

Accordion class at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam

Starting in september 2015, the Conservatorium van Amsterdam offers the principal subject of accordion . Two prominent accordionist will make up the teaching team, **Marieke Grotenhuis** and **Marko Kassi**, thus guaranteeing a study programme that will be internationally relevant.

The Conservatorium van Amsterdam (CvA) is the largest and most diverse conservatory in the Netherlands. With outstanding teachers at its disposal, situated in one of Europe's most vibrant musical centres, the conservatory takes full advantage of Amsterdam's multifaceted musical climate. The conservatory is therefore well-placed to help students develop into versatile musicians at the highest level.

It offers courses ranging from classical music, jazz and early music to opera, latin, popular music and music in education. Owing to the many special projects, the curriculum guarantees a strong link between theory and practice. Both in the bachelor's and the master's degree programmes students are given ample opportunity to make individual choices and go their own way.

And now finally there is an accordion class at the CvA!

Both teachers - Marieke Grotenhuis and Marko Kassi - bring with them multifaceted experiences of many years - they are soloists and chamber musicians in different fields of music, have experience as pedagogues as well at elementary music schools as also music academies and have led a number of projects involving multidisciplinary approach. You will find a lot of additional information in their CVs added as an attachment.

The curriculum of bachelor and masters degree have been designed carefully to prepare the students optimally for their working life as musicians - thereby they receive a broad versatilely basic knowledge but at the same time also have the possibility to choose a special field which gives them the opportunity to get in-depth-knowledge within that chosen field.

Next to the regular private lessons there is also a number of group lessons including an extensive **chamber music programme**, starting from first year, **historical development** of accordion, **methodology**, an obligatory **Liedklasse**, **arrangement for accordion** and **basso continuo**.

The principle of group lessons is even essential - there are regular **technique group lessons** (working on basic and extended techniques of accordion playing making use of a more improvisational concept) and **accordion ensemble lessons** (working on some of the most important repertoire pieces for accordion ensemble as Mauricio Kagel, Torbjörn Lundquist, Werner Heider as well as different arrangements).

The accordion is fully integrated in the rich existing structures of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam - collaboration with all existing departments are high on the agenda. Thus it is never a mere „free-rider“ but always putting its innovative approaches into the mix.

It's specially important to mention the steady collaboration of the accordion classes with the **composition classes** of the CvA and its department for **electronic music**, both of them departments with a considerable tradition and definitely world-renowned. Every accordion student has an own project with the composition class - the result is being premiered at the final examination.

Absolutely worth mentioning is also the course **Contemporary Music through Non-Western Techniques** - this programme, directed at performers of all instruments (Western and non-Western), is organized in an ensemble situation and revolves around microtonal concepts and rhythmical complexities derived from the theory of South Indian classical music (Karnatic music). Next to this there is also the **Atlas Ensemble** - it's a laboratory for the creation of innovative intercultural music.

Marko Kassi

born 1976 in Klagenfurt/Austria studied with Mika Väyrynen, Roman Pechmann, James Crabb and Mie Miki. With her he finished his post-graduate studies at the Folkwang Hochschule Essen summa cum laude.

As soloist and chamber musicians Marko performed at festivals and venues like the Grachtenfestival Amsterdam, Ankara Festival, Donaueschinger Musiktage, Music biennale Zagreb, at the Philharmonie Essen, Kölner Philharmonie, Chamber Music Festival Utrecht and Ljubljana Festival and Festival Latinoamericano de Musica Caracas.

He is extensively collaborating with internationally acclaimed composers in order to create and enlarge the repertoire for his still young instrument. Among composers who have dedicated works to him are Stefan Heucke, Roderik de Man, Ivo Petric, Bruno Strobl, Chiel Meijering, Philemon Mukarno, Nico Huijbregts and many others. 2008 he premiered with Duo MARES (Esra Pehlivanli playing the viola) Selim Dogru's „Devil's Diary“, the first ever double concerto written for accordion, viola and symphony orchestra. 2013 he also with Duo MARES premiered Frank Zabel's „Double concerto“ for viola, accordion and orchestra.

He is also involved in interdisciplinary projects - for example in collaboration with theatre- and dance-companies - for instance the Ballett im Revier Gelsenkirchen, the Kaiser-Antonino-Dance Ensemble, Compagnie Irene K. He was musical director of Georg Kreisler's „Heute Abend: Lola Blau“ which toured theaters like Stadttheater Wlafischgasse in Vienna or the Kurt Weill Fest Dessau. With Duo MARES he was laureate of the 2009 Jur Naessens Music Award with the interdisciplinary project „Volume Nuevo+“, where the duo incorporates contemporary dance, theatre, live video and electronics.

A couple of CDs have been published: 2008 „Heimat“ (with pianist Tobias Bredohl), 2009 „Spielzeug“ (with bass clarinetist Fie Schouten and trombonist Koen Kaptijn) and „Lola Blau“ (audio drama by Georg Kreisler), 2010 „Volume Nuevo“ (with Duo MARES), 2012 „Richness of the Tones“ (with Duo MARES) and 2014 „Buffoni“ (with Ensemble Black Pencil).

Marko also recorded for diverse portrait-CDs of composers like Nico Huijbregts, Roderik de Man and Miro Dobrowolny and for radio-stations like Deutschlandfunk, WDR (both Germany), TRT (Turkey), Ö1 (Austria), RTV Slovenia, Radio 4 and Concertzender (both Holland).

Next to his accordion class at the CvA Marko also teaches at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold/Germany.

more info: www.marko-kassl.de

Marieke Grothenhuis

born 1981 in Amsterdam studied piano at the Royal Conservatoire in Den Haag and accordion at the Rotterdam Conservatory. In May 2009 she graduated with the highest distinction from the master degree programme at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen, where she studied with Geir Draugsvoll.

Marieke performed with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmoni Orchestra and the Residentie Orkest. With composer Mauricio Kagel she performed his renowned Tango Aleman at Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ and at the Queen's Concert in 2007. As a soloist she gave concerts with Nieuw Ensemble conducted by Otto Tausk, the Asko/Schönberg Ensemble and Orkest de Ereprijs.

In 2012 she premiered Janco Verduin's accordion concerto and in February 2015 she premiered a new accordion concerto especially written for her by Seung-Ah Oh. Additionally she collaborates on various music theatre productions by, for instance, Toneelgroep de Appel Den Haag, Stella Den Haag, Veenfabriek Leiden, Artemis Den Bosch and music theatre company Hollands Diep. In 2013 she formed a successful duo with violinist Cecile Huijnen.

Marieke's first CD, with works by J.S.Bach, G.Frescobaldi and W.Rihm was released in 2013. In 2014-2015 she will record the complete works for accordion by the Dutch composer Anke Brouwer.

more info: www.mariekegrothenhuis.nl
