



Composer's Day turns the Netherlands into one big music station on and around Saturday, June 21, 2025

On and around Saturday, June 21, 2025, the fourth edition of Composer's Day will take place. Composer's Day transforms the Netherlands into one big music station. During this national festival, more than twenty participating cities will put their composers in the spotlight with a variety of activities, such as concerts, workshops, and lectures. City composers will create a new City Song for their city. The public can travel from station to station with the New Music NOW Express. Live performances will take place in the train's carriages and at the stations. Radio station NPO Klassiek and the online music platform newmusicnow.nl will devote plenty of attention to Dutch new music art. Composer's Day is an initiative of New Music NOW and is unique in Europe.

With Composer's Day, the Netherlands celebrates the importance, value, and joy of new music. Composers active here and now in our country deserve to be heard much more often. Therefore, the festival highlights them in all their versatility. They are visibly present and approachable to the public, giving workshops and lectures, curating programs, and offering a "peek into their world." And, of course, their music is heard. Not only in concert halls but also on the streets, at radio and train stations, and on the train itself. With Composer's Day, New Music NOW aims to spark nothing less than a movement because creation and curiosity belong at the heart of musical life.

Composer's Day takes place on and around Saturday, June 21, 2025, and consists of the following elements:

Multi-day program with over 200 composers in more than 20 cities

Numerous music organizations and composer collectives work together as the New Music NOW Network. They will collaborate with composers from their cities and neighborhoods, presenting more than 200 activities across 20+ cities. Participating cities include Amsterdam, Arnhem, Utrecht, Rotterdam, The Hague, Den Bosch, Eindhoven, Tilburg, Heerlen, Maastricht, Almere, Amersfoort, Zwolle, and Groningen. Network partners for Composer's Day include TivoliVredenburg, Concertgebouworkest, Amare, de Doelen, Musis & Stadstheater Arnhem, November Music, Gaudeamus, Intro in Situ Heerlen/Maastricht, De Link Tilburg, Orkest De Ereprijs, and many choirs, ensembles, music associations, conservatories, music schools, artist collectives, publishers, and producers.

New Music NOW Express

The specially chartered bright red music train, the New Music NOW Express, connects the national program and draws a trail of new music across the country. The train stops at five stations: Amsterdam, Arnhem, Utrecht, Rotterdam, The Hague, and returns to Utrecht. On

board, there will be plenty of live performances by emerging and renowned composers; the audience sits side by side with musicians and composers in the train carriages.

Newly appointed City Composers and Newly composed City Songs

In the five cities where the New Music NOW Express stops, special City Composers will be appointed. They will compose a new City Song that will premiere during the festive Station Concert, featuring choirs, ensembles, conservatories, and other organizations in each city. The specially appointed City Composers are: Kate Moore (Amsterdam), Andries van Rossem (Arnhem), Saskia Venegas (Rotterdam), Maxim Shalygin (The Hague), and Nawras Altaky (Utrecht).

Heerlen, Tilburg and Maastricht have a City Composer for two years: Angela de Weijer (Heerlen), Nicoline Soeter (Tilburg), and Hans Leenders (Maastricht).

Station Concerts on the New Music NOW Express Route

- On the longest day of the year, Amsterdam's City Composer Kate Moore and her Herz Ensemble will open with the sun song "Cantico del Sole" at 05:19 AM at sunrise. The concert will take place at Pension Homeland Amsterdam. After a shared breakfast, musicians and fans will walk together to Amsterdam Central Station for a morning Station Concert, featuring a new City Song by City Composer Kate Moore performed by the VU Chamber Choir, contemporary compositions by young composers played by the Maat Saxophone Quartet, and a performance by Fuensanta with Ben van Gelder. Afterward, the Amsterdam audience can join the New Music NOW Express or dive into the city's music program, where composer collectives like SplendorAmsterdam, Grond Bajesdorp, and Plantagedok will join forces and throw open their doors.
- City Composer Andries van Rossem will create a collective happening at Arnhem station, not only with his own work but also with young talent, students, and alumni from ArtEZ, where he was affiliated for 35 years. He invited Tobias Wentink to compose the new City Song, Dolf de Kinkelder and his percussion group to perform, and offers a stage to ArtEZ teachers, students, and young talent.
- At Utrecht Central Station, the 70-piece NS Orchestra will perform works by Dutch composers, including Johan de Meij, Jacob de Haan, Guus Meeuwis, and Jurgen IJsendoorn, who composes and was the principal conductor.
- Belgian/Basque/Dutch composer Saskia Venegas is Rotterdam's City Composer. She is writing a tribute to the city, the port, and the people of Rotterdam for Rotterdam's choir and the Basque percussion instrument txalaparta. Rotterdam will present a musical city route along studios, workshops, concert halls, churches, and neighborhood stages.
- At The Hague Central Station, a new composition by Ukrainian-Dutch composer Maxim Shalygin, "Burlesque on the Death of a Dictator," will be performed by 9x13 Neo Fanfare. The Royal Conservatory, which attracts composers from all over the world, will also present their talents at Amare and the station.

- The New Music NOW Express train journey will conclude with a performance by City Composer Nawras Altaky, weaving a festive musical tapestry under the dome at Utrecht Central Station. Alongside Young Jazz Society Big Band, Kika Sprangers, and many Utrecht musicians, he brings the sounds of Utrecht together in a vibrant mosaic.

Notenbal at TivoliVredenburg and on TV

In the evening, TivoliVredenburg hosts the "Notenbal": a full-length program for the public with musical guests, composers, top ensembles, and a tribute to the best compositions of the past season. The line up, Kluster5, HIIIT, Nawras Altaky & Young Jazz Society Big Band. The program will be recorded for Radio and TV.

Favorite Music Stations: Radio NPO Klassiek and New Music NOW TV

Around June 21, Radio NPO Klassiek and New Music NOW TV will focus on Composer's Day. Broadcasters NTR Klassiek, VPRO Vrije Geluiden, and Avrotros will present ten days of composer specials, previews, and live performances on national public radio.

Funding & Partners

Composer's Day 2025 is made possible by various funds and municipalities, including Buma Cultuur, the Cultural Fund, Reinbert de Leeuw Foundation, Dioraphte, Sena Performers Fund, Amsterdam Fund for the Arts, Municipality of Rotterdam, Municipality of Utrecht, Municipality of Arnhem, Berch Heemstede Fund, K.F. Hein Fund, Berch Heemstede Fund, and media partners NTR:Klassiek, VPRO Vrije Geluiden, Avrotros, Concertzender, and many network partners.

For the Composer's Day 2025 program:

<https://newmusicnow.nl/dagvandeconomist/>

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Not for publication: contact for press:

Marjolein van Ruiten, PR@marjoleinvanruiten.com, +31 (0)6-200 62 844

Esther Gottschalk, esther@newmusicnow.nl +31 (0)6-27 027 547

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