

De Geuzen

Songs from the Resistance to Spanish Rule and the Catholic Church
in the 16th c.



Songs from the times of the 'geuzen', a word which literally meant beggars but which was considered an honorary title by the revolutionaries in the 16th century Low Countries, fighting against the Spanish occupying forces and the Catholic Church. These songs often describe battles or historic events, can be moralising but also sarcastic and even vitriolic – something that could cost the author's or the singer's life.

It was the custom to pick traditional tunes to sing to new words and the singers went for the most popular tunes of the time, often also the most beautiful. Adrianus Valerius added a summary accompaniment, others left it to the imagination of the performers – a challenge eagerly taken up by the members of *RANS*.

Paul Rans: voice, lute

Philippe Malfeyt: lute, theorbo, hammered dulcimer, percussion, voice

An Van Laethem, violin, voice

Piet Stryckers: bass and tenor viol, fiddle, hurdy-gurdy

Paul Van Loey: recorders, whistle, dulcian