

Monument House Concert Series presents

**huisconcert +
muziek + amuses**

**piano en gitaar
Anne Ku en Robert Bekkers**



**17 April 2010 @ 20:00
Leidsweg 84, Utrecht**

Programme Notes

Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)	Winter from the Four Seasons**
Johann Nepomuk Hummel (1778-1837)	Potpourri on famous opera themes
Hummel (1778-1837) and Giuliani (1781-1829)	Grand Potpourri National
Joaquin Rodrigo (1901-1999)	<i>Allegro con spirito</i> from Concierto de Aranjuez

** arranged by Robert Bekkers

Antonio Vivaldi composed “**The Four Seasons**” in 1723 and published them as a set of four violin concertos (with three movements each) in 1725. They were inspired by four sonnets, which most authorities believe Vivaldi wrote himself.

Programme notes from LA Chamber Orchestra:

Finally, there is “Winter,” L’inverno. The opening sounds like a shivering person rhythmically stamping his feet to stay warm. The soloist provides the icy winds, and the ensemble responds with chattering teeth. The middle movement describes the peaceful pleasure of warming up inside by a crackling fire. In the final movement, those outdoors walk carefully on the icy paths, while those inside feel winter’s chill as it relentlessly finds its way into the house. But still, Vivaldi reminds us, winter—like all the other seasons—has its specific charms and moments of contentment.

Winter – Concerto in f-minor

Allegro non molto

*Aggiacciato tremar trà neri algenti
Al Severo Spirar d' orrido Vento,
Correr battendo i piedi ogni momento;
E pel Soverchio gel batter i denti;*

Largo

*Passar al foco i di quieti e contenti
Mentre la pioggia fuor bagna ben cento*

Allegro

*Caminar Sopra 'l ghiaccio, e à passo lento
Per timor di cader gersene intenti;
Gir forte Sdruzziolar, cader à terra
Di nuove ir Sopra 'l ghiaccio e correr forte
Sin ch' il ghiaccio si rompe, e si disserra;
Sentir uscir dalle ferrate porte
Sirocco Borea, e tutti i Venti in guerra
Quest' è 'l verno, mà tal, che gioja apporta.*

Winter – Concerto in f-minor

Allegro non molto

*Shivering, frozen mid the frosty snow in biting, stinging
winds;
running to and fro to stamp one's icy feet, teeth chattering
in the bitter chill.*

Largo

*To rest contentedly beside the hearth, while those outside
are drenched by pouring rain.*

Allegro

*We tread the icy path slowly and cautiously, for fear of
tripping and falling.
Then turn abruptly, slip, crash on the ground and, rising,
hasten on across the ice lest it cracks up.
We feel the chill north winds coarse through the home
despite the locked and bolted doors...
this is winter, which nonetheless brings its own delights.*

Son of a local musician in Pressburg (now Bratislava) and child prodigy pupil of Mozart, **Johann Nepomuk Hummel** toured as a young pianist and then settled down to write and teach. Considered one of the most expensive teachers at the time, his students included Hiller and Mendelssohn. He wrote the entertaining **Potpourri** very likely between 1810 and 1814. He and Giuliani played such piano/guitar pieces in the botanical gardens of Schönbrunn palace in the “Ducaten Concerte” --- so named for the entry price of one ducat. The Potpourri is typical of the medleys and variations on popular opera themes in his time.

The half-hour long **Grand Potpourri National** is a joint collaboration two virtuoso performers Hummel and Giuliani. They wrote and played this potpourri of national anthems in 1818 in the Dukaten Concert Series at the gardens of the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna.

Blind since age three, **Joaquin Rodrigo** was a pianist whose **Concierto de Aranjuez** (1939) established him as one of the most important Spanish composers of the 20th century. The first movement was inspired by the gardens at Palacio Real de Aranjuez. The second movement, with its most famous melody, was composed in Paris, and according to his wife Victoria’s autobiography, was “both an evocation of the happy days of their honeymoon and a response to Rodrigo’s devastation at the miscarriage of their first pregnancy.”

More info at <http://www.pianoguitar.com>

About Bekkers Piano Guitar Duo and Monument House Concert Series

When pianist Anne Ku and guitarist Robert Bekkers met in Amsterdam in 2001, they owned only one piece of music arranged for keyboard and guitar --- “Vivaldi's Guitar Concerto in D Major.” Since then, they have built a repertoire spanning four centuries, including their own transcriptions and commissioned works of Dutch composers for their unique duo.

Born in Brunei of Chinese parents, **Anne Ku** grew up on Okinawa. She won a full scholarship to Duke University where she gave her senior recital of Ravel, Debussy, and Poulenc. After periods in Singapore, Houston and London, Anne returned to music, earning a degree in composition and a teaching diploma in piano at Utrecht Conservatory in 2008. In addition to chamber music, Anne is interested in cultural economics and creative entrepreneurship.

Born near Eindhoven, **Robert Bekkers** obtained his performance and teaching degrees in classical guitar from Maastricht Conservatory. He has toured with the Berdien Stenberg Orchestra, Amstel Guitar Quartet, and other ensembles. Besides his duo with Anne Ku, he is also active as a chamber musician and accompanying choirs and singers. His solo programme includes works such as Bach's Chaconne and Leo Brouwer's Dacameron Noire.

In summer of 2006, Robert Bekkers and Anne Ku launched the **Monument House Concert Series** to introduce live art music involving either piano and/or guitar in the intimate setting of a private home. Musicians of all nationalities have performed in the themed concerts held at Keulsekade 25, 3531JX Utrecht. Since 2009, the events have crossed over to other domains such as film and photo exhibitions and expanded to new venues in Utrecht. Next in this Series, the Glass Vase Concert on Sunday 23 May 2010 will showcase voice, harp, cello, French horn, guitar, and piano. Collaborators are welcome. More info: <http://www.pianoguitar.com/concerten/>

Acknowledgements:

Elsbeth Carp, designer, concert producer and host, Leidsweg 84, 3531 BG Utrecht
Ivo Moerenhout and Pauline Kalf, chefs and hosts of reception at Leidsweg 89 bis A
Tessa Knaven, concert assistant

Gaston Matthijsse, sound engineer (audio recording)

Rolf Straver, translator and musicologist

Douwe Egberts Utrecht for providing Senseo coffee