

Wiet Van de Leest (violin, tenor guitar, piano, voice) made his name with the folk band *RUM* (with Paul Rans and Dirk Van Esbroeck) in the 1970s and with *Madou* in the 1980s, featuring Vera Coomans who also sang with Rum.

Musically he then kept a low profile for a number of years, working as a forester in the Soignes Forest near Brussels, a job he still holds today. However, he never neglected music and played many years viola in a string quartet, *Half en Half*.

He started a new group, *Les Enfants de L'Yser* for a World War I project, *Grijsland*, which was also released on CD. He recorded a solo CD called *Tatave*, a tribute to the musette accordion virtuoso Gus Viseur. Wiet has always loved playing musettes on his 4-string tenor guitar, no mean feat.

In 2010 he wrote the arrangements for a grand Derroll Adams project, *Derroll's Dream*, featuring five women singers and strings. This was performed at the three main festivals in Flanders, *Dranouter*, *Brosella* and the *Gentse Feesten* (annual Ghent Celebrations).

In 2005 he met up again with his old Rum mates Paul Rans and Dirk Van Esbroeck, but Dirk sadly died two years later. With Paul, guitarist Jocke Schreurs and singer Marc Hauman he now forms *A la Rum*, while he continues to compose and arrange music for many other productions.