

## 3rd edition Old Roots New Routes continues in 2021

6 February until 5 May 2021

**Old Roots New Routes will present the continuation of this concert series in 2021 with the following exceptional semi-acoustic formations: Reijseger Sylla Fraanje, Raj Mohan, Boi Akih, the Mozaiek Ensemble with singer Mireille Bittar and Patricio Wang & Ensemble with writer Marja Vuijsje.**

The musicians are largely rooted in Africa, Asia, the Middle East or South America. While preserving their own musical traditions they flourished here. In collaboration with Dutch soul mates they took new paths from their 'old roots'. The concerts in Amsterdam and Utrecht are introduced by an interview with the musicians. Afterwards, depending on the covid-rules that apply at that time, there is an opportunity to talk to the musicians.

### About Old Roots New Routes

We are hardly aware of the fact that The Netherlands possesses, barely audible or visible in the mainstream media, an undiscovered music domain. Because of our colonial past and position as a migratory country, artists from all corners of the world have settled here in recent decades. As a result, a musical multi-flow country grew into existence. As a result, a cosmopolitan sound garden is flourishing in our four major cities, each with some 200 different nationalities. As a result, this global cross-fertilization led to a new musical idiom at the local level: 'Dutch delta sounds'.

With the series Old Roots New Routes, this new sound was given an ideal stage in Amsterdam's Amstelkerk from 2017 onwards. An intimate ambiance where semi-acoustic concerts resonate clearly and musicians can profile themselves optimally. The audience is fascinated by instruments such as the West African kora and the Arabic ud, with oriental scales and unsuspected soundscapes. Apart from Amsterdam this edition will also present concerts in Utrecht (Tivoli/Vredenburg).

### Concertdates Old Roots New Routes 2021

Sat 06 February	Reijseger Sylla Fraanje (NL/SE) Podium onder de Toren, Grootschermerdo (NH)
Thu 18 February	Raj Mohan & Ensemble (SR/DE/NL) TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht
Fri 19 February	Raj Mohan & Ensemble (SR/DE/NL) Amstelkerk, Amsterdam
Sat 20 March	Mozaiek Ensemble (SY/FR/NL) Amstelkerk, Amsterdam
Fri 09 April	Boi Akih (ID/NL/ GN/HU) Amstelkerk, Amsterdam
Za 01 May	Patricio Wang & Ensemble with Marja Vuijsje (CL/NL) De Duif, Amsterdam
Wed 05 May	Patricio Wang & Ensemble with Marja Vuijsje (CL/NL) TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht

Tickets and updates: [www.oldrootsnewroutes.nl](http://www.oldrootsnewroutes.nl)

All concerts take place according to the current Covid-19 guidelines.

## About the concerts

### Reijseger Fraanje Sylla

Omnivore, playful and sublime

Sat 06 February - Stage under the Tower, Grootshermer (NH)

Lyrical reviews to be found. "Perfect amalgam of jazz, african singing and classical music", the trio "that creates its own language". When cellist Ernst Reijseger, singer/percussionist Mola Sylla and pianist Harmen Fraanje perform they reach a flow in which the here & now disappear. With their improvisations that are as playful as they are spiritual, each concert transforms into an event that overwhelms the audience. In addition, the trio shares their boundless creativity with dancers, poets, painters and filmmakers. They composed the scores for various films by Werner Herzog. But they also collaborated with soul mates from jazz, classical and traditional music. Like the Sardinian choir Tenore e Cuncordu de Orosei and the group Groove LeLe from La Réunion. The secret of Reijseger Fraanje Sylla? In the words of filmmaker Werner Herzog: "What has been strange becomes familiar. And what has been familiar acquires the glow of mystery".

Musicians: Ernst Reijseger (cello NL), Harmen Fraanje (piano- NL), Mola Sylla (vocals, percussion SE/ NL)

Album: We Were There (2020) Excerpts album

Youtubes: We Were There (Official Making-of)

Reijseger Fraanje Sylla:: Amerigo

Ernst Reijseger and Mola Sylla & Cuncordu de Orosei

Foto: Reijseger Fraanje Sylla door Krijn van Noordwijk

### Raj Mohan & Ensemble (SR/DE/NL)

Hindu blues from the diaspora

Thu 18 February TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht | Fri 19 February Amstelkerk, Amsterdam

The American blues, once created by forced migration, finds a parallel story in Raj Mohan. As great-grandchild of Indian contract workers he moved from Suriname to the Netherlands (1974). He turns out to be a charismatic singer-songwriter, interpreting the blues in Hindi, Urdu and Sarnami. In these songs Mohan combines classical songs from North India (ghazals) with self-written repertoire. The beating heart of his performance is the hidden history of the 'Kantráki'. After the official abolition of slavery (1863) the Netherlands shipped some 35,000 Indian contract workers to Surinam between 1873-1916. Since then the transport ship Lalla Rookh became the symbol of this post-colonial 'slavery' which is commemorated extensively in 2023. Their descendants (350,000), with Raj Mohan as torchbearer, continue this musical legacy today.

Musicians: Raj Mohan (vocals, tanpura/ harmonium, guitar SR/NL), Tammo Heikens (acoustic guitar NL), Mark Alban Lodz (bansuri/flute DE/NL), Suresh Sardjoe (tabla-SR), Melanie Tangkau (double bass ID/NL).

Albums: Kaale Baadal (1998), Krishna Murari Mere (2001), Dui Mutthi (2013)

www.rajmohan.nl

Youtube: Dui mutthi, Raj Mohan live met Metropole Orkest | Girmitiya Kantraki Bhojpuri Song | Raj Mohan

Foto: Raj Mohan (no credits)

### **Mozaiek Ensemble - Premiere**

Making dreams come true in times of war  
Sat 20 March Amstelkerk, Amsterdam

As it is hardly known that Mozart once performed in The Hague and Amsterdam, we hardly know of his fame in the Middle East. At least in Damascus, where soprano Mireille Bittar sang his songs. Together with compatriot Feras Khouri, a specialist in composing and arranging Middle Eastern music, she founded the Mozaiek Ensemble in the Netherlands. In spite of the war Syrian musicians continue to play in order to be able to realize their dreams again.

Like loose stones in a tableau that gradually reveals its secret, the ensemble performs songs, which are set in a surprising mix of oriental and western classical music. The aim is to "bring these two worlds together and build bridges". Pieces by Albinoni, Mozart and Verdi next to those by the Rahbani Brothers, Göksel Baktagir and Zaki Nassif suddenly shine from a completely new perspective.

Musicians: Mireille Bittar (vocal- SY), Feras Khouri (piano & arrangements- SY), Karel Bredenhorst (cello- NL), Ayman Hajmian (double bass- SY), Youssef Nassif (kanun- SY), Modar Salama (percussion & riq- SY), Adeline Salles (flute- FR), Best Sevindik (violin- TR).

[www.mozaiekensemble.com](http://www.mozaiekensemble.com)

Youtube: [Mozaiek Ensemble - A live recording from Podium Mozaiek concert](#)

Foto Mireille Bittar by John Vak

### **Boi Akih**

Four virtuoso storytellers  
Fri 09 April Amstelkerk, Amsterdam

Who travels can tell many stories, Boi Akih knows all about it. Not for nothing the group name refers to an ancient Indian fairy tale. Since 1996 the charismatic singer Monica Akihary and guitarist/composer Niels Brouwer form the chameleonic couple Boi Akih that performed from Eastern Europe and South Africa to Southeast Asia. Their repertoire sounds just as cross-border, in which divergent musical traditions organically merge with European impro-jazz. Renowned abroad, in the Netherlands Boi Akih is at best known among connoisseurs. Wrongly so, especially since the duo is constantly developing new travel stories. In other words, adventurous combinations with renowned musicians such as tabla player Sandip Bhattacharya and cellist Ernst Reijseger. For their latest album Storyteller, Akihary & Brouwer collaborate with Hungarian recorder player Dodó Kis and West African kora player Sekou Dioubate. Together four nomadic spirits who forge unexpected encounters into virtuoso stories. Moreover, a golden combination to give Boi Akih's silver jubilee extra color.

"The sultriest voice in the Netherlands is probably that of Monica Akihary. Together with guitarist Niels Brouwer she is working on an intriguing and elusive oeuvre that crosses musical geographical boundaries in all respects" - Het Parool

Musicians: Monica Akihary (voice, baskalimba, electronic ID/NL), Niels Brouwer (guitar-(NL), Sekou Dioubate (kora- GN/NL), Dodó Kis (recorder- HU/NL).

Album: Storyteller (2020)

[www.boiakih.com](http://www.boiakih.com)

Youtube: [Boi Akih storyteller](#)

Foto Boi Akih by Maarten Mooijman

### **Patricio Wang & Ensemble with Marja Vuijsje**

Musical stories of resistance and liberation

Sat 01 May De Duif, Amsterdam | Wed 05 May TivoliVredenburg, Utrecht

Not without reason composer/guitarist Patricio Wang (Chile, 1952) calls himself a 'refugee in duplicate'. After the coup of general Pinochet on nine eleven 1973 he is banished because of his 'state threatening' crossovers of traditional music from the Andes (andino) with classical and pop (Beatles covers). Wang flees to the Netherlands. As a student of Louis Andriessen he turns out to be a versatile composer/guitarist who creates a furore in avant-garde ensembles (De Volharding, Hoketus) and andino formations (Amankay, Quilapayùn). His melancholic compositions also leave their mark on film, dance and theater. In writer Marja Vuijsje he recognizes a soul mate. She described her family story in 'Ons kamp. A more or less Jewish history' and also maintained close connections with Chile.

Together they present a moving musical story about resistance and liberation.

Musicians: Patricio Wang & Ensemble with a.o: Patricio Wang (compositions, guitars, tiple, charango, pan flute, vocal CL/NL), Jasper le Clercq (violin, vocal NL), Paul van Utrecht (guitar, vocal NL), Christian Goza (quena, pan flute, charango, guitars, vocal CL/CH), with Marja Vuijsje (NL).

Solo albums: Music for films (1990), Canciones salvajes (2009), Song book (2013)

[www.muzeikencyclopedie.nl/action/entry/Patricio+Wang](http://www.muzeikencyclopedie.nl/action/entry/Patricio+Wang)

[www.muzeikencyclopedie.nl/action/entry/Patricio+Wang](http://www.muzeikencyclopedie.nl/action/entry/Patricio+Wang)

Audio: [Patricio Wang. Canciones Salvajes - I Pido Silencio \[Partitura\]](#)

[Finale \(Königskinder\)](#)

Publications: Marja Vuijsje a.o. Ons Kamp (Publishing Atlas Contact, 2012)

Pictures: Patricio Wang by Joop Reijngoud | Marja Vuijsje by Jelmer de Haas.

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#### **Note for editors, not for publication:**

[Link Press info and images](#)

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