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NEWSLETTER MCN CLASSICAL AND CONTEMPORARY

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Translation: Hilary Staples and Patricia Werner

DISASTER AS A PURIFYING OPERA RITUAL

The world trembles and quakes, reality has been turned upside down. The impact of a disaster cannot actually be measured. The suffering is immense. Composer **Klaas de Vries** hopes to express what cannot be put into words in his opera. A vigil for the victims, an awakening for the survivors. His opera *Wake* (Vigil) has turned out to be a spiritual journey straight through physical and musical time. A comprehensive opera in which de Vries embraces emotions, looks for silence and works unscrupulously eclectically. Klaas de Vries was commissioned to write *Wake* by the National Travel Opera and the town council of Enschede for the tenth anniversary of the Enschede fireworks disaster. For quite a while de Vries wondered whether such an emotionally charged topic was suitable for a full evening music theatre work. Until he came across *Cloud Atlas* by the popular writer David Mitchell..

[Read more>>](#)

Wake by Klaas de Vries and David Mitchell

More information: www.nationalereisopera.nl



HENK NEVEN IS AWARDED THE DUTCH MUSIC PRIZE 2010

For some years baritone Henk Neven has been building up a remarkable international career. Halfway through October he will receive the Dutch Music Prize. A very special prize as, in order for it to be awarded, musicians are followed - and supported - for years!

Neven is really thrilled with the Dutch Music Prize, and not only because of the famous decoration that comes with it. Neven: "The real prize is that in the preceding years you receive financial support. This enabled me to work on my own voice with Robert Holl and Simon Keenlyside. You can go abroad with a pianist to accompany you, which would normally be too expensive."

[Read more>>](#)



Henk Neven
Photo: Marco Borggreve

■ DUTCH COMPOSERS AT THE HOLLAND FESTIVAL 2010

Unlike last year, when the 70th birthday of Louis Andriessen formed an unavoidable centripetal force, Dutch composers play a comparatively small role at the Holland Festival 2010 - though certainly not an insignificant one. One of the main programmes, the performance of all of Beethoven's symphonies by Jos van Immerseel and Anima Eterna, starts with a remarkable new work by Martijn Padding. Padding (1956), who enters into dialogue with music from the past in nearly all his works, has written an overture based on the score and orchestration of Beethoven's *Prometheus Overture*.

[Read more>>](#)

Holland Festival: June 1-23th, 2010

More information: www.hollandfestival.nl



■ LAVINIA MEIJER'S 'LUCK'

Luck. That is what it may look like. Suddenly Lavinia Meijer is receiving a lot of attention and praising reviews for her latest CD *Visions* (CCS SA 29709) with exciting works by Britten, Patterson, Byrnes, Yun and Takemitsu.

But it's not luck at all. At the bottom of this turn of events, which really started when Meijer was awarded the Dutch Music Prize last year, lie years of committed work and investment. "At the beginning of my study I was very much busy perfecting myself," says Meijer. "Until I discovered that the general audience was not really familiar with the harp as a solo instrument. [Read more>>](#)



Lavinia Meijer
Photo: Marco Borggreve

■ MUSIC CENTER THE NETHERLANDS: CONTEMPORARY DUTCH MUSIC ABROAD

This year Music Centre The Netherlands (MCN) is involved in developing and realising a number of projects abroad. [Read more](#)



about Dutch projects in Germany (RUHR), South Africa
(Interactions SA-NL) and China on the occasion of the World
Exposition in Shanghai. [Read more>>](#)

NEWS

Operation Musical Theatre May 28th, 2010

3 debates on the future of this genre

Het Performing Arts Funds NL, Theatre Institute Nederland (TIN) and Music Center the Netherlands (MCN) are collaborating in the organisation of a debate series dealing with the future of the musical theatre genre.

Following a first well attended debate (6 November 2009, Utrecht) the second edition (20 January 2010, The Hague) focused on improved sales and distribution of musical theatre. The third debate (28 May, Rotterdam) will deal with the artistic developments in this genre.

Make a note in your diary; the third and last debate 'Operatie Muziektheater' is on Friday 28 May 2010, from 14.30 - 17.00 during the Opera Days Rotterdam (in het Nieuwe Luxor). The debate will be in English as some 150 members of the Opera Europa network will be participating.

This debate series 'Operatie Muziektheater' is free to the public. Those interested in Dutch musical theatre are more than welcome and may register by e-mail via a.simeone@fondspodiumkunsten.nl.

Hans Kox turns eighty, May 19 Concert May 30th, 2010

This month Dutch composer Hans Kox will turn 80 and it is as if we have never been without him. The Concertgebouw Orchestra conducted by Eduard van Beinum introduced him to the Dutch music world in 1956 with his *Concertante Muziek* for horn, trumpet, trombone and orchestra. Ever since his incredible music production, which already comprises over 200 works, has guaranteed a continuous stream of performances of his chamber music, oratorios, symphonies and concerts. In the 1970s and 80s the interest in the reputedly traditionalist Kox temporarily waned, but in the last decade he has made a comeback. Once labelled a romantic composer, it is now becoming clear that he is more modern than well-meaning and malicious music reformers used to think, judging by his fiery, virtuoso energetic *Second Piano Concerto* (2009) which was premiered in the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam on 15 April. On 30 May organist Ere Lievonen will play Kox' 31-tone works *Larghetto*, *Epigrammen* (Epigrams), *Passacaglia en Koraal* (Passacaglia and Chorale) on the Fokker concert organ. At the Holland Festival 2012 there will at last be a concert performance of the full evening opera *Das grüne Gesicht*, which has never been performed yet since its completion in 1991.

Concert information:

www.huygens-fokker.org and www.muziekgebouw.nl



Toonzetters announces Ten Best Works

Toonzetters – August 28 & 29, 2010



During Toonzetters the best new Dutch composed works from the previous year can be heard. The aim of Toonzetters is to show the public the talent and rich variety in Dutch contemporary music. On the final night the jury will choose the winner of Toonzetters 2008. The winning composer will receive € 10.000.

The following works are selected:

[Read more>>](#)

Made in Holland: Showcase Programme Early Music

September 1st, 2010

The Early Music Festival in Utrecht is the world's largest of its kind. It has a very international programme, but quality does not need to come from far. On the afternoon of Wednesday 1 September Music Centre The Netherlands presents a showcase programme promoting Dutch early music ensembles at the Early Music Festival especially for programme directors, agents and other music professionals.

[Read more>>](#)

Gaudeamus Muziekweek

September 6-12th, 2010

With a wealth of new and recent music from the Netherlands:

- Reza Namavar - new work for 2 ensembles: Lucillin and Amstel Quartet
- Christiaan Richter - iMages, played by ereprijs
- Natalia Dominguez Rangel* - new work for the Nieuw Ensemble (*winner of the Tera de Marez Oyens Prijs 2009)
- Willem Breuker – new work for Ensemble Gending

Moreover numerous other new and recent work by young composers from around the globe will be performed.

[Read more>>](#)

www.musicweek.nl

Classical Music Day 2010

October 11th, 2010

The Classical Music Day (Dag van de Klassieke Muziek) is the annual information and meeting day for Dutch classical music professionals, with a large number of concert presentations in showcases and an open stage, a vast information market, workshops and information.

When: Monday October 11, 2010
Location: Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ and Bimhuis in Amsterdam

Programm and video clip: www.mcn.nl/dvdkm10.
(only available in Dutch)

organisatie
oudemuziek



DAG VAN DE
KLASSIEKE
MUZIEK

You can also send an e-mail to Leo Dijsselbloem (project manager Chamber Music Day): l.dijsselbloem@mcn.nl

SELECTION OF THE LATEST PUBLICATIONS

Scores

Klas Torstensson
Violin Concerto
violin and large ensemble
[PDF of the first page](#)

Joey Roukens –
Out of Control
orchestra
[PDF of the first page](#)

Special Edition (CD included)
Wolfgang Wijdeveld
Piano Sonatas
piano
[PDF of the first page](#)

For other scores [read more >>](#)

To order go to: www.mcn.nl/webshop.

CD's

Tristan Keuris

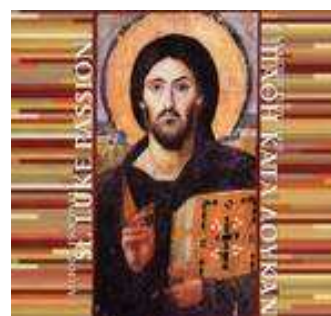
An 11-CD box containing the complete works of Tristan Keuris has come out on QuattroLive, the label of Radio 4. The box includes a substantial 150-page booklet with programme notes by Leo Samama and beautiful photos by Friso Keuris. With the set comes a bonus DVD of the film *To Brooklyn Bridge* by Fred van Dijk (1994), made for the Dutch public broadcaster VPRO. The oldest recording, dating from 1969, is a live recording of *Quartet* by the Utrecht Symphony Orchestra conducted by Paul Hupperts in the Doelen in Rotterdam. The most recent recording is of the *Five Pieces* for brass quintet by members of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra in Zeist, 3 October 2009.

* QuattroLive QL2009-02



Calliope Tsoupaki

Edzard Mik suggested writing a passion to Tsoupaki. But it needed to strike a chord before she could start composing it. Luke originally wrote his gospel for a Greek audience. As Tsoupaki is of Greek origin this appealed to her. And so did the fact that the passion is about love, life and ecstasy, the composer said in an interview with Frenk van der Linden (on the TV station Het Gesprek in the programme De Artiestenfoyer, 24 February 2010). According to van der Linden, the *St Luke Passion* is serene and lyrical, and therefore deeply moving and transcending time. A montage of the rehearsals and premiere during the Holland Festival 2008 has now come out on CD, with the exception of one



movement ('Threnos') which did not stand the test of criticism. The musicians are the tenor Marcel Beekman, precantor Ioannis Arvanitis and his choir, Raneen Hanna, members of the Egidius Quartet, and the Nieuw Ensemble augmented by some players of non-Western instruments who seamlessly fit in. The conductor is Ed Spanjaard.

* Et'cetera KTC 1042

To You

To You is the title of violinist Susanne van Els' latest CD that has been brought out by Et'cetera. She has now abandoned her instrument in order to take up the position of Coordinator of Classical Music at the Conservatory of The Hague.

This CD includes three works for viola and ensemble written especially for her and the solo piece *Faithful* by Jan van Vlijmen, originally written for Nobuko Imai, but in an entirely different interpretation. As van Els says herself in the accompanying booklet, more spoken or rhetorical rather than singing.

In *To Hell!* by Mayke Nas her playing sounds 'angular, panting and restless', says Anthony Fiumara in the daily *Trouw* (20 March 2010). And in *Meme* by Willem Jeths her sound blends and at the same time contrasts with the ensemble – and with the sound of Nobuko Imai. Finally, in *Schreeuwuijl* (Screech Owl) by Reza Namavar the music really swings.

With the Schönberg Ensemble conducted by Reinbert de Leeuw and Bas Wiegers.

* Et'cetera KTC 1397



Johan Wagenaar

De Northwest German Philharmonic Orchestra under the Dutch conductor Antony Hermus has recorded a CD with works by Johan Wagenaar. Although it begins with the overture *De getemde feeks* (for Shakespeare's play *The Taming of the Shrew*), the CD is titled *Symphonic Poems*. It also includes *Saul en David*. According to Jaap van Benthem, author of the accompanying booklet, this is 'one of the most important symphonic poems from the beginning of the 20th century.'

* CPO 777 479-2

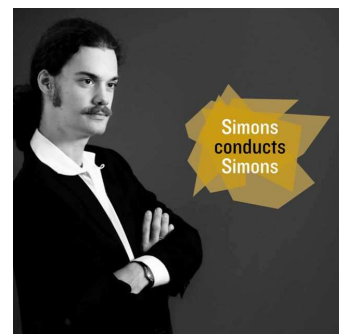


Marijn Simons

A new CD has come out on which composer and violinist Marijn Simons conducts the Simons Ensemble in arrangements of his own work. These arrangements give the works a new dimension.

The CD features three works that are all in one way or another about the phenomenon sound: *The Legend of Kwahkaazuh* (phonetic for 'coacaza', Rumanian for bilberries), *Bas Continues* (a word play on the term 'basso continuo') and *Five*, originally music for a CD for Gotra Ballet.

Quintone



Wolfgang Wijdeveld

In 2010 the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Dutch composer Wolfgang Wijdeveld is being celebrated. To mark this occasion, a new CD was presented in the Bethaniënklooster in Amsterdam on 9 May.

Wolfgang Wijdeveld (1910-1985) was the son of architect and graphic designer Hendrik Wijdeveld and cellist Ellen Kohn. He studied piano with Willem Andriessen, music theory with Sem Dresden and composition with Willem Pijper.

In his book *Hoor en wederhoor* (Hearing Both Sides) Dutch journalist and TV presenter Paul Witteman has written a fine portrait of him. On listening to the CD *Wolfgang Wijdeveld speelt eigen werk* (Wolfgang Wijdeveld Plays his Own Work, brought out by Nota Bene) he wrote: 'The music is sober but optimistic, it cheers you up. Not quite modern, but no longer late Romantic. They are small, worthwhile compositions.' The chamber works on this CD are performed by, among others, the soprano Julia Bronkhorst and the only surviving pupil of Wijdeveld, pianist Ton Hartsuiker.

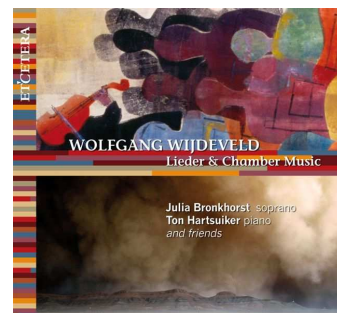
* Et'cetera KTC 1417

These CDs are available for purchase (or can be ordered) in music shops near you, or via the websites of the labels.

■ Websites

Recently MCN offers composers the possibility of creating a personal website.

An example of the latest websites realized by MCN is:
www.wolfgangwijdeveld.com



Wolfgang Wijdeveld

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