



Robert Bekkers and
Anne Ku

About the Monument House Concert Series:

In 2006, guitarist Robert Bekkers and pianist Anne Ku opened their self-renovated 1903 National Monument House (rijksmonumenthuis) to the public to introduce art music involving either the piano or the guitar in a private and intimate setting. They invited the American violin/guitar Duo46 to give the first concert. In addition to the two annual thematic concerts for solo and chamber music, there have been master classes, recitals, and workshops. Since 2009, the concerts have crossed over to other domains such as film and photo exhibitions and expanded to new venues in Utrecht. Collaborators and sponsors are welcome. More at <http://www.pianoguitar.com/concerten>

Keulsekade 25, 3531JX Utrecht

Tel: 030 291 0214 E-mail: info@pianoguitar.com



Watercolour collage "Glass Vase Concert" by Frances Ku

Monument House Concert Series presents:

Glass Vase Concert

Sunday 23 May 2010

14:00 to 20:30 followed by jam session

Programme

14:00	Doors open
14:30 to 15:30	First Performance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leonie de Klerk, piano• Duo Pan, tenor & Carol Ruiz Gandia, piano• Emile Kaper, French horn & Anne Ku, piano
15:30 to 16:00	Break for coffee, tea, and home-baked goodies
16:00 to 17:00	Second Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephanie Hunt & Fernando Venturin, Baroque cello duo• Maria Pozdynakova, concert harp
17:00 to 17:30	Break for refreshments
17:30 to 18:30	Third Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thijn Vermeulen, piano• Nicky Bouwers, contralto & Thijn Vermeulen, piano• Robert Bekkers, guitar & Anne Ku, piano
18:30 to 20:00	Egyptian dinner
20:00 to 20:30	Fourth Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marianne Verbrugge, vocals• Henk Alkema, piano• Anna Schweizer, cello
20:30-23:00	Jam Session, everyone welcome

Conceptualisation

Frances Ku, artist

Frances Ku is a Watercolourist and Teacher of Personal Transformation living on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Born in Taiwan, she moved to Okinawa at the age of four. After high school Frances attended Parsons School of Design in New York City for a year but graduated with a BA in Philosophy from State University of New York at Albany and an MA in International Relations at the University of Chicago.

Moving back to Taiwan at the age of 24, Frances worked as an editor for a daily English newspaper, where she also contributed political cartoons. Drawing these cartoons honed her ability to come up with perspectives in a comical way and depict them efficiently. Eventually a book containing 300 of her best cartoons was published, called "Memoirs of a Love and Hate Relationship with Taiwan."

Years later, in 1999, her longing to paint was finally fulfilled when she moved to Maui. Creating collages has been one of many ways to express herself, including teaching classes on Personal Transformation. Her journey as an artist is an exciting evolution, all of which can be read about in her website: <http://www.francesku.com>.

The Monument House Concert Series commissioned the watercolour collage 20 x 30 cm "Glass Vase Concert" for this concert. A colour print of this work will be offered for silent auction for all performers and guests.

Glass Vase: the idea

Emile Kaper remembers attending house concerts as a child. The "Mortar and Pestle Concerts" (vijzel in Dutch) begged the question, "what are the mortar and pestle?" The mortar is where you can donate for the musicians and cover other costs such as piano tuning, transport, refreshments, etc.

Because musicians are so eager to play and share their music, and not everyone goes to the free concerts at the conservatories, we decided to organise the Glass Vase Concert to attract more people to enjoy live classical music.

Please donate generously into the Glass Vase to support this concert. Thank you. Suggestions for future concerts are most welcome.

Acknowledgments

Every concert is a joint collaboration of many people without whom these events will not be realized. The following individuals deserve mention for their dedication.

Emile Kaper for initial conceptualization of "mortar and pestle" to "glass vase" and organising the Egyptian dinner with his father, **Chef Hany Youssef**, who has extensive experience of Mediterranean cuisines. Emile translated the Dutch text to English and proofread the final programme document.

Photographer **Liz Miller** for programme booklet design and editing.

VAN WAGENINGEN EN DE LANGE in Oude Gracht Utrecht wine merchants for gift of Churchill's late bottled vintage port 2002.

Film maker Julian Scaff for video clips.

Photographer **Serge van Empelen** for artistic live portraits of musicians in concert.

Special guest: **Jeff Abrams**, house concert producer from Houston, Texas who inspired this model of "jam session" after dinner and concert.

14:30-15:30

Leonie de Klerk, piano

Leonie de Klerk was born in December 1987 in Valkenswaard, The Netherlands. She started playing piano at the age of eight, receiving her first piano lessons in the local music school. During her studies in high school, she continued her musical education with Joop Albracht at the Tilburg Conservatory. From September 2006 she studied at the Utrecht Conservatory with Katia Veekmans. Now under the guidance of Klára Würtz, Leonie is preparing for her final exam recital on 18th June 2010 at 10:30 am (Bachelor of Music).



Her summers were spent participating in various international summer courses, such as Peter de Grote Festival in Groningen and the Piano Festival Bad Aussee in Austria. In summer of 2009 she took part in the International Piano Summer School in the Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, where she took lessons with Joan Havill, Thomas Hecht, Steven Osborne and John Gough.

J.S Bach:
Toccata in e, BWV 914

F. Chopin:
Ballade nr. 4 in f, opus 52

S. Prokofiev:
Suggestion Diabolique

14:30-15:30

Duo Pan, tenor

Duo Pan studied in the music department at the Shanghai Normal University (now also called the Conservatorium of Shanghai Teachers University) and was awarded a diploma. Later he became the editor of a classical program at the Shanghai East Radio Station and for the Modern Audio technology magazine. At the same time, he was also a music teacher at Shanghai Yangzhou Middle School. From 2003, he came to Europe to study in Austria, followed master courses, and took private lessons before moving to Utrecht where he is completing his degree.

with Carla Ruiz Gandia:

F.P. Tosti:

Sogno, Ideale, L'alba separa dalla luce l'ombra

G. Mahler:

**Songs of a Wayfarer "Lieder Eines
Fahrend Gesellen"**

F. Poulenc:

Les chemins de l'amour, C

Rossini:

Ecco ridente in cielo from Barber of Seville

20:00-20:30

Marianne Verbrugge, vocals

Marianne Verbrugge is a vocalist, composer and multi-instrumentalist in bands, music theater and improvisation projects. She sings in several styles: mainstream jazz & improvisation, big band jazz, free improvisation, world music, art songs, Dutch, English and other languages. Her own music can be described as singer songwriter jazz, salon pop and contemporary classical chamber music.

Henk Alkema, piano

Educated as pianist at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, Henk continued his studies in orchestral conducting. In his life he composed, played the piano, conducted, performed in theaters, concert halls and in recording studios. In short, he lived in, through, and for music. He was professor of composition at the Utrecht Conservatory (HKU), where he was also the Dean for a couple years. Among his many compositions are two operas, songs, orchestral music, chamber music and light music. To list everything will just be boring. At present he lives on a houseboat in Utrecht with Anna Schweizer.

Anna Schweizer, cello

Anna studied cello at Vienna Conservatory where she received her teaching degree. Subsequently she obtained her Bachelor and Master's degrees at Rotterdam Conservatory with Jeroen den Herder. She is mastering Baroque cello while studying Alexander Technique.

The trio will be playing their own compositions and improvisations.

17:30-18:30

Robert Bekkers, guitar

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 duo with Anne Ku:

M. de Falla:
Spanish Dance from "La Vida Breve"

14:30-15:30

Carol Ruiz Gandia, piano

Born in Barcelona, Carol began music studies in the Conservatory of Barcelona at the age of 9 with Gloria Miquel and later with Nati Cubells. She received the Bachelor in Performance, Chamber Music and Notation with the highest honours.



After graduation, she became a student of Maria Fernanada Nuñez, the Brussels-based Argentinean pianist and pedagogue who introduced her to Alan Weiss. Carol moved to Utrecht Conservatory (HKU) to study with the great American pianist, subsequently earning highest grades in her Bachelor. She recently obtained her Master of Music degree.

Carol has given solo recitals around Spain, in Barcelona, Girona, Sitges, Benicarlo and Vinaros. She also joined chamber music concerts with Trio Faustus and Trio Montsalvatge. Currently she performs with Lilian Vazquez as Piano Duo Piscis in Spain, The Netherlands and Belgium. She is also co-repetitor in Het Klooster Muziekschool (Woerden).

14:30-15:30

Emile Kaper, French horn

Born in Zeist and now living in Bilthoven, Emile Kaper started to play the horn at the age of 12. After only a few years he joined youth and student orchestras in Utrecht and Gelderland. In 2002 he enrolled at the Conservatory in Arnhem with Stefan Blonk, principal horn of the Gelders Orkest. After obtaining the Bachelor of Music in 2006 he continued with his Master's degree at the Conservatory of Utrecht with Jaap van den Vliet of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. In the Czech Republic he started to play solo with piano, and with the Deventer String Orchestra he was soloist in Michael Haydn's horn concerto. Besides playing in various ensembles and orchestras, he also performs as a soloist in chamber music settings.



Anne Ku, piano

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 addition to chamber music, Anne is interested in cultural economics and creative entrepreneurship. She will be presenting a paper on house concerts at the bi-annual Cultural Economics international conference in Copenhagen in June 2010.

R. Schumann: Fantasiestücke Op. 73

17:30-18:30

Nicky Bouwers, contralto

Nicky Bouwers (b. 1976) studied piano with Rudy de Heus in the preparatory class at Zwolle Conservatory, but earned her Master's in public administration at Twente University in 2001. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Classical Singing with honours from Utrecht Conservatory where she is continuing with Jón Thorsteinsson for a Masters expected in June 2010. Besides performing alto solos in Bach's Christmas Oratorio, in several Bach cantatas, Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and the alto solos of Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle, Nicky has also been active performing music of modern composers, such as David Dramm's "The white whale of Beverwijk" and a chamber opera of Anne Ku. Her repertoire ranges from Bach to Webern.

Nicky also qualified for her Bachelor's degree in HaFa-conducting (concert band) and is following lessons in choir conducting with Rob Vermeulen. She is the conductor of two choirs in Rotterdam and Krimpen aan den IJssel.

with Thijn Vermeulen:

E. Elgar: Sea Pictures

Glinka: Somnenije

16:00-17:00

Thijn Vermeulen, piano

Thijn began taking piano lessons at age 7. In a special art competition, which was organised every year, between four schools, he won first prize four years in a row in the category "Music Classical Solo." Thijn has participated in different competitions as a soloist and accompanist. In 2006 he won the Ru Sevenhuijsen Prize for special dedication on the summer course of Woudschoten. Thijn studied at the Conservatory of Amsterdam in the year 2004/2005 with Mila Baslawskaja. Since 2006 he has been studying at the Conservatory of Utrecht with the Belgian pianist Katia Veekmans. He is an often-requested accompanist, especially with singers. He attended chamber music lessons by Martyn van den Hoek, Paolo Giacometti en Kees Hülsmann and he participates in lessons by Charlotte Margiono, Dobrinka Yankova en Jón Thorsteinsson. He will be giving his Bachelor exam concert in June 2010.

J. Haydn:

Sonata in c minor Hob.16/20 (1771)

-Moderato (*Allegro moderato*)

-Andante con moto

-Finale: *Allegro*

Poulenc:

Selections from "Les Soirées de Nazelles "

16:00-17:00

Stephanie Hunt, cello

American cellist Stephanie Hunt came to the Netherlands in 2006 to specialise in baroque cello. She does freelance playing in both baroque and modern ensembles and also teaches cello lessons. She enjoys playing orchestral and chamber music and has attended a number of music festivals, some of which include the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme, Festivalensemble Stuttgart, and two summers at the Tanglewood Music Center.

Stephanie graduated with a Bachelor of Music in modern cello *summa cum laude* from the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and received a Master of Music in modern cello from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music. She graduated with a Bachelor of Music (*cum laude*) and a Master of Music in baroque cello from the Utrecht Conservatory.

Fernando Venturin, cello

After graduating with a Bachelor of Music in modern cello from the University of Brasilia-DF, Brazil in 1995, Brazilian cellist Fernando Venturin came to the Netherlands to specialise in Historically Informed Performance Practice. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music in baroque cello from the Utrecht Conservatory in 2001 and has been active both as a player and a teacher.

Fernando played for five years in the National Theater Symphony Orchestra of Brasilia-DF. He has been freelancing with various groups in The Netherlands and has performed under world-renowned musicians such as Christophe Rousset, Alfredo Bernardini and Barthold Kuijken. Since 2004 he has taught cello at the Music Center of the International School The Hague. In addition to the cello, Fernando has also studied choir and orchestral conducting.

16:00-17:00

F. Geminiani:

Sonata V in F major
(from Sonates pour le Violoncelle et Basse Continue,
Op. 5 – 1746)

– *Adagio*

– *Allegro Moderato*

– *Adagio*

– *Allegro*

S. Lanzetti:

Sonata XII in D major (from XII Sonate a Violoncello Solo
e Basso Continuo, Op.1 – 1736)

– *Allegro*

– *Andante Cantabile*

– *Menuet*

16:00-17:00

Maria Pozdynakova, concert harp

Born in Moscow, Maria started learning the harp at age 6. After graduating from the Moscow State Music College named after Gnessins, she came to Utrecht to study under the famous harp teacher Erika Waardenburg in 2006.

Among the many competitions she participated in recent years, most notable are the third Prize of the 3rd International Vera Dulova Harp Festival-Competition in Moscow. Maria has performed in a number of orchestras including the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Big Symphony orchestra. She will perform again with the NJO Summer academy in 2010.

Maria has given a solo concert for the Monument House Concert Series previously.



T. Hosokawa: Gesine

M. Flothuis: Pour le Tombeau d'Orphée

H. Renie: Legende