



Singer Anneke van Giersbergen (NL) receives Buma ROCKS! Export Award 2019

The internationally renowned Dutch singer **Anneke van Giersbergen**, who is celebrating her 25th anniversary this year, will be awarded the Buma ROCKS! Export Award 2019. Buma Cultuur director **Frank Helmink** will be presenting her with the award during the FortaRock festival in Goffertpark in Nijmegen on Saturday 1 June. It is the sixth time that Buma Cultuur is presenting the Award. On previous occasions, it has been awarded to **Floor Jansen** (2018), **Textures** (2017), **Within Temptation** (2016), **EPICA** (2015), and **Adje Vandenberg** (2014).

Frank Helmink: “Anneke is a household name in the rock and metal world. With The Gathering, she combined metal with progressive rock melodies. The 1995 album ‘Mandylion’ is considered a genre classic. With this album, Van Giersbergen laid the foundations for *female-fronted metal*, which continues to be replicated around the world today. As a solo artist as well as with her guest appearances, she has managed to garner a loyal audience, spanning from the heart of Brabant all the way to North and South America. Add to this her distinctive voice and performance, and it is clear that the Buma ROCKS! Export Award 2019 should not be going to anyone else but her.”

Anneke van Giersbergen: “I’m not one for looking back, usually, but a successful career of 25 years is definitely reason for celebration. My motivation has never been recognition, but rather my passion for singing and music, so I’m quite surprised and deeply honoured to be receiving this award.”

Anneke van Giersbergen

Anneke became known as singer of The Gathering in the mid-nineties, and is currently touring the world with metal band VUUR. She has been active as a solo artist since 2007, and she has made incredible guest contributions to many highly regarded rock and other musical productions. Anneke has been singing since childhood: in the school choir, in pop bands and, from 1994, in metal band The Gathering. Anneke's crystal clear voice and accessible melodies not only enrich the albums of the groups of which she is the front woman. She has made impressive contributions to recordings and performances by Devin Townsend, Anathema, Árstíðir, Within Temptation, Ayreon, Moonspell, John Wetton and even Napalm Death. The list is long, and that's not even including excursions to children's theatre and the Efteling sound tracks.

The progrock project that sees Anneke collaborating with Arjen “Ayreon” Lucassen under the name The Gentle Storm (2015) has become an international success, while she has also been unleashing

her raw side with metal band VUUR, established in 2016. As a solo artist, however, she prefers to take a folky, acoustic approach, as can be seen during her 40+ performances in the Netherlands in early 2019. Then, after a series of summer festivals, she is scheduled to perform in North America from September onwards.

Buma ROCKS! Export Award

The Buma ROCKS! Export Award is an initiative of (and is awarded by) the Buma Cultuur Foundation, which created the prize in 2014 as recognition and appreciation for Dutch artists or bands that have achieved great success abroad. The Award is the continuation of the Conamus Export Prize (1972-2005) and the Buma Export Prize (2006-2012), awarded to the most successful artists, music producers and authors in Dutch copyright abroad. The Buma ROCKS! Export Award particularly wants to emphasise the international reach of Dutch acts in the genres of (hard) rock, metal and punk.

Buma Cultuur

Buma Cultuur supports and promotes Dutch music copyright in the Netherlands, as well as in the most important Dutch music export markets. The principle aim is to increase the share on the Dutch market, while stimulating a higher income stream by making use of Dutch music copyright in foreign markets.

FortaRock

The two-day FortaRock festival takes place in the Goffertpark in Nijmegen on 1 and 2 June. Anyone with a weekend ticket or with a ticket for Saturday 1 June can attend the Buma ROCKS! Export Award.

Note for the editor; not for publication:

For more information about the Buma ROCKS! Export Award:
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[Photo credit Bart Heemskerk]