Program Notes on 'Et je danse.'

J'ai tendu des cordes de clocher à clocher; des guirlandes de fenêtre à fenêtre; des chaines d'or d'étoile à étoile, et je danse.

In this sentence of the poem Phrases, Rimbaud sees himself as a dancer. He would make a string from tower to tower on which he would balance as an acrobat. He would make a chain of flowers from window to window and a rope of gold from star to star on which he would dance.

In my opinion the string could be translated a musical line, a melody. The chain of flowers could be seen as a set of motives which would also build a melody. Could one see a poetic sentence as a melody? If so, Rimbaud is composing melodies on which he would dance.

The idea of 'melodies on which one could dance' inspired me to make a carillon concert program. Therefore, I chose melodies in which rhythm plays an important role.

The Dutch Peasant Dance is composed by Dutch pianist and piano pedagogue Gerard Hengeveld.
Petit Sirtaki is a piece with elements of Greek dance music in it. In 2017 it was premiered by the composer it at the opening of the world carillon congress in Barcelona on the mobile carillon.
The Kiever Bulgar and Russian Sher are typical Klezmer pieces and are danced upon during for example Jewish weddings.
Havah Nagilah is music which is danced upon during the bar mitzvah feast, the celebration of Jewish adulthood.
Regularly I play French chansons at my carillon recitals. At June 21, 2017 I played a whole concert with chansons at the Fête de la Musique festival at the carillon of the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.
Contigo Peru is always sung at the Peruvian Independence Day, July 28.
La Flor de la Canela (The Cinnamon Flower) is a waltz composed and sung by Chabuca Granda.
The concert ends with a piece which I composed in January 2018. Due to its meter, 5/8 time, it has a rhythmical energy.

Every piece of this concert could be seen as a phrase. All Phrases together build a poem, a poem named 'Et je danse.'

Mathieu Daniël Polak