



Here Be Dragons is a South African folk-Baroque ensemble exploring the fertile and often surprising territory between historical performance, traditional music and creative reimagining.

Under the artistic direction of **Jan-Hendrik Harley**, the ensemble brings together musicians from different musical backgrounds, approaching repertoire with curiosity and a healthy disregard for fixed boundaries. Music from the medieval, Renaissance and Baroque worlds is placed alongside folk traditions, historical instruments and newly created arrangements, revealing connections between musical cultures separated by geography, language and time.

Since its appearance at the **Cape Town Baroque Festival** with the original *Folk 101* programme in 2019, **Here Be Dragons** has continued to develop its distinctive musical voice through performances and collaborations that treat historical music as a living, adaptable tradition. Recent projects have included *Folk 201: Landings*, a musical exploration of migration, exploration and cultural encounter, as well as collaborations with **VOX Cape Town**, bringing the ensemble's folk-inspired approach into dialogue with choral repertoire.

Here Be Dragons returns to the **2026 Cape Town Baroque Festival** with *Motet & Madrigal*, a programme exploring vocal music and the many ways composers have adapted it to their own musical voices. Beginning with the sound worlds of **Pérotin** and **Francesco Landini**, and travelling through the Renaissance and early Baroque to the expressive music of **Claudio Monteverdi** and the contrapuntal brilliance of **J.S. Bach**, the programme follows the tenor as structural foundation, melodic thread and source of musical invention.

Rather than treating these works as untouchable monuments, **Here Be Dragons** approaches them as music that has always existed in dialogue with performance, adaptation and reinvention. The result reveals unexpected connections between sacred and secular music, composition and performance, and the musical past and present.

For *Motet & Madrigal*, **Here Be Dragons** brings together **Joshua Frank** (recorders), **Annién Shaw** and **Odile Burden** (violins), **Jan-Hendrik Harley** (plucked strings and artistic direction), **Mariechen Meyer** (double bass) and **John Pringle** (percussion).

Here Be Dragons performs music not as a collection of historical artefacts, but as something that has travelled, changed hands, crossed borders and continually reinvented itself.

