



# zuwerm

electric guitar quartet

## Electric Consort Presskit



**consort** |'kän,sôrt|

noun

a small group of musicians performing together, typically playing instrumental music of the Renaissance period: *a consort of viols.*  
ORIGIN late 16th cent.: earlier form of “concert”.

**electric consort** |i'lektrik 'kän,sôrt|

noun

Four musicians often, but not exclusively, performing with electric guitars, typically re-interpreting, re-arranging or improvising music that sometimes sounds like that of the English Renaissance period.  
ORIGIN early 21st cent.

Related Content:

In Nomine, Consort Song, Melancholia, Semper Dowland Semper Dolens, Folk Song, The Cryers song of Cheapside

People:

John Taverner, William Byrd, Thomas Tallis, Christopher Tye, Thomas Ravenscroft, John Dowland



Would John Dowland choose the warm sound of a Fender Telecaster if he'd written his bluesy "Melancholy Galliard" today? This intriguing question convinced Zwerm to delve into the very rich repertoire of the English renaissance. In Electric Consort Zwerm becomes a contemporary version of the in those days very popular consort-formation, which designated an ensemble of instruments of the same family (eg. a concord of viols). In arranging several scores for their contemporary instrumentation of four electric guitars, Zwerm pays hommage to these old English Masters in a playful way.

### **Press About Electric Consort**

**Kwadratuur** 

AlbaNova festival Stockholm  
www.kwadratuur.be

"... in *Semper Dowland Semper Dolens* Zwerm used the original score by John Dowland as a basis to turn it into the soundworld of bands like *Sonic Youth*, using guitar noise and feedback as well as a good dose of distortion. A shimmering end to a concert that was without a doubt a highlight of the AlbaNova festival."

**dS De Standaard**  
www.standaard.be

"The four musicians from Zwerm exhibited a vast musical imagination in their arrangements of old English consort music, using their four electric guitars, effect pedals and vintage amps. [...] Towards the end they played a rusty old Dowland, saturated with feedback and reverb, which blew our minds."

**Nieuwsblad.be**

www.nieuwsblad.be

"The electricity came not only from their electric guitars but also from their choice of repertoire. In "Electric Concert" Zwerm performs music of old masters from the English renaissance. The tension between these contemporary instruments and the slowly developing melancholic melodies was fascinating."



"The Belgian-Dutch electric guitar quartet Zwerp presented a highly original concert. [...] In exploring compositions from the English Renaissance, the four musicians seduced, surprised and intrigued their audience."



"Similar to Christina Pluhar and L'Arpegiata, the four musicians from Zwerp prove that it's possible to give a new sound to these old pieces while keeping their original taste."

### Links to media

Original trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Am6UrL4BTE>

Trailer Théâtre Cornouaille, Quimper: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAF58nr8TkU>

small documentary on Cobra.be (in Dutch):  
<http://cobra.canvas.be/cm/cobra/muziek/1.2322718>

Excerpts Ma-festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RmCBf-iwoOA>

Full Concert Ma-festival: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNZ8KJc2T1U>

Live-album on bandcamp: <https://zwerp.bandcamp.com/releases>



photo: Mous Lambarat

## About Zwerp

Zwerp is an electric guitar quartet based in Belgium and founded in 2007. Over the years the group has collaborated with various composers, performers and visual artists. Their first cd called The World's Longest Melody was mentioned by The Wire Magazine as 'an obvious contender for album of the year 2010'. They gave concerts in the UK, Europe, Mexico and the United States at major festivals such as the Darmstadt Summer Course for New Music, Ars Musica, Ostrava Music Days Festival, Holland Festival, Festival International Chihuahua, a.o. In 2012 they received the Klara award of the Belgian national classical radio station Klara.

[www.zwerp.be](http://www.zwerp.be)

[www.facebook.com/Zwerp-electric-guitar-quartet-204236872992259/](http://www.facebook.com/Zwerp-electric-guitar-quartet-204236872992259/)

[www.soundcloud.com/zwerp-electricguitar4tet](http://www.soundcloud.com/zwerp-electricguitar4tet)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC05UZMvPiW6pPn1tawnh2gg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC05UZMvPiW6pPn1tawnh2gg)