

long version

Their shared roots reach back to an age when emotions can flow unhindered. Their connections are deep, their enjoyment unlimited, and their inner strength grows wrapped in tenderness. Sjaella is the soul of the women who appear together on stage and have not lost a child-like experience of the world. There is movement, language, noise and sound; the discovery of space; shared breath and individual expression. It is all this that Sjaella experiences and seeks to share with the audience.

The voyage of discovery began for these artists in 2005, and it has now taken them around the world. For years now the sextet Sjaella has been a fixture on the international vocal music scene, with concerts at renowned festivals: Rheingau Music Festival, Beethovenfest Bonn, Early Music Festival Utrecht, Ruhrfestspiele, Festival van Vlaanderen, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, Stresa Festival and many more. The group has also won numerous first prizes in international competitions, including the festival Tampereen Sävel in Finland.

The ensemble has been on concert tours to Australia, Mexico, Jordan, Hungary, South Africa, Belgium, Spain, Norway, Turkey and the USA, and performed at famed concert halls such as the Mozarteum Salzburg, the Wiener Musikverein, the Berlin Philharmonie, Flagey Brussels, the Palace of Arts (Müpa) in Budapest, and the Sydney Opera House.

Sjaella has a multi-faceted repertoire thanks to its vocal combination, which is underrepresented in the musical world. To brighten the scene with their rich tone and to expand the range of works available for women's choirs, the singers have been working closely with composers for many years. They combine new works with early music and devote their attention to languages and folk tunes from different cultures, while also always looking to expand their sound spectrum. The ensemble's diverse musical stations are reflected in its albums: *Preisung*, *Meridiane – NORD* and *Origins* were nominated for the German Record Critics' Award.. The album *Origins* (2021, Outhere Music label), which brings together contemporary minimalist compositions and baroque music, was also highly praised by the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

In recent years, scenic and interdisciplinary work has become a mainstay and unique selling point of the group. During the 2023/24 season, Sjaella was an integral part of the ballet production *Giselle* at the Leipzig Opera, in close collaboration with ballet director Mario Schröder and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra. In summer 2024, the singers stood in front

of the camera for Dutch composer and multimedia artist Michel van der Aa. His VR opera *From Dust* for six female voices and electronics was premiered at De Doelen in Rotterdam later that year and went on to win the Immersive Competition category at the Cannes Film Festival.

Their own production *Meridians – a music-theatrical concert* has already been performed at the Schönberger Musiksommer, the Festival Lunalia in Belgium and the Festival of Voices in Australia.

Most recently, Sjaella focused on the internationally cast chamber opera *Primero Sueño*, composed by Paola Prestini and Magos Herrera, about the Mexican nun and poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz. The opera was commissioned by the Met Museum and premiered at the Met Cloisters in New York in January 2025.

short version

Their shared roots reach back to an age when emotions can flow unhindered. They have strong connections and limitless enjoyment. Sjaella is the soul of the women who appear together on stage and have not lost a child-like experience of the world. Community feeds on play and individual strength. There is movement, language, noise and sound; the discovery of space; shared breath and individual expression.

The voyage of discovery began for these artists in 2005, and it has now taken them around the world. Sjaella has been a fixture on the international vocal music scene for years, performing concerts at renowned festivals and winning first prize at many competitions. The ensemble has recently been on concert tours to Australia, Mexico, South Africa, the USA, Belgium, Norway, and Turkey.

The singers have been working closely with international composers for many years and are constantly expanding their repertoire. Their current focus falls on English and German baroque music as well as contemporary music in a minimalist style. The ensemble's albums reflect its musical diversity and have been honored by the music world. Most recently, the album “Origins” won the CARA Award (USA) and was highly praised by the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

Scenic and interdisciplinary work has become an important pillar of the group in recent years. In 2024, Sjaella was an integral part of the ballet production “Giselle” at Oper Leipzig. At the same time, the singers appeared in front of the camera as lead performers in the VR

opera *From Dust* by Michel van der Aa, which was recently awarded Best Work in the Immersive Competition category at the Cannes Film Festival.

Most recently, Sjaella worked on the internationally cast chamber opera *Primero Sueño*, composed by Paola Prestini and Magos Herrera, about Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, which premiered at the Met Cloisters in New York in January 2025.