

Rostrum of Composers 2018

Bram Kortekaas	- The Dreamcatcher	10'55"
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Jan-Peter de Graaff	- Le café de nuit	13'24"
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BRAM KORTEKAAS (photo by Friso Keuris)

Composer	Bram Kortekaas
Title	The Dreamcatcher (2017/18)
Duration	10'55"
Performers	Dutch National Student Orchestra
Conductor	Ivan Meylemans
Première date & place	10-02-2018 Somerens, De Ruchte
Recording date & place	18-02-2018 Eindhoven, Muziekgebouw
Production	NLNPO/MAX

Website: <http://bramkortekaas.com/en/>

Represented by Donemus:
<https://webshop.donemus.com/action/front/composer/Kortekaas%2C+Bram>



Biography: Bram Kortekaas

Bram Kortekaas (Amsterdam, 20-08-1989) studied composition with Willem Jeths and Wim Henderickx at the Conservatory of Amsterdam, and political science at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Copenhagen.

Several of Kortekaas' compositions have been influenced by his background as a political scientist. *Voetnoten bij de menselijke komedie (Footnotes to the human comedy)*, a commission by the NTR ZaterdagMatinee concert series, is based on columns written for the Dutch newspaper *de Volkskrant* by Arnon Grunberg. This work was premiered by the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and the Netherlands Radio Choir under the baton of Karel Mark Chichon in October 2017, with a further ZaterdagMatinee performance scheduled in the 2019-2020 season. Earlier in 2017, commissioned by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, he wrote *Leonard Bernstein, Security Matter – C* for wind quintet and singer Carina Vinke, in which parts of Bernstein's FBI-dossier were set to music.

In the last decade Kortekaas wrote eight symphonic works, including the percussion concerto *Balance of Power*, that have gained attention for their detailed orchestration. His composition *The Pillars of Creation* won the first prize in the Euregio Youth Orchestra Composition Competition 2015.

Future commitments include a commission by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Program Note: 'The Dreamcatcher' – Bram Kortekaas

The composition's title is inspired by the dreamcatchers that were used by the Native American Ojibwe tribe. They believed that the night's air is filled with both good and bad dreams. The dreamcatchers, hoops on which webs are woven and decorated with feathers, protect children from bad dreams until they reach the age by which they are able to cope with it themselves. It does so by trapping the bad dreams in the web, to be destroyed by the first sun rays in the morning.

The composition describes this process on the one hand quite literally; The piece starts out with a presentation of dreams whirling through the night. This is followed by a lullaby-like section that represents the workings of the dreamcatcher. The composition ends with the dreams that have passed through the web.

On the other hand, *The Dreamcatcher* can be seen as a metaphor for the human development until the end of adolescence: the transformation into an individual that is able to pursue its own dreams.

The Dreamcatcher has been commissioned by the Dutch National Student Orchestra for their 2018 'Dream!' tour through the Netherlands, Austria and Slovenia.



JAN-PETER DE GRAAFF

Composer	Jan-Peter de Graaff
Title	Le café de nuit (2017)
Duration	14'54"
Performers Conductor	Residentie Orchestra Nicholas Conlon
Premiere and recording date & place	Amsterdam, Royal Concertgebouw 13-01-2018
Production	NLNPO/NTR
Website	http://www.janpeterdegraaff.com/
Represented by Donemus	http://donemus.nl/jan-peter-de-graaff/

ntr:

Biography: Jan-Peter de Graaff

Jan-Peter de Graaff (*1992), born in Papendrecht and raised on the isle of Terschelling, starting composing at the age of 15. After two years of private lessons with Klaas ten Holt, De Graaff studied composition at the Royal Conservatoire The Hague from 2010 (BMus 2014, MMus 2016), where his teachers included Guus Janssen, Diderik Wagenaar, Calliope Tsoupaki and Kenneth Hesketh (Erasmus at RCM London, 2015). During his composition studies, he studied orchestral conducting with Alex Schillings and Jos Vermunt as a minor subject.

Many of his compositions are recognised by a great amount of transparency and use of colour in harmony, structure and orchestration, with an important focus on form and melodic development, often paired with theatrical elements and/or unusual instruments. De Graaff's works are influenced by a great range of composers both from mostly Russian and French music traditions next to influences from various other music traditions ranging from jazz, tango and folk music.

De Graaff's oeuvre includes now over 30 works for various instrumentations, from solo and chamber music (both instrumental and vocal) to works for orchestra and two operas. Recently, De Graaff has been commissioned by several renowned institutions, including NTR ZaterdagMatinee, Gaudeamus and Asko|Schoenberg Ensemble.

Program Note: 'Le café de nuit, for orchestra' – Jan-Peter de Graaff

"Le café de nuit" is a 13-minute fantasia/nocturne for orchestra, based on the painting (with the same name) by Vincent van Gogh, and the letters he wrote to his brother Theo during his stay in Arles, where he rented a studio above the café. In the letters, he describes this place as "a place where you can ruin yourself, go mad, commit crimes". This subject really interested me as a composer as there is really a conflict within the concept of a café: usually, one goes to a café to escape the on-going world and everyday problems, to dance, to celebrate life and to drink and go drunk to immerse oneself in a different reality. However, there is a danger, as van Gogh states, as the café also influences the world outside. It is a place where the darkest side of human behaviour emerges. In the piece I tried to find this strange balance between joy and danger, between alertness (or even panic) and being drunk, between passion and truth. The piece is not an exact transcription of the painting, but more a stretch of overlapping scenes referring to different musical styles and eras of 'café music' (including jazz references, French chanson, German expressionism, but also electronic dance music)



*For more information regarding all the entries of NPO
to the International Rostrum of Composers you may
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