**How it all started…**In 1980, a group of musicians launched the idea to connect young, talented and motivated musicians into a new concert band named “Demer en Laak”. Their goal was to be open to new, young people and create quality in the musical performances and concerts. 30 years later, this vision is still alive.

In those years, Demer en Laak organized several large and small projects like Christmas-, proms- and wine degustation concerts, concert trips to Sweden and Italy, a performance of the “Carmina Burana” by Carl Orff with a big choir and 2 CD recordings.

Today, conductor Sven Creyns is leading the orchestra into the musical future.

**More than music**Demer en Laak is more than a group of people rehearsing every Sunday morning and performing in the local community center every now and then. The strength of our band is that we give motivated men, women, boys and girls chances to show and expand their skills. Graphical design, theatre, sound and video techniques, copywriting, webmasters and catering: all these different aspects are mastered by our own people. Several of our members use their skills and knowledge to guide new, motivated people to create almost professional results. This way, we allow our musicians to gain experience in all the different aspects of a big, musical project.

**A magical world**“Sorry, we are sold out” is a very common response when people want to buy last minute tickets for our concerts. We believe this popularity is related to the extent to which we pay attention to all the different aspects of the evening. We do not only focus on music, but go beyond it and look at the whole picture. We continuously ask ourselves: How can we entertain our audience? How can we make this concept even better? and Where will we be in the future? We strive to perfection in music, logistics, show and hospitality to create a wonderful evening for our audience, every time.

**Our musicians**Musicians are essential for an orchestra. That’s why we care about creating a nice atmosphere where our members can enhance their skills and enjoy themselves. 75% of our orchestra consists of youth, which is no coincidence. Young people love to be a member of our orchestra because of the pleasant, dynamic atmosphere and the focus on quality. We consider values like responsibility, creativity and organizing skills as very important. Therefore, we involve our members in the working of our organization.

**D&L organization**It requires a lot of planning and management to make sure that 70 musicians and 30 volunteers work together. Luckily, several teams collaborate to bring this huge task to completion.

The ***musical commission*** is the creative brain of the orchestra. It combines motivated, inspired people who come up with new ideas and concepts for our concerts. They prepare the musical aspects of the concert and design the repertoire.

The ***general board*** takes care of other aspects like finances, marketing, human resources and catering. Both the musical commission and board are open to new people and share openness and transparency as key values. Meeting reports are shared with our members and once a year, we reflect together on the results of the past year.