



Just Listen



**REMBRANDT
FRERICHS
TRIO**

THE
CONTEMPORARY
FORTEPIANO



THE CONTEMPORARY FORTEPIANO

REVIVAL OF A HISTORICAL INSTRUMENT

Pianist Rembrandt Frerichs (Rotterdam, 1977) is one of a kind. A rising star in the contemporary jazz scene, he graduated with honours from the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. Performing intensively both home and abroad, he debuted at the North Sea Jazz Festival when he was 22, and played with saxophone legend Michael Brecker (1949 – 2007) in 2003.

Rembrandt has a very personal style that is driven by content rather than virtuosity. His music invariably carries an artistic message, which is informed by his world travels. This gives his work an additional dimension; Rembrandt integrates elements of Arabic music into a new concept, seamlessly connecting East and West. He feels equally in his element playing the percussive 18th century fortepiano, a 19th century harmonium or his modern grand piano. With bass player Tony Overwater and percussionist Vinsent Planjer, he forms a unique-sounding trio, whose subtle style is its own trademark.

Overwater also uses an early instrument: The violone – a precursor of the current double bass. Planjer plays a self-tailored percussion set. The trio's improvising especially breathes life into their music. The harmonium used by Frerichs is a Trayser, dating back to 1860, which he restored himself.

But Frerichs' Jewel is the fortepiano; whose rich overtones blend harmoniously with the other instruments.

Built by Chris Maene and on loan from the Dutch National Musical Instrument Fund, the rare fortepiano is a copy of a Walter from 1790, that stood in the house of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

"I consider it a true honour that the fund has given me this opportunity," Frerichs said. "It is the first time the fortepiano gets a serious place in improvised music."

WORLD TOUR "The sound of the fortepiano very much suits our modern time," Frerichs notes. "It is an instrument that connects cultures." In his new album, "The Contemporary Fortepiano," he takes the listener on a world tour comprising 15 musical miniatures that each highlight a different aspect of the ensemble.

Elf, opens the album. In this Frerichs original percussionist Planjer plays the leading part,

meanwhile bridging the sonic gap between the bright fortepiano and the somber sounds of Overwater's violone.

Escher is a homage to the famous visual artist, known for his graphic work, with its almost-mathematical twists. Along with the fortepiano, the harmonium plays a leading role in the melody, inviting to sing along. *Snip*, a composition in a poetic 11/8-time signature, offers a fascinating main motif.

For *Butterfly* The fortepiano is prepared by placing a satchel of beans on the strings, manipulating the sound. This allows Frerichs to create unique sounds: an unlikely evolution of the spectrum available to the fortepiano's 18th century inventors.

EASTERN SOUND *Maqam Bayati* is the Arabic-language name of a specific scale with quarter tones. With his fortepiano tuned in quarter tones, Rembrandt can evoke the Eastern sound. The expertly-executed theme serves as an appetizer for the subsequent composition

Le Badinage honours the great gamba player Marin Marais in a composition that is reminiscent of the court of Sun King Louis XIV. The trio revives French Baroque, but simultaneously provides the piece with a new and current context.

ENERGETIC Afro-Cuban music comes peeking around the corner in *Abakua*. The fortepiano lends itself to rhythmic improvisations executed by the trio in exciting and energetic style.

By contrast, *A Long Story Short*, a composition inspired by "minimal music," features a simple motif that is repeated and then gradually developed with short melodic excursions, before reverting to the hypnotic exposition.

Mondrian tracks, with its powerful beginning, was originally written as a duet for Frerichs and Dominic Seldis, bass player with the Dutch Concertgebouw Orchestra. Planjer reaches a striking intensity in this track, using what is for him a hitherto untapped registry: harsh bangs that elicit rhythmic urges.

An Armenian folk melody forms the basis for the pleasant-sounding and effortlessly sunny piece titled *Offering*.

ADVENTUROUS *Glorieux* is written for the Belgian cellist Benjamin Glorieux who, like Frerichs, is a cross-border and adventurous musician, and is something of a trailblazer. The trio performed successfully with him in the autumn of 2016.

Hak en Tak is a *feature* for percussionist Planjer, in which he particularly showcases the *log drum* – an African percussion instrument based on a hollow tree trunk that offers endless sound possibilities. Planjer plays a poetic version of the 15/8-time signature.

Valeur Ajouté is a concept from the musical theories of Olivier Messiaen, one of the 20th century's greatest composers. It is a short time value that is added to any rhythm, using means of an additional note: a full stop or a rest. The trio gives an engaging demonstration of this additive rhythm.

In *Up and Down*, the 19th century Trayser harmonium plays a central role. With its denigrating nickname “psalm pump,” this instrument nonetheless constitutes a sophisticated addition to the fortepiano.

Percussionist Planjer concludes the album with an exciting solo in *Zarbi*, in which he harnesses rhythm and silence into a pensive piece.

The Contemporary Fortepiano forms a unique musical achievement of this special ensemble.

“It’s the first time worldwide this happens,” according to Rembrandt. Early, almost forgotten instruments like the fortepiano and the harmonium, are dusted off and made to shine anew. A new shoot can be added to the rich tree that forms the jazz tradition.

Cyriel Pluimakers, October 2017

Translation by Iris Tzur



BIOGRAPHY

The **REMBRANDT FRERICHS TRIO** has been active on the international concert stages for the last 12 years. Besides pianist Rembrandt Frerichs, the trio is formed by renowned bassist and composer Tony Overwater – winner of the Dutch VPRO / Boy Edgar Price – and percussion innovator and composer Vinsent Planjer. Their music is often described as poetic, visual and impressionistic. The trio performed at the North Sea Jazz Festival several times and has a busy touring schedule each year. This year, they have been, among other places, to Iran, Taiwan, Indonesia, London's Barbican Centre and countries in Europe, performing in full concert halls each time.

LINE UP

Rembrandt Frerichs *fortepiano & harmonium*

Tony Overwater *violone*

Vinsent Plans *percussion*

More information: tonalityfoundation.com

THE PRESS SAYS... Rembrandt is recognized as an “adventurer on the piano keys” (Dutch daily TROUW) and “a master on his instrument” (Dutch daily, DE VOLKSKRANT). “His music is of the future; making borders fade away” (Trouw).

NRC HANDELSBLAD: “Notes with content; poetic, soft, subtle and elegant”

DE VOLKSKRANT: “A master on his instrument”

EL PAIS (Spain): “You should hear this concert at the Madrid Jazz Festival!”

JAZZ MAGAZINE: “One of the highlights of the North Sea Jazz Festival”

VRIJ NEDERLAND: “Lately, a wave of new talent is asking for the public's attention, but there is only one Rembrandt Frerichs”

HP / DE TIJD: “Rembrandt's music is a wonder of organic creativity, in which the old and the new worlds collide in an exemplary way”

JAZZ TOKYO (Japan): “A long-awaited masterpiece”



REMBRANDT FRERICHS



One of the highlights of the North Sea Jazz Festival” Jazzmagazine wrote about pianist and composer **REMBRANDT FRERICHS**... One couldn’t hope for a better recommendation.

Rembrandt (1977) is a pianist with a broad perspective. Focussing his energy on ideas that are meaningful to him, he also knows how to realize them. Familiar with jazz tradition, he wants to avoid the well-trodden path. Rembrandt’s curiosity and knowledge of the art music of different parts of the world urge his music to develop constantly. The way he searches for a new musical idiom makes him push the limits of classical music, improvised music and worldmusic.

At age 22 Rembrandt made his debut at the North Sea Jazz Festival. During that time he received the *scholarship for excelling young musicians* to study in the United States. Directly after graduating he was asked to start teaching at various Music Universities. Now Rembrandt is professor of jazz piano at the Utrecht conservatory.

Both in 2007 and 2014 his albums were nominated for the Dutch Grammy’s (Edison Award). His music brought him playing at legendary Jazzclub Birdland in

New York and festivals and clubs in Europe and the Far East.

His personal search for different piano sounds and use of instruments has not remained unnoticed: in 2016 the national instruments fund had a fortepiano built specially for Rembrandt which he currently uses for various projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS The NRC Handelsblad wrote about him: “*Rembrandt makes the story of jazz a richer one*”.

DISCOGRAPHY 2007 *Self Portrait* (studio album) | 2009 – *Ordem E Progresso Vol.1* (studio album) | 2009 *Ordem E Progresso Vol.2* (studio album) | 2010 *Sehnsucht* (Live recording) | 2011 *Levantasy* (Studio Album)

AWARDS 2000 VSB Jazz Award – Finalist | 2004 Selected for the European Jazz Youth Orchestra (with which a tour was made through Brazil and Europe) | 2006 2nd prize Blue Note Records Festival Young Talent | 2007 Deloitte Jazz Award – Stimulans Price | 2007 CD *Self Portrait* Edison Award – Nomination

More information: www.rembrandtfrerichs.nl

TONY OVERWATER is one of the most notable Dutch bass players. He is a versatile musician, composer, soloist, band leader and supervisor in the Netherlands and far beyond. He graduated with honors from the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. He won the VPRO / Boy Edgar Prize, the Podium Prize, and an Edison. He worked with extraordinary musicians, including Karin Hammar, Yuri Honing, Pat Metheny, David Murray, Paolo Fresu, Eric Vloeimans and many others. Overwater is also known as an expert organizer. During his time at the conservatory, he founded the Jazz in Motion Foundation and the accompanying record label.

DIFFERENT FORMATIONS Overwater shares his passion for jazz, Arabic music and baroque music with the other members of the Rembrandt Frerichs Trio. With this trio, he began playing the violone; a 6-string bass instrument from the Baroque era, predecessor of the double bass.

Overwater has been playing with the trio Jungle Boldie for over twenty years, with Maarten Ornstein on reeds and drummer Wim Kegel. This close formation formed the basis for a number of original projects, such as Far East Revisited with the Calefax Red Quintet and the CD 'OP' with Ack van Rooyen and Ernst Reijseger, which received an Edison. Inspired by working with Lebanese singer Rima Kcheich, Tony Overwater developed a new style of playing on the double bass, incorporating the techniques and scales of Arabic music into a unique style. Working with various other bands and musicians, they form a much sought after attraction at festivals in the Middle East and Europe.

Music for children has always had a special place in the heart of Overwater. He sees it as his mission to bring

jazz and acoustic music of quality to the attention of kids. After the project 'Kikker Swingt!' (From Swings!) with Max Velthuis, he developed various other music shows together with singer-songwriter Lotte van Dijk.

PROJECT ORGANIZATION AND DOCUMENTARY MUSIC

Being an architect's son, Tony Overwater has a fascination for the visual aspects of music. In addition to writing music for various films, documentaries and dance shows, he and Joshua Samson initiated the 'Keeper of the Key' Project. A location-based concert, taking place on a set day of the month. Each time the performance is held at a different, secret, location and always with a different guest. The interaction between architecture, environment, music, musicians and the audience makes this special small-scale project a unique experience.

Overwater recorded the music for the documentary 'Om de Oude Wereldzee' about Abraham Kuyper, combining his expertise and affinity with Arabic music and classical European music.

AWARDS Boy Edgar Award 2002 | Gold CD 'Frog Swings' | Nomination Bird award in 2002 and 2005 | Edison award 2001 | Podium Prize 1989

DISCOGRAPHY Rembrandt Frerichs trio *Long story short* | Jungle Boldie *Jungle Boldie* | Tony Overwater groep *OP* | *Kikker Swingt/Kikker heeft de Blues* | Rima Khcheich *Hawa* | Yuri Honing Trio, several CD's | Karin Hammar *Everyday magic* | Kepera Trio *Levantasy* | Hermine Deurloo *Glass fish* | David Murray *Sanctuary* | Tony Overwater *Motion Music*

For more information: www.tonyoverwater.com



TONY OVERWATER

A professional portrait of a man with short, light brown hair and blue eyes. He is wearing a dark blue, long-sleeved button-down shirt with a small white dot pattern. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is a dark, solid color. The image is framed by vertical panels on the left and right sides that have a textured, stone-like appearance.

VINSENT PLANJER

Jazz drummer **VINSENT PLANJER** graduated from the Royal Conservatory in 2001. His final exam stood out because it only consisted of his own compositions. Since then, he has turned into a highly sought after accompanist of jazz soloists at the Dutch music venues and festivals. He is also increasingly involved in producing, developing and organizing artistic endeavours. He plays an important role in the concert series of The Hague Ethospheric Orchestra, which has been performing with the absolute top of the national jazz for the last couple of seasons.

BROADENING HIS PLAYING FIELD As a member of the Rembrandt Frerichs Trio, Planjer has developed into a leading exponent on his instrument, to be seen at many music venues in the Netherlands and far beyond.

His sound is appreciated for its sophistication and at times melodic approach. As a co-project owner of *The Contemporary Fortepiano*, in which members of the Rembrandt Frerichs Trio use historical instruments, he paves the way for broadening his playing field. Planjer plays the self-designed and built whisperkit. With this line-up, Planjer is increasingly seen at classical music venues and festivals.

DISCOGRAPHY 2014 was the year that Vinsent Planjer's first album as a band leader saw the light: *The complete first season* of Vinsent Planjer's Natural Selection | Rembrandt Frerichs Trio *SelfPortrait – Ordeme progresso – Continental – A Long Story Short* | Kepera trio *Levantasy* | Vinsent Planjer's Natural Selection *The Complete First Season* | *As Guests Live in Belgium*

CREDITS

PRODUCTION

Native DSD Music, Just Listen Records

PRODUCERS

Jared Sacks, Jonas Sacks, Rembrandt Frerichs Trio

CO-PRODUCER

Cyriel Pluimakers

RECORDING ENGINEER, EDITING, MASTERING

Jared Sacks

MASTERING ENGINEER

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SESSION PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

Jonas Sacks, Tony Overwater, Petr Cikhart

LINER NOTES

Cyriel Pluimakers

TRANSLATION

Iris Tzur

RECORDING LOCATION

Evangelisch-Lutherse Kerk, Groningen,

The Netherlands

RECORDING DATE

June 2017

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

MICROPHONES

Bruel&Kjaer 4006, Schoeps,

DIGITAL CONVERTER

DSD256 Horus, Merging Technologies

SPEAKERS

Audiolab, Holland

AMPLIFIERS

Van Medevoort, Holland

CABLES

Van den Hul*

MIXING BOARD

Rens Heijnis, custom design

EDITING SOFTWARE

Pyramix, Merging Technologies

MASTERING ROOM SPEAKERS

Grimm LS1

*exclusive use of Van den Hul 3T cables



REMBRANDT FRERICHS TRIO

THE CONTEMPORARY FORTEPIANO

REMBRANDT FRERICHS FORTEPIANO & HARMONIUM
TONY OVERWATER VIOLONE
VINSENT PLANJER PERCUSSION

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|------|----|--|------|
| 1 | ELF
FRERICHS | 6:09 | 9 | MONDRIAAN
TRACKS NR. 10
FRERICHS | 4:17 |
| 2 | ESCHER
OVERWATER | 4:24 | 10 | OFFERING
FRERICHS | 9:13 |
| 3 | BUTTERFLY
HANCOCK | 5:10 | 11 | GLORIEUX
FRERICHS | 3:53 |
| 4 | MAQAM BAYATI
FRERICHS | 4:11 | 12 | HAK EN TAK
PLANJER | 3:12 |
| 5 | SNIP
FRERICHS | 4:56 | 13 | VALEUR AJOUTÉE
FRERICHS, OVERWATER | 2:34 |
| 6 | LE BADINAGE
OVERWATER, FRERICHS | 3:44 | 14 | UP AND DOWN
OVERWATER | 3:27 |
| 7 | ABAKUA
OVERWATER | 4:08 | 15 | ZARBI
PLANJER | 2:10 |
| 8 | A LONG STORY SHORT
FRERICHS | 7:07 | | | |

total time 70:00

JJW 74709

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MOTION**
RECORDS

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