

# RECORDINGS IN NATURAL CAVES

## BELGIUM

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### Grottes de Han – Salle d'Armes

Han-sur-Lesse

RIC-BE1 Belgium ca.Late1960s

#### **ECHO DES GROTTES \***

RIC – Choral – Vocal – Cave Pic Cover

#### **Selections:**

*Side One* – 1. L'echo (Lassus)/ 2. La nuit (Rameau)

*Side Two* – 1. Tanzen und Springen (Hassler)/ 2. Nobody Knows (Negro spiritual, Pagot)/ 3. L'eau sans bruit coule (Czech song, Pokorny)

**Perf: LES PETITS CHANTEURS DE LA CHORALE  
SAINT-PIERRE** Uccle, Brussels

**Prod. Co:** Centre du Promotion Sonore du Brabant

**Rec. Eng:** G. Simon

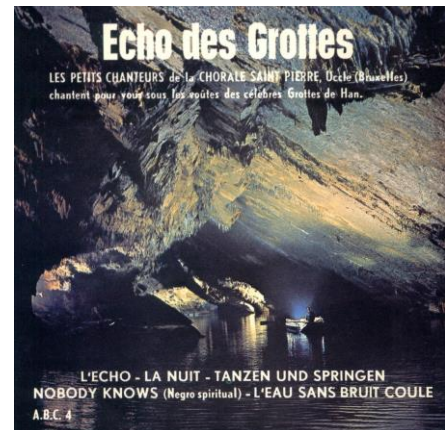
**Time:** (?)

**EP:** ECHO DES GROTTES

1. Original **EP:** A.B.C. 4

2. Reissue **EP:** A.B.C. 4 (Different Pic Cover)

**Spec:** (Both) 7" 45rpm (EP) (Sides 1 & 2)



**Notes:** The recording of a special concert given by a Belgian boys choir, consisting of 70 students, which took place in the Salle d'Armes (Restaurant Room) of the celebrated Grotte de Han at Han-sur-Lesse. This huge chamber is 70m long and can hold up to 500 people. The Styx Cave River flows past at the lower end of this room.

Certain songs on the program were specially chosen as appropriate for the acoustic qualities of the cave. The first one, "L'Echo," where the verses are repeated by different voices is probably the most successful in this setting.

This EP was released with two slightly different covers (see under Cave Picture Covers – Real Caves – Belgium).

**Ref:** Dejardin, Robert 1997, Donation of this EP, Aug. 1997

Grotte de Han, Description (in French), [Wikipedia](#)

Grotte de Han, Home Site (in French), [grotte-de-han](#)

Grotte de Han (in French), Salle d'Armes [grotte-de-han](#) & Formules exclusive [grotte-de-han](#)

Grottes de Han-sur-Lesse, Description (in English),  [showcaves](#)

Les Petits Chanteurs du Collège Saint-Pierre, Uccle, Historique (in French), [lespetitschanteurs.be](#)

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## Grottes de Han – Salle de Minaret

Han-sur-Lesse

RIC-BE2 France 2001

### A DIDGERIDOO EXPERIENCE \*

RIC – Traditional – Didgeridoo– Instrumental

#### Selections:

1. LE CHANT DES GROTTES [Chant of the Caves] – 4:37/ 2. L'arrivée au sanctuaire [Arrival in the Sanctuary] – 7:21/ 3. La danse des esprits mimis [Dance of the Mimis Spirits] – 3:50/ 4. Terre-mère [Mother Earth] – 6:08/ 5. La voix des voûtes [Voice of the Domes] – 5:00/ 6. La nymphe Syrinx [The Nymph Syrinx] – 6:06/ 7. Transe chamanique [Shaman's Trance] – 3:48/ 8. Parole d'ancêtre [Ancestor's Word] – 5:55/ 9. Dévotion – 2:20/ 10 Danse de Terpsichore [Terpsichore's Dance] – 1:27/ 11. Rituel initiatique [Initiation Ritual] – 6:29/ 12. HYMNE AU MINARET [Hymn for the Minaret] – 5:05

**Perf:** Alexandre **BARTOS** (didgeridoo)

Patrick Kersalé (percussions)

**Prod. Co:** Disques Arion; Paris

**Rec. Eng:** Patrick Kersalé

**Time:** (See above)

**CD:** A DIDGERIDOO EXPERIENCE

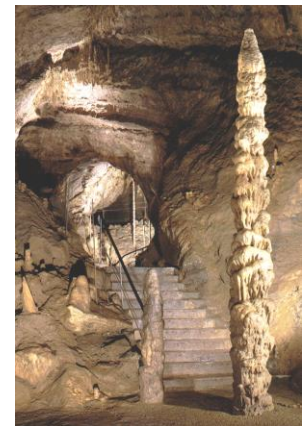
Arion ARN 64560 (12 Tks)

**Notes:** Twelve didgeridoo pieces recorded in the Salle de Minaret (Minaret Room) of the Grottes de Han in Belgium. The choice of a cave for the recording was very judicious. "The didgeridoo, an instrument several thousand years old, is connected with the world of caves, which were formerly used by the Australian Aborigines as places of worship." (Liner notes)

The Minaret stalagmite is 5.80m (19 feet) high.

For information about the didgeridoo pieces, *Le chant des grottes* and *Hymne au Minaret*, see under World Music – Australia – [WD-AU3](#).

**Ref:** Alexandre Bartos, A Didgeridoo Experience CD, [Amazon](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLES)



## Grottes de Neptune

Petigny-Couvain

RIC-BE3 Belgium ca.Late1980s

### GROTTES DE NEPTUNE \*

RIC – Choral – Vocal – Cave Pic Cover

#### Selections:

*Side One* – O che bon echo (Roland de Lassus)

*Side Two* – Le cicale et la fourmi (Charles Gounod – Jean de la Fontaine)

**Rts:** (SABAM)

**Perf:** LES CHOEUR D'ENFANTS DE BELGIQUE

**Prod. Co:** Studio Choeur d'Enfants de Belgique ASBL; Lessines

**Time:** ( ?)

**45:** GROTTES DE NEPTUNE

**Label:** Rodisc PRO 023/034 (stereo)

**Spec:** 7" 45rpm (Sides 1 & 2)

**Notes:** The recording of a concert in this Belgian show cave, formerly known as the Grottes de l'Adugeoir, which opened for tourists in 1930. The name was changed to Grottes de Neptune in 1972.



The idea of having a boys choir perform in the cave no doubt came from the earlier boys choir concert given in the Grotte de Han. This choir even sings one of the same songs, "L'echo," that the other choir had performed.

Tony Oldham described the actual cave tour – “The visit culminates in a 20-minute boat ride along an underground river... The journey is enhanced with an unusual ‘music & light’ display, which, it is claimed is unique in Europe. During this display there are a number of lively waterfalls, which form an impressive backdrop to the scene. The music of Vangelis and the stroboscopic light effects makes this a truly magical event.” (Oldham 2002)

**Ref:** Aux grottes de Neptune de Pétigny-Couvin, [encyclopedisque](#)

Grottes de Neptune, Description (in French), [Wikipedia](#)

Grottes de Neptune, Official Website, (in French), [grottesdeneptune](#) & (in English), [grottesdeneptune](#)

Oldham, Tony 2002, Grottes de Neptune, [showcaves](#)

[caveinspiredmusic.com](http://caveinspiredmusic.com)