

CoMA Maastricht

CoMA Maastricht stands for Contemporary Music for Amateurs. While nowadays many people are naturally engaged in contemporary literature, theatre and visual arts, this does not appear to be the case where contemporary music is involved.

CoMA aims to inspire amateur musicians to participate more frequently in playing and singing contemporary music and to attend concerts. What better way to achieve this than by giving amateur musicians the opportunity to experience the excitement and pleasure of taking part in a broad selection of contemporary music activities?

On the 5th and the 6th of November 2011, CoMA Maastricht organises a Contemporary Music for Amateurs Ensemble Playing Weekend, with workshops, master classes, improvisation sessions and a debate on the theme of contemporary music for amateurs. CoMA has also instigated a composing competition. Composers were asked to write a work for amateurs on the theme 'Let's celebrate our future'. May 15th was the closing date and at this moment the jury is out on choosing three finalists.

We invite you to take a look at the programme of the Ensemble Playing Weekend and we hope that your enthusiasm and curiosity has been aroused and that you will register. CoMAMaastricht looks forward to give you a warm welcome.

CoMA Maastricht

CoMAMaastricht

Wind Ensemble RAAK took the initiative to organise a Contemporary Music for Amateurs Ensemble Playing Weekend. For this purpose CoMAMaastricht has been established, inspired by and in close contact with CoMA UK. CoMAMaastricht stands for Contemporary Music for Amateurs and wants to engage and enthuse amateur musicians as well as interested professionals, like performing musicians, music teachers, conductors and policy makers.

Background of the initiative

Blazersensemble RAAK – www.blazersensembleraak.nl

Wind Ensemble RAAK was founded in 1992 by four advanced amateur wind players from a symphony orchestra, who were looking for a more challenging musical environment and especially wanted to play contemporary music more often. Although RAAK focuses mainly on repertoire from the 20th and 21st century, the ensemble covers several hundreds of years of music for winds.

CoMA UK – www.coma.org

CoMA UK (Contemporary Music making by Amateurs) exists since 1993. CoMA is committed to promoting contemporary music among amateur musicians. This is being done by commissioning young, but also well-known composers. The result is a database of more than one thousand works for amateurs, from beginners to advanced level. CoMA UK also supports regional (chamber music) ensembles, that focus on playing contemporary repertoire. Furthermore, CoMA organises several times a year playing events for amateur musicians, often centred around a contemporary composer. Finally, they coach music teachers how to deal with amateur musicians and contemporary music.

Aims of CoMAMaastricht

1. To let amateur musicians of all ages and levels experience the excitement and pleasure of playing contemporary music.
2. Stimulating awareness of the opportunities to engage amateur musicians in contemporary music.
3. Bringing amateur musicians and professionals together in order to stimulate amateurs to play contemporary music.
4. Creating a basis for a national organisation, that can elaborate future initiatives in the field of amateurs and contemporary music (see CoMA UK).
5. Achieve an exchange between composers, musicians and education staff from the UK and the Netherlands, in cooperation with CoMA UK.

Contemporary Music

Often will be spoken of contemporary 'classical' music in order to differentiate the term contemporary music from light, pop or jazz music. Contemporary music is innovative in terms of timbre, harmony, rhythm, notation and often orchestration. This innovation started at the beginning of the 20th century with Stravinsky's *Sacre du Printemps*.

Organisational structure

Foundation

Board members:

Anne Marie Muysken-du Saar – chairman

Annemie Hermans – secretary

Hans Cuypers – treasurer

Leo Samama – (jury) member

Advisory board:

Jaap van Royen - Bureau Amateurkunsten

Annemarie Hermans - Kumulus

Alex Schillings - Kunstfactor

Leonie Curvers - Orlando Festival
Harrie Reumkens - WMC
Bart van Dongen - Intro in situ
Anne Marie Muysken-du Saar - Blazersensemble RAAK
Maud Douwes - Projecten & Producties
Solange Paulissen - Stagiaire Universiteit Maastricht

Board of Recommendation

Bernard van Beurden - composer
Ruud van Eeten – composer, chairman FASO
Harrie van den Elsen - headmaster Conservatorium Maastricht
Stefan Metz - artistic manager Orlando Festival
Ton de Rooij – managing director Kunstfactor
Ed Spanjaard - conductor
Guido Wevers - artistic manager VIA 2018

Contact details

Stichting CoMA Maastricht (Contemporaine Muziek voor Amateurs Maastricht)
Maud Douwes - Projectcoördinator: (+31 - 06) 12 40 12 30
vraag@mauddouwes.nl

Visiting address

Kumulus Muziekschool
St. Maartenspoort 2
6221 BA Maastricht
tel: (+31 - 043) 350 56 69
fax: (+31 - 043) 350 56 50

Programme

Friday the 4th of November 2011

Time	Activity	Location
20.30 uur	Concert in cooperation with GeNeCo (Dutch Society of Composers), organised by Intro in situ	St.Janskerk

Saturday the 5th of November 2011

Time	Activity	Location
10.00 h	Reception all participants with coffee and 'vlaai'	Foyer Kumulus
10.30 h	Official welcome with explanation of CoMAMaastricht's mission (chairman CoMAMaastricht)	Henri Hermans Zaal Kumulus
10.45-12.30h	*Start allcomers event: during this event the work <i>Dark Sun-August 1945</i> , written by the American-English composer Stephen Montague, will be rehearsed. The composer himself will lead this event.	Henri Hermans Zaal Kumulus
	*Workshop for professional and interested amateurs : "How to deal with amateurs and contemporary music" by the conductor of the CoMALondon Ensemble, Gregory Rose, and CoMA Director Chris Shurety	classroom Kumulus
12.30 h	Lunch break	Foyer Kumulus
13.30-15.30 h	*Four ensembles, chosen by CoMAMaastricht, will work on the four compositions selected for the final of the composition competition (in the presence of the composer and a teacher)	classroom Kumulus
	*Ensembles and choirs that rehearsed a work in advance, will get a master class by a specialised teacher, if possible in the presence of the composer	
	*Individual musicians and singers work with a teacher and, if possible, the composer in an ad hoc-ensemble or can listen in at master classes	
15.30-16.00 h	Break	
16.00-17.30 h	*Allcomers event rehearsal <i>Dark Sun=August 1945</i>	classroom Kumulus
	*Workshop for professionals and interested amateurs : "How to compose for amateurs" by the English composer Michael Finnissy, with contributions from conductor/composer Gregory Rose and composer/member CoMA London Ensemble Paul Burnell	Henri Hermans Zaal Kumulus
17.00-18.00 h	Continuation masterclass for ensembles and choirs (till 17.00h allcomers event)	classroom Kumulus
18.30-24.00 h	Dinner and get together	Groote Sociëteit
20.30-21.30 h	Concerts by some of the participating amateur ensembles, teachers ensembles (among others Ives Ensemble), the CoMALondon Ensemble	St.Janskerk

Sunday the 6th of November 2011

Time	Activity	Location
10.30 h	Reception participants of the debate and all musicians	Conservatorium
	The debate	
11.00 h	Welcome	Conservatorium
11.05-12.30 h	Debate with keynote speakers, interviews and interactive panel discussion	
12.30-13.30 h	Lunch	
13.30- 14.30 h	Continuation of the debate, with at the end a focus on what we will try to achieve within the next year and who is going to do what (what will be the next step after CoMAMaastricht?). Setting up a list of priorities and agreements.	
14.30-15.00h	Walk to the St. Janskerk	
	The musicians	
11.00-12.30 h	Improvisation workshops for those musicians who don't want to participate in the debate	Conservatorium
12.30-13.30 h	Lunch	
12.00-13.00 h	Dress rehearsal for the four ensembles of the composition competition (15 min. each)	St. Janskerk
13.00-13.30 h	Preparation of church for <i>Dark Sun</i>	
13.30-14.30 h	Dress rehearsal <i>Dark Sun</i>	
14.30	Church open for the audience	
	Final Concert	
15.00 h	Performance of the four compositions selected for the final of the composition competition	St. Janskerk
15.45 h	Musical 'surprise' (during meeting of the jury)	
16.15 h	Announcement of the winner of the composition competition and official ending of the weekend by the chairman	
16.25 h	Concert allcomers event composition <i>Dark Sun-August 1945</i>	
16.50 h	End of the weekend	

Detailed outline

Allcomers event

During the allcomers event all participants of the weekend will jointly rehearse a contemporary music composition.

Characteristic elements of the allcomers event are:

- all musicians and singers, from grade 3 (Dutch grade A) till professional, can join in
- the work has especially been composed for this purpose and has an open score orchestration, meaning that it can be performed by a large diversity of instruments (standard and non-standard) and singing voices
- the total of participants can vary from fifty till two hundred and fifty
- everybody sight-reads

The American-English composer Stephen Montague wrote the work *Dark Sun-August 1945*, commissioned by CoMA UK. It is a large scale, dramatic orchestral/choral work, inspired by the atomic attack on Hiroshima. The composer successfully rehearsed and performed his work with amateurs in England and we are very proud he is coming to Maastricht during the CoMA weekend.

Important notice! If you register for the allcomers event, we expect you to be present at all the rehearsals and of course during the concert on Sunday afternoon.

An exception will be made for members of ensembles/choirs who follow a master class.

They will leave the second rehearsal after one hour to continue their masterclass.

Master class

The master classes are meant to be for ensembles and choirs that rehearsed a (part of a) work in advance. On Saturday they will be coached during two sessions by a teacher, specialised in contemporary music. If possible, the composer will also be present.

CoMAMaastricht can help you to find suitable repertoire.

Beware that the second session starts during the last half hour of the allcomers rehearsal. This means that master class musicians and singers will leave the allcomers rehearsal after one hour.

Those ensembles and choirs who would like to have an extra lesson on Sunday (during the improvisation workshops) can contact the organisation during the weekend to see what possibilities there are.

Workshop

Musicians and singers who register individually, will join an ad-hoc ensemble of utmost six persons. These ensembles will work on a contemporary work, also coached by an experienced teacher. The workshops will give you an adventurous experience into the world of contemporary music. You can discover new rhythms, unknown sounds and unusual musical notation as well as crossovers to other music styles like jazz and pop.

Workshops for professionals

Since the foundation in 1993 CoMA UK has established a thorough cooperation with well-known English composers and teachers. CoMAMaastricht is very honoured that Michael

Finnissy and Paul Burnell, and Gregory Rose and Chris Shurety are willing to share their experience with amateurs and contemporary music with us.

For conductors, teachers and interested amateurs:

'How to deal with amateurs and contemporary music: the UK experience', by Gregory Rose and Chris Shurety.

Except from being a composer and teacher, Gregory Rose is the conductor of the CoMA London Ensemble, which consists of amateur musicians and focuses on performing contemporary music. In that position he gained a lot of experience in working with amateurs and contemporary music. It is well-known that working with amateurs requires specific skills. But, if you also want to stimulate amateurs to play contemporary music, there is more to know and show. Gregory Rose likes to show you the way how to achieve this. Chris Shurety, Director of CoMA UK, will tell you about his experiences so far.

For composers and interested amateurs:

'How to compose for amateurs', by Michael Finnissy and Paul Burnell

Michael Finnissy, known in Maastricht from his contribution to the festival Musica Sacra, composed several works for amateurs (mainly commissioned by CoMA UK). Maybe not every composer is aware of the fact that you need specific skills, when composing for amateurs. The experience within CoMA UK shows clearly that this is the case. Michael Finnissy will introduce you into 'the art of composing for amateurs'. Paul Burnell will tell his side of the story, being a composer as well as a member of the CoMA London Ensemble.

Improvisation workshops

Many of the classical educated musicians find it difficult to play without written music on their music stand. In contemporary music though, the musician is often given the freedom to improvise within certain frames. To increase your self-confidence in making music without written musical notes in front of you, we have programmed improvisation workshops as well. Three very experienced musicians, Bart van Dongen, Bart Maris and Esmeé Olthuis, are going to help you to discover your, yet unknown, improvisation talents.

Registration

Please, read the registration procedure carefully before filling in the registration form. **You can register online through the registration form on the Dutch web page** (English translation below).

Registration form

Friday the 4th of November

Will attend the GeNeCO concert

Saturday the 5th of November 2011

- Workshop Gregory Rose (aiming at teachers and conductors)
- Master class for ensembles and choirs that have rehearsed a work in advance
- Workshop for individual musicians and singers
- Workshop Michael Finnissy (aiming at composers)
- Allcomers event

Sunday the 6th of November 2011

- Debate
- Improvisation workshop

My data are as follows:

Opening: Mr./ Mrs. (delete as applicable)

Surname:

First name(s):

Date of birth:

(dd-mm-yyyy)

Street name:

House number: Addition:

Zip code:

Place of Residence:

Telephone:

Telephone (mobile):

Email:

Musical data: - **Amateur musician**

Instrument:

.....
Level (select)

Registers with ensemble:

.....

Other instruments ensemble:

- Is willing to give a short performance with the ensemble on Saturday or Sunday.

- **Amateur singer**

Singing voice:

.....

Level (select)

Member of choir:

.....

Register with choir:

.....

Constitution of the choir:

.....

- Is willing to give a short performance with the choir on Saturday or Sunday

- **Professional**

Working as:

.....

When participating in the Allcomers Event name instrument/
singing voice

Support:

- Would like support by CoMA Maastricht in finding suitable contemporary music (you will be contacted by CoMA)

Special requirements:

.....

(e.g. allergy, disease, diet)

Registration procedure

CoMAMaastricht

The Ensemble Playing Weekend takes place from Friday night November 4th till Sunday afternoon November 6th. Click on the button *Program* for more information about the activities during this weekend. Click on the button *Fees* to see the participation fees. The button *Practical Information* provides more information on the locations.

Registration

You can register through the online *Registration form* on the Dutch page of our website. You can always ask for information or assistance through info@comamaastricht.nl.

Payment registration

Once you have received a written confirmation, you should transfer the total amount to the account of Stichting CoMAMaastricht, indicating the name of the participant.

Account number: 15 76 05 892 of Rabobank Maastricht

IBAN: NL03RABO0157605892

BIC: RABONL2U

In case of cancellation, the following refund scheme will apply:

- till 8 weeks before the weekend: total refund of the registration fee
- between 8 weeks and 10 days before the weekend: refund of 50% of the fee
- between 10 days and 48 hours before the weekend: refund of 25% of the fee
- less than 48 hours before the weekend: NO refund

In all cases of cancellation CoMA will deduct € 15 to cover administrative costs.

(Tip: take out a cancellation insurance)

Fees

Participation fees for the Contemporary Music for Amateurs Ensemble Playing Weekend are as follows:

Weekend fee: € 50 for adults and € 20 for youths and students, including concert on Friday night, allcomers event, workshop(s) and concert on Saturday, debate or improvisation workshop and concert on Sunday, all food and drinks.

Only Allcomers event (2 rehearsals on Saturday and 1 on Sunday and concert) € 5**

Only workshop or masterclass on Saturday (13.30 – 15.30h) for individual musicians/singers or ensembles/choirs: € 10**

Workshop for professionals or interested amateurs on Saturday: € 10 per workshop **

Improvisation workshop on Sunday: € 10**

Sunday: € 20 for adults and € 7,50 for youths and students, including lunch and concert.

If you register only for one of these lunch/dinner is not included. **The concert on Saturday evening is free for everyone! Tickets for the concerts on Friday evening and Sunday afternoon are available through the Uitbalie from the Theater aan het Vrijthof.

Note: fees do not include accommodation.

Composition Competition

As part of the Ensemble Playing Weekend a composition competition has taken place during the first months of 2011, for the purpose of challenging composers to write music for amateurs and thus broadening their sphere of activities. A professional jury has selected four works from all entries submitted, to be performed on Sunday the 6th of November by four amateur ensembles. Subsequently, the jury will declare a prizewinner. The winner of the composing competition will be awarded the amount of 2500 euro. The finalists who are awarded second and third place in the competition will receive prizes of 750 and 250 euro respectively. As the prize-winning work will tour throughout the Euregion, this will enhance the reputation of the composer.

Jury members:

Leo Samama, composer/musicologist – Chairman of the jury

Gregory Rose, composer/conductor, conductor of the CoMA London Ensemble (amateurs)
(www.gregoryrose.org)

Manfred Trojahn, composer Düsseldorf/Paris

Wim Henderickx, composer and teacher at the conservatoires of Antwerp and Amsterdam

Micha Hamel, composer/conductor

VIA2018 is the organisation under Guido Wevers's artistic direction that is compiling the bid book supporting the candidacy of Maastricht and the Euregion* as Cultural Capital of Europe 2018. It has indicated its full support for CoMAMAastricht's initiative to hold a composing competition and wishes to include the prize-winning work in the cultural programme that it is hoped will culminate in Maastricht's selection as Cultural Capital in 2014. Until 2014 the programme expressing the unique cultural traits and cultural legacy of Maastricht and the Euregion will tour throughout the region. In the event that Maastricht is indeed selected, the composition will also continue to enjoy prominent exposure after 2014. The section under the criteria and conditions entitled 'Competition theme' provides a more detailed description of what the expression of the unique cultural traits and cultural legacy of Maastricht and the Euregion embodies.

* The Euregion encompasses South Limburg with the cities of Heerlen and Sittard-Geleen, the city of Aachen and its surroundings and the area of Belgium extending from the German border via Eupen and Liège to Hasselt.

The four selected compositions are:

- *Reflections in a breaking glass door.....* - Rick van Veldhuizen
a yearn towards Europe
wind ensemble, double bass, piano and percussion
- *Partita* - Peter Greve
double wind quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn)
and double bass, contra bassoon or tuba

- *Fleurs de cerisiers, kersenbloesem* - Mathieu Daniel Polak
windquintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn)

- *Rural geometry and industrial mysticism* - Wilma Pistorius
mixed sextet (clarinet, altsax, violin, cello, guitar, piano)

Debate

Debate

The debate will focus on the theme of contemporary music for amateurs. It aims to launch a dialogue between amateurs and professionals, who are interested in contemporary music. The debate provides the ability to visualize each other's expectations and convert them into action. Think, for example, of the founding of a national organisation (like CoMA UK) which can, in the nearby future, develop initiatives like commissioning for amateurs of all levels, creating a database/ library of contemporary work for amateurs, setting up contemporary music ensembles for amateurs in different regions in the Netherlands and initiating further training of teachers. Leo Samama will be the moderator of the debate.

Target groups for the debate

- amateur musicians
- composers
- composition teachers and students of music academies
- music teachers (music schools, primary and secondary schools, private teachers)
- policy makers (Kunstfactor, Fonds voor de Podiumkunsten, Fonds voor Cultuurparticipatie, Muziek Centrum Nederland, Donemus, St. Kunstbalie as administrator of the Unisono archive etc.)
- conductors of (amateur) orchestra's and ensembles
- music publishers

Possible themes for the debate

- will there be any support to establish an organisation like CoMA UK in the Netherlands and if so, how and by whom should this be done?
- how to promote contemporary music among both the amateur musicians as well as the audience?
- how to motivate composers to compose for amateur musicians?
- how to create opportunities for amateur musicians and composers to meet each other?
- in which way should/could these initiatives be financed?

Concerts

Friday evening the 4th of November 2011:

- Concert Intro in situ, celebrating the 100th anniversary of GeNeCo (Association of Dutch Composers)
Time: 20.30 h
Location: St. Janskerk in Maastricht

Christiaan Janssen *Three pieces for oboe, violin, cello and piano*
Meesterkwartet

Avi Schönfeld *Three pieces for piano*
Jing Ling, piano

John Slangen *New work*
Robert Weirauch *New work*
Simurg Ensemble (clarinet, cello, double bass,
piano)

Hans Kockelmans en *Einstein's jaarringen, a meeting between science and art*
Arno Dieteren
(duo composition)

Saturday evening the 5th of November 2011:

- Informal concert by participating ensembles, CoMA London and teachers ensemble(s), among others the Ives Ensemble
Time: 20.30 – 21.30 h
Location: St. Janskerk in Maastricht

Sunday afternoon the 6th of November 2011:

- Performance of the final top three compositions of the Composition.
Time: 15.00 – 16.00 h
Location: St. Janskerk in Maastricht
- Musical 'surprise'
Time: 15.45– 16.15 h
Location: St. Janskerk in Maastricht

- Announcement of the winners of the composition competition and official ending of the weekend by the chairman
Time: 16.15 – 16.25 h
Location: St. Janskerk in Maastricht
- Performance of the allcomers event work, *Dark Sun-August 1945* by Stephen Montague
Time: 16.25 – 17.50 h
Location: St. Janskerk in Maastricht

Teachers

Esther Apituley

At the age of twelve Esther Apituley started playing the violin and soon after the viola. She graduated with Misha Geller at the Sweelinck Conservatory of Amsterdam and followed lessons with Bruno Giuranna at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin. During the first years of her study Esther Apituley was also actively involved in light music as a singer and saxophone player. At this moment she teaches viola at the Conservatory of Amsterdam. She regularly performs as a soloist with national and international orchestras. Esther Apituley also founded the Amsterdam Viola Quartet, consisting of four violas, which performs successfully in the Netherlands and abroad.

www.apituley.nl

Rik Andriessen

Rik Andriessen studied flute with Peter van Munster at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. He also followed lessons with Barthold Kuyken and Frans Vester. He continued studying with Rien de Reede and Robert Aitken. Since 1983 he works most of the time as a freelance flutist in various Dutch orchestra's, but mainly in chamber music. He is employed by the Ives Ensemble since its foundation in 1986. He is also very active as a teacher.

Ludo Claesen

Ludo Claesen is a musician, teacher and conductor. He studied at the Lemmens Institute in Leuven and the Royal Flemish Conservatory in Antwerp, where he followed lessons in percussion, music theory, music education, composition, choral and orchestral conducting. Claesen is a popular guest conductor with orchestras and choirs in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Ukraine. On a permanent basis he conducts the Cathedral Choir Hasselt, Eupen Männer Quartet, Chamber Choir Maastricht, Leuven Concinite Capella and Pro Arte Eupen. As a composer, he received several awards. Some of his compositions are recorded on CD, most recently 'Claesen meets Claesen', spiritual choral music composed and conducted by Claesen in collaboration with the Chamber Choir Maastricht. Currently, Claesen teaches polyphony, orchestral playing and harmony at the Academy of Sciences and Arts - Lemmens Institute in Leuven - and choral conducting and choral singing at the Hogeschool Zuyd - Conservatorium Maastricht.

www.claesenlmmi.be

Bart van Dongen

Bart van Dongen is a composer, musician (piano) and conceptual artist. A constant factor in his work is the trinity of composition, improvisation and concept. So, the act on the spot is an important part of his work. Bart van Dongen is the initiator of various projects, all having one thing in common: a search for new music or at least new sounds. Van Dongen initiated and supervised several large scale projects for amateurs. At this moment he is the artistic director of Intro in situ, a sound laboratory in Maastricht.

www.bartvandongen.com

Ruud van Eeten

After studying music theory and conducting at the Brabant Conservatory in Tilburg, Ruud van Eeten continued his education at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague, where he studied orchestral conducting and acquired the title "Master of Music". In 2002 he won the Bernard Haitink Prize for conducting and in 2004 he received the "Anjer Muziek Prijs" for his composition 'Marianne'. He has been guest conductor with several Dutch and international orchestras. As a composer, Ruud van Eeten wrote for among others Ronald Brautigam, the Kryptos Quartet, the Limburg Symphony Orchestra, the Egidius Quartet and the Amstel Quartet. He also composed for FASO, the Federation of Amateur Symphony Orchestra's, of which he is now chairman. Since 2006, Ruud van Eeten is the artistic and business director of De Toonzaal in 's-Hertogenbosch.

www.ruudvaneeten.com

Michael Finnissy

Michael Finnissy studied composition at the Royal College of Music London with Bernard Stevens and Humphrey Searle, and piano with Edwin Benbow and Ian Lake. Afterwards, he studied in Italy with Roman Vlad.

Finnissy has been composer with many British dance companies and has taught at Dartington Summer School, Winchester College, the junior department of the Royal College of Music, Chelsea College of Art, and is guest lecturer at many colleges and universities. In 1999 he was made Professor of Composition at the University of Southampton.

Finnissy has been featured composer at many festivals and his works are broadcast worldwide. As a pianist he is particularly associated with the commissioning and performing of new British work. **In 2005 Michael Finnissy's *Molly-House*, a work written for CoMA, won a British Composer Award. Michael was Artistic Director for CoMA's Open Score Project 2005/6.**

www.michaelfinnissy.info

Job ter Haar

At the age of six Job ter Haar started taking cello lessons. He studied with René van Ast, Lidewey Scheifes and Anner Bijlsma at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. Still studying he performed already with the Ives Ensemble and until today he is the cellist of the ensemble. Next to performing contemporary music, he is very interested in historical instruments and the historic way of performing.

Ives Ensemble

The, in 1986 by pianist John Snijders founded, Ives Ensemble consists of a fixed pool of 13 musicians. The ensemble specialises in chamber music of the twentieth and twenty-first century. The Ives Ensemble commissioned several composers, e.g. John Cage, Aldo Clementi and Walter Zimmermann. The Ives Ensemble has performed at various (inter)national festivals, such as the Gaudeamus Music Week.

www.ives-ensemble.nl

Jussi Jaatinen

Jussi Jaatinen studied violin and music theory at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and continued his training in orchestral conducting at the Rotterdam Conservatory with Jurjen Hempel and Ernst van Tiel. He has performed contemporary work with many Dutch and international ensembles and orchestras. He also conducts several amateur ensembles. Recently, he started as conductor of the newly established Limburg Youth Symphony Orchestra Amikejo. As a conductor Jaatinen is connected to various conservatories in the Netherlands, including the Utrecht Conservatory. Here he also holds the position of conducting teacher since 2008.

www.jussijaatinen.com

Christiaan Janssen

Christiaan Janssen is a composer, orchestrator and conductor. He studied conducting with Pierre Kuijpers, organ with Dorthy de Rooij and conducting with Jan Stulen at the Conservatory of Maastricht. Janssen is regularly commissioned and makes arrangements for various, mostly chamber music, ensembles, but also for Wind Bands. In his compositions he tries to combine old and new styles. The character of his music is in general romantic. Until now he composed more than one hundred works.

www.janssenmusic.nl

Jos Kamp

Jos Kamp studied cello at the Maastricht Conservatory and with Janos Starker at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen (D). For many years he was a cellist in the Ensemble Musique Nouvelle in Liège, where he also taught at the Conservatoire Royal de Liège. Here he met and worked with composers such as Henri Pousseur, Iannis Xenakis, Pierre Bartholomé, Claude Ledoux and Patrick De Clerck. In 1988 he founded in collaboration with young composers and musicians from the region Ensemble '88. He is the artistic leader and cellist of the ensemble. He is also a cello teacher at the music school in Heerlen.

www.ensemble88.nl

Bart Maris

The Belgian trumpet player Bart Maris is a musician who does not walk along well-trodden paths. He performs as easily jazz as rock music. Being educated in light music he is very experienced in improvisation. Many times he has successfully supervised improvisation workshops for amateurs.

www.myspace.com/bartmaris

Stephen Montague

Stephen Montague grew up in the USA where he studied piano, conducting and composition. Since 1975 he has worked as a freelance composer based in London and touring worldwide. Although a long term UK resident, his compositional influences are transatlantic. His music has been widely performed, featuring in numerous international festivals. Major commissions have included a piano concerto for the BBC Proms, Hilliard Ensemble, works for pianist Stephen Kovacevich, percussionist Evelyn Glennie, the International Computer Music Association, and a 35 minute work for narrator and orchestra for the BT Celebration Series premiered by the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Centre, London with a further 14 performances around the country. As a pianist he has recorded and performed internationally.

Stephen was a founder of Sonic Arts Network, Chair of the Society for the Promotion of New Music (SPNM) and its Artistic Director 1998-99. He was Associate Composer with The Orchestra of St. Johns and Featured Composer for the City of Oxford. He composed several major works carried out by amateurs, for among others the Festival of Bath. One is the orchestral / choral work *Dark Sun-August 1945*, a commissioned composition of Contemporary Music Making for Amateurs (COMA) UK, that he will conduct himself during the Contemporary Music for Amateurs ensemble playing Weekend in Maastricht. He has received many honours and awards for composition in the UK and abroad. Montague

currently teaches composition and orchestration at Trinity College of Music and composition at the Royal Academy of Music, both in London.

Montague is also the chairman of the Repertory Committee COMA UK.

Esmée Olthuis

Esmée Olthuis studied light music (alto & soprano saxophone and blockflute) at the Amsterdam Conservatory and then followed the master Contemporary Music through non western techniques with Rafael Reina. As a musician she is always looking for the essence of music, the feel of the moment, the connection between different worlds of perception and her own musical potentials. As a composer Olthuis strives after the creation of clear and simple, yet concept-rich, material. In her compositions she leaves room for interpretation and improvisation and explores the playfulness and playability of more complex rhythms. Powerful melodies and lyricism play an important role in her work. As a teacher Olthuis is very interested in the person behind the instrument. Therefore, she emphasises in her workshops the development of a musician's individuality. Her teaching methods are: improvisation, the COBRA-method, basic techniques for jazz music and last but not least, everything music that I am involved in and inspired by at the moment.

www.esmeeolthuis.nl

Hans Petra

Hans Petra studied clarinet with Sjef Douwes and basclarinet with Tom Sieuwerts at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. He continued to specialise in chamber music in Amsterdam with George Pieterse. He holds the position of first clarinet in the symphony orchestra Holland Symfonia and is also a member of the Ives Ensemble.

Ralph van Raat

Ralph van Raat studied piano with Ton Hartsuiker en Willem Brons at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and musicology at Amsterdam University. He continued his piano studies with Claude Helffer in Paris, Ursula Oppens in Chicago (North Western University), Liisa Pohjola in Finland and Pierre Laurent Aimard in Cologne (Musikhochschule Köln). Van Raat won several international prizes. Various composers dedicated their work to him. He teaches contemporary piano music at the conservatories of Utrecht and Amsterdam.

www.ralphvanraat.com

Gregory Rose

As a child Gregory Rose studied violin, piano and singing. Later on he became a pupil of Hans Jelinek (Vienna) and Egon Wellesz (Oxford), both former pupils of Arnold Schoenberg, and of his father Bernard Rose. **Gregory Rose is Music director of CoMA London Ensemble since 1999.** He also conducts Jupiter Orchestra, Jupiter Singers, Singcircle and Trinity College of Music Contemporary Music Group, and appears as a guest conductor throughout Europe and East Asia. He has conducted over 300 premieres, has worked closely with many leading composers, including Cage, Stockhausen, Reich and Christian Wolff. Rose has appeared in festivals throughout Europe and made many recordings, including as conductor/arranger for Linda Ronstadt, Madness and Diana Ross. He is a professor of conducting at Trinity College

of Music. His own compositions include a large-scale music-theatre work, *Danse macabre*, which will be premiered in Tallinn, Estonia in Autumn 2011.

www.gregoryrose.org

Leonard Guillaume (Leo) Samama

Since 1975, Leo Samama has been involved in many areas of music like teaching, composing and in musicology. Samama studied musicology at Utrecht University from 1970 to 1977 and at the same time composition with Rudolf Escher. From 1977 till now he held very different positions, among others as a teacher, reviewer and artistic advisor. He also organised festivals and worked as a programmer. In 2003 he was appointed Music Director of the Dutch Chamber Choir and in 2004 general manager. In addition, Samama has written many books and articles on music related subjects. His most famous book is *Seventy years of Dutch music 1915-1985* (Amsterdam, 1986), which recently appeared in an expanded, corrected edition as *Dutch music from the 20th century* (Amsterdam, 2006).

As a composer Samama does not work along fixed lines. For him it is a process of improvising at the piano and thinking about the result. Samama's compositions have been performed at many occasions at home and abroad.

www.leosamama.nl

John Snijders

John Snijders studied piano with Geoffrey Madge, hammerklavier with Stanley Hoogland and composition with Louis Andriessen at the Royal Conservatory of The Hague. He performed as a soloist with national and international orchestra's and ensembles. He gave recitals and master classes in Chicago and Huddersfield and performed at various international festivals, such as Biennale Zagreb, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and the Holland Festival. Several composers dedicated their work to him, e.g. Christopher Fox, Richard Rijnvos, Rodney Sharman and Clarence Barlow. John Snijders is the founder and pianist of the Ives Ensemble.

Robert Weirauch

Robert Weirauch started as a mechanical engineering student in Aachen, but eventually turned into music. He studied piano with Tonie Ehlen and composition with John Slangen at the Maastricht Conservatory. As a pianist he is mainly involved in chamber music, especially with his own ensembles Quattuor Attaque, Simurg and the Mattie Niël Consort. He composed no less than sixty works, several of them for amateurs.

www.robert-weirauch.com

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