

Press release, 5 March 2024



3rd edition Dutch Composers Day on and around 15 June 2024 City Composers announced

The third edition of Dutch Composers Day will take place on and around Saturday, 15 June 2024. The festival will showcase hundreds of composers working in the Netherlands in concerts with more than 500 musicians. More than 150 concerts and performances will take place in 15 cities. Radio station NPO Klassiek will broadcast new Dutch music throughout the day. The festival is an initiative of the network and platform New Music NOW, which will report live with online TV.

With **Dutch Composers Day**, the Netherlands celebrates the importance, value and enjoyment of live contemporary music. New Music NOW works with composers, ensembles, festivals, venues and other organisations involved in new music. Concerts take place in a variety of venues, not just within but also outside the usual theaters and concert halls. By bringing new music to a wide audience, Dutch Composers Day is committed to launching nothing less than a movement.

Dutch Composers Day will take place on and around Saturday 15 June 2024 and will consist of the following parts:

The music train, the New Music NOW Express, crosses the country

The New Music NOW Express, a specially chartered bright red train, is blazing a trail of new music across the country. The train passes through six cities: Amsterdam, Almere, Zwolle, Arnhem, 's-Hertogenbosch and Utrecht. On board, there will be performances and meetings with composers and musicians, the line-up of which will be announced soon.

Station concerts, composer laureate of The Netherlands and city composers of the day

In each of the six cities the music train passes through, the festival will appoint a City Composer to compose a city song. Each city song will be performed at a festive station concert in collaboration with choirs, music schools and other organisations in the city. The station concerts will be recorded and streamed live. After each station concert, the audience will be taken on a musical tour through the city for a festive concert programme. The City Composer in Almere is Renske Vrolijk, in Amsterdam Yannis Kyriakides, in Arnhem Lucas Wiegerink, in 's-Hertogenbosch Bart van

Dongen, in Utrecht Annabel Schouten and in Zwolle Toon Hagen. The Composer Laureate of The Netherlands Anne-Maartje Lemereis will write a composition that will be performed in all the cities.

Programme Hoog Catharijne and New Music NOW Show in TivoliVredenburg

In the evening the New Music NOW Show takes place in TivoliVredenburg: a full-length live show for the public with musical guests, composers and top ensembles. The show will be recorded for radio and television.

Radio NPO Classical and New Music NOW TV

On and around 15 June, Radio NPO Classical and New Music NOW TV will broadcast all day about the Day of the Composer, with pre-announcements, previews and of course live radio and livestream TV from the New Music NOW Express train, stations and TivoliVredenburg. We will also be recording concerts in the various cities. Subsequent to the festival, the filmed content will be shared with various broadcasting channels and platforms, including our weekly programme New Music NOW on the ONS cable channel

National programme of over 150 concerts in more than 15 cities

Many organisations are working together as the New Music NOW Network to present more than 150 concerts featuring music by more than 150 composers performed by more than 500 musicians in more than 15 cities simultaneously. The cities participating in the festival are Amsterdam, Almere, Zwolle, Arnhem, Den Bosch, Utrecht, Amersfoort, Rotterdam, The Hague, Eindhoven, Tilburg, Goes, Groningen, Heerlen, and Maastricht. Contributors to Dutch Composers Day include notable partners such as Holland Festival, TivoliVredenburg, de Doelen, November Music, Gaudeamus, Intro in Situ, De Link, Orkest De Ereprijs, and Asko|Schönberg, in addition to a diverse array of choirs, ensembles, music associations, conservatories, music schools, composers, publishers, and producers.

The programme for Composer's Day 2024 will be announced in April. The programme of Composer's Day 2024 is available at:

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

Not for publication

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Anne-Maartje Lemereis - photographer Wouter Vellekoop Annabel Schouten -
photographer Noa Schouten

Yannis Kyriakides- photographer Bart Grietens

Press picture Day of the Composer (2023)- photographer Foppe Schut.

Supplement

COMPOSER LAUREATE OF THE NETHERLANDS

Anne-Maartje Lemereis (1989) - composer laureate of The Netherlands

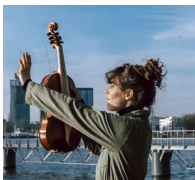


Anne-Maartje Lemereis is an original thinker who knows how to respond to current events in a playful way, as she has proved with her Happy Birthday Composer project on social media. As a composer, she is creating a furore with music-theatrical works such as *Odiezee* for Holland Opera to a libretto by Abdelkader Benali, the mini-opera *Ping* for Ensemble Vonk and the music-theatrical song cycle *This is not a Fairy Tale* in co-production with KASKO and Stichting In de Knop. She has also composed several chamber music works.

Her piano concerto *Two* was one of the two compositions with which the rebel collective Pynarello won the classical music prize De Ovatie in 2023. Her music can be heard at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, TivoliVredenburg and the Wonderfeel Festival. Anne-Maartje teaches and works as a mentor at the Utrecht Conservatory. She is the founder and organiser of Stichting In de Knop, which promotes composition education for children and young people throughout the country and supports young composers in the creation of their own works. In the Liendert district of Amersfoort, where she grew up, she founded the Lienderts Orkest, which grew into a solid neighbourhood orchestra and music association. Since 2024, Lemereis has been appointed composer laureate of The Netherlands for two years. She wants to make composition and music education accessible to as many people as possible. One of her slogans is: "Everyone can compose!"

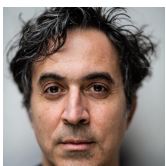
CITY COMPOSERS

Annabel Schouten (1999) - City Composer Utrecht



Annabel Schouten works as a music landscape artist, sound inventor and instrument composer. She graduated from HKU - Music and Performance in 2021. She sees her work as a means to create encounters with others and nature, to stimulate the audience to open up, listen and become aware of the environment. Using art as a tool, she finds that her work naturally contributes to society - life - evolution.

Yannis Kyriakides (1969) - City Composer Amsterdam



As a composer and sound artist, Kyriakides seeks ways to create new forms and hybrids of media that problematise listening. He has received awards for his work including the Willem Pijper Prize and the Toonzetters Prize. He is the founder of the Maze Ensemble and has been a featured composer at the November Music Festival and the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.

Kyriakides teaches at the Royal Conservatoire. He himself studied with Louis Andriessen and Dick Raaijmakers after completing a degree in musicology at York. He now lives in Amsterdam.

Renske Vrolijk (1958) - City Composer Almere



In her music, Renske Vrolijk refers to the present and the near future, but does so by using examples from the past. She often integrates audio recordings of conversations into her pieces. For composer Renske Vrolijk, music is a means of telling stories and connecting people as they listen. In 2022, the Netherlands Chamber Choir premiered #uncut. #uncut tells the story of a transgender woman looking back on her life. She is currently working on a

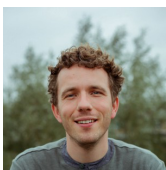
children's performance commissioned by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, which will premiere at the end of 2024.

Toon Hagen (1959) - City Composer Zwolle



Toon Hagen works as a concert organist, organ teacher and composer of organ and church music. He publishes his own compositions. His compositions include motets, song arrangements for choir, organ and orchestra, a series of fantasies for concert organ, a requiem and a composition for 2 pianos of about 50 minutes. As cantor-organist he is attached to the Grote of the Sint-Michaëlskerk in Zwolle. His organ playing has been recorded on seven CDs. For Dag van de Componist Zwolle, he will write a musical city theme on which other composers will vary.

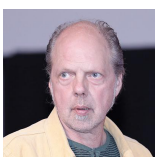
Lucas Wiegerink (1985) - City Composer Arnhem



Lucas Wiegerink is a versatile composer. For Theater Sonnevanck he composed the music for *King Bowi* (2021), which was among the top 5 of the best youth productions of the season in both the NRC and *De Volkskrant*. In 2022 he composed the music for Opera Zuid's *Het Lijflied* - an opera set in the human body - in co-production with De Nationale Opera and November Music, and in 2023 he composed the music for *Le Chat Botté* (The Puss in Boots), a production of the Philharmonie Luxembourg.

He is house composer of the Muziektheater De Plaats in Arnhem. His music is performed by ensembles such as the Nieuw Ensemble, the Netherlands Chamber Choir, Orkest De Ereprijs and The Choir of the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine from New York City.

Bart van Dongen (1959) - City Composer Den Bosch



Bart van Dongen, composer, musician and conceptual artist, won the biennial Brouwerij Cultuurprijs for the city of 's-Hertogenbosch in 2007. Bart van Dongen initiates various projects that all have one thing in common: the search for new music, or at least new sounds. He excludes nothing and rejects nothing; he knows how to combine and encourage seemingly opposing forces.