to sing with Wannes in productions such as *Islandsuite* or *Vive le Geus* and also work with him in several radio productions for Klara.

Wannes died of leukaemia in November 2008, aged 71.