



PRESS RELEASE

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Contemporary classical from the Netherlands in the spotlight

Buma Classical Award 2024 to Corrie van Binsbergen, Buma Classical Lifetime Achievement Award to Theo Loevendie and Buma New Music Incentive handed to Elizabete Rudzinska

The Cultureel centrum Verkadefabriek in 's-Hertogenbosch today hosted the sixth edition of the New Music Conference, the annual 'return day' for professionals working in contemporary classical, jazz, world music and all manner of crossovers. In cooperation with the November Music festival, 160 visitors from home and abroad exchanged experiences about composing, concert practice, career development and creativity in general.

Speakers included composers Micha Hamel, Mathilde Wantenaar and Martin Fondse; programmers Joost Heijthuijsen (Muziekgebouw, Amsterdam), Masa Spaan (De Doelen, Rotterdam), Caroline Bakker (festival Dag in de Branding) and Marieke Hopman (November Music); and experts on film music Kathleen Wallfisch and career planning for do-it-yourselfers Matthew Whiteside.

A virtuoso musical interlude was provided by recent Dutch Music Prize winner Elisabeth Hetherington and pianist/composer Paolo Gorini. At the end of the afternoon, visitors were treated to a short performance by Composer Laureate of the Netherlands Anne-Maartje Lemereis and her protégé Lize Bastiaens, who, as the country's Children's Composer, signed the composition played.

Buma Classical Awards

No less than three awards were presented at the 2024 New Music Conference. The Buma Classical Award 2024, for the composer who has stood out in the cultural scene over the past two years, went to Corrie van Binsbergen (1957). Since the mid-1980s, she has conducted and composed for nine bands, including Corrie en de Brokken, programmed monthly musical encounters for ten years, founded her own festival and organised numerous writers' concerts and the annual BrokkenBal. She composes for orchestras and ensembles such as the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, the Metropole Orchestra, Asko Schönberg and Silbersee.

'The most difficult question has always been: what do you make music for?' says Van Binsbergen in an interview conducted for the occasion. She is as surprised by the Classical Award as she was when she won the Boy Edgar Prize, a prestigious jazz award, earlier in her career. 'I didn't see myself as the prototype of a jazz musician. I am just a musician. My music is a mixture of everything I like. The fact that she is now being honoured in the classical category is a fine endorsement. The direction I have taken now seems to be appreciated by more people.'

Buma Classical Lifetime Achievement Award

During New Music Conference, the Buma Classical Lifetime Achievement Award was presented for the first time to a Dutch composer who has left a significant mark on contemporary classical music: Theo Loevendie (1930).

He is not only a lifelong performer on saxophone and clarinet, but above all an unsurpassed composer of contemporary classical music, non-Western music and jazz. Throughout his long life, he has written operas, orchestral works and chamber music for both Western and Eastern instruments. Loevendie is regarded as a storyteller whose social commitment shines through in his works about war victims, freedom fighters and heroes standing up for a good cause. With ensembles under his own name and others he has co-founded, he has brought his own music and the music of many Dutch and international composers to a wide national and international audience. He has written for Isabelle van Keulen, Ronald Brautigam, Erik Bosgraaf and the Concertgebouw Orchestra, among others. He is also highly regarded by many in the field of jazz and improvised music. At the conservatories of The Hague, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, he was an inspiring teacher for many, allowing his composition students to go their own way in style and approach. He can rightly be called a Dutch gem; a deserving winner of the Buma Classical Lifetime Achievement Award.

'At Donemus, we know Theo Loevendie as a great and colourful composer. His genre-transcending works are musical jewels of our recent music history. His ability to interweave traditional and modern elements inspired new generations of composers to this day. Donemus is proud to cherish and permanently showcase many of his works.' – *Davo van Peursen, Managing Director, Donemus Publishing*

'Theo Loevendie has been a successful composer with our publishing house for more than 30 years and has become a dear friend. We thoroughly enjoy working with him.' – *Peermusic Hamburg*

Buma New Music Incentive

Seven composition students were nominated by their teachers at Dutch conservatoires for a

presentation at New Music Conference. In a cheerful and playful atmosphere, four women and three men briefly introduced themselves and their work to the audience and a professional jury. The best 'pitcher' was **Elizabete Rudzinska**, from Latvia and studying at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. She received the Buma New Music Incentive worth € 250.00.

New Music Conference is an initiative of BumaStemra, organised by Buma Cultuur in collaboration with November Music.

newmusicconference.nl

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For more information about New Music Conference and to request images: Mark van Schaick, mark.van.schaick@bumacultuur.nl, mobile: +31 (0)6 - 55 89 18 57

[Click here](#) for a photo of New Music Conference 2024

[Click here](#) for a photo of the award to Corrie van Binsbergen

[Click here](#) for a video of the award to Theo Loevendie

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