

Oene van Geel (Netherlands) <https://www.oenevangeel.com>

THE VIOLINIST

Composer/viola player Oene van Geel (1973) is a musical adventurer. Influenced by jazz, Indian music, chamber music and free improvisation, he uses his virtuoso improvisation skills and his compositional talent for a wide variety of musical activities. He has toured Europe, the Middle East, India, Japan, the United States and Canada.



As a player he is currently active with the following ensembles/bands:

Estafest, The Marmoucha Orchestra (also as composer), The Nordanians, Haanstra & van Geel, in trio with pianist Philipp Rüttgers and cellist Pau Sola, in duo with dancer Miri Lee and in trio with Goda Zukauskaitė (dance) and Rob van den Broek (visual artist). Besides playing with these formations, he is regularly invited as an improvising guest soloist and workshop leader.

He received the VPRO Boy Edgar Prize (2013 – the largest oeuvre prize in jazz and improvised music), the Sena Performers Toonsetters Prize (2012, with Zapp4), the Kersjes Prize (2005, with Zapp4), the Deloitte Jazz Award (2002), the Dutch Jazz Competition (2001) and the Jur Muziekprijs Naessens Muziekprijs (2000).

THE COMPOSER

As a composer Oene is mostly active in musical theater and chamber music. He composed for: Dutch National Opera, The Netherlands Wind Ensemble, Holland Opera, The Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Liza Ferschtman + Calefax, The North Pole Orchestra, Frederieke Saeijs, Niladri Kumar, The Dudok Quartet, The David Kweksilber Big Band, The Osiris Trio, Emlyn Stam + New European Ensemble, Black Pencil Ensemble, Amstel Quartet, Nizar Rohana, Remy van Kesteren and Eric Vloeimans, Erik Bosgraaf, Steven Kamperman Quintet, Netherlands Youth Orchestra, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Matangi Quartet, Calefax, Tetzepi bigtet, the Ricciotti Ensemble, Nicolay Shugaev (Ru), David Braid (Ca) and many others.

Oene also regularly composes for festivals such as: Music Meeting (2021), Grachtenfestival (2021), Bachfestival Dordrecht (2020), The Amsterdam Viola Festival (2017), The Dutch Violin Competition (2016 edition), Cello Biennale Amsterdam (2008 and 2016 edition), Anniversary Osiris Trio (2014), the Storioni Festival (2013), Orlando Festival (2012), the North Sea Jazz Festival (2005), SJU Jazz Festival (2002), Marathon Festival Oosterpoort (2002).

The combination of different disciplines is a fascinating working environment for Oene. As a composer and musician, he was involved in productions by: Dutch National Opera ('Bewogen Bewegen' in 2016 and 'Hondenhartje' in 2017), Silbersee, Wervelwind Ensemble, Boukje Schweigman, Kalpanarts, Theun Mosk, Eric Vaarzon Morel, Saartje van Camp, Theater workshop Tiuri, Herman van Baar, Marcel Sijm, the Wêreldbänd, Holland Opera (3 productions), Udo Prinsen and Theater Sonnevank.

Since September 2021, Oene has been a Composition teacher in the Music in Education department at the Artez Conservatory in Zwolle and regularly gives (multi-day) workshops at the Conservatories of Groningen, The Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam, and Arnhem. Subjects are diverse, but it is always a combination of composition, ensemble playing, improvisation and the students' own creativity.

Oene has been a member of Nieuw Geneco since December 2016. And since its inception, he has been involved with the Splendor collective.