

Beleidsplan Stichting Maat Saxophone Quartet

2021/2022

1. INTRODUCTION

Maat Saxophone Quartet is a 100% Portuguese ensemble.

Based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, this young quartet lives from its “hot blood” - a feverish and energetic passion for chamber music, together with a great companionship among the four members who share the same culture.

Prize-winners of the most prestigious classical music competition in Portugal “Prémio Jovens Músicos” (2018) and laureates of Dutch Classical Talent (2020).

Maat already established itself as one of the upcoming new chamber music groups in the Netherlands and Portugal. Students from the saxophone class of Arno Bornkamp, at Conservatorium van Amsterdam, where they got together, the quartet has guidance from Arno Bornkamp and Willem van Merwijk (former Aurelia Saxophone Quartet), and are students of the NSKA - Dutch String Quartet Academy.

Maat’s passion for new music leads them to work closely with young composers, commissioning new pieces which not only represent great additions to the repertoire of this formation, but also revealing the inherent powers of Maat.

On April 2020 they released their first CD “*Ciudades*” under the label 7 Mountains.

Why Maat?

Maat has a double meaning. Besides being an iconic museum and building in Lisbon’ landscape, the word Maat means companionship in dutch. Maat Saxophone Quartet appears from this relation between both countries and, besides that, it is always a nice story to tell.

Mission and Vision

It is the mission of the Maat Saxophone Quartet to play music with meaning and develop projects that have an impact on society. It is important to bring a clear message to our audience.

MSQ wants to collaborate with other musicians, different art-forms such as dancers, theater companies, painters, etc, in order to make their performances as complete as possible.

It is also their wish to continue the work they have been doing with young composers and contribute to a larger repertoire written for saxophone quartet.

Main objective

Maat Saxophone Quartet wants to emancipate the saxophone quartet and chamber music in general. The members of the ensemble strongly believe the group has the strength and energy to keep the work they have been doing - new commissions, arrangements, (big) productions and co-productions, etc.

They believe they can contribute something special to the chamber music environment - four Portuguese living in Amsterdam, 4 young saxophone players with lots of energy to embrace new ideas and challenges.

MSQ is based in the Netherlands but it is also important to the ensemble to bring their programs and productions to Portugal, where they are all naturally from.

2. ARTISTIEK

Starting Point

Their vision is based on three main ideas. Firstly, the quartet wants to play music that brings with it either a story, a cultural background, a meaning, a message, etc. They like to explain to their audience what is behind a new commission, why did they decide to play that arrangement, why that piece of music is so special. That way, they connect better with the music and with their audience too.

Secondly, they want to do collaborations - play with other musicians, with a dancer, a theater company, etc. It is important for them to work together with other people. They share experiences, learn from others and have the opportunity to work on different programs and take the saxophone quartet out of its usual setting.

The music is the main component of the performance and other disciplines will help to dynamically connect the musical expressiveness with the audience.

Last but not least, it is also important to MSQ to always prepare a program with different emotions at one concert. It is important to combine energy pieces with more calm pieces, arrangements with pieces originally written for saxophone quartet, a really known piece and a new commission. This way, they offer a diverse and complete experience to their audience.

Ambitions

This season, 2021/2022, the quartet has two important projects. First, the Dutch Classical Talent Tour Award that takes place between the 6th January 2022 and the 13th February 2022.

During this tour, the quartet will have the opportunity to elaborate a whole new program together with the light engineer Hendrik Walther. The name of the program is “Music beyond Words and Movement”.

The program the quartet prepared is based on music inspired on dancing and singing. With the help of Hendrik, MSQ will bring on stage these two elements represented by the lights in form of, for example, animation having always the music as the main art-form.

MSQ is also working on a co-production with AYA danstheater. These two foundations are working on a project called “Wild” designed for children of 8 years old and older.

The music of this project will be written by the Iranian composer Kaveh Vares.

“Wild” counts already with 20 confirmed performances between February 2022 and april 2022. The Stichting is at this moment applying for funds to support this project.

Maat Saxophone Quartet did the première of their new project “Renascer” around Fado music with the guitar player António Carlos Costa on the GrachtenFestival (edition 2021). Now they want to bring this new project to the concert halls in The Netherlands, Portugal and other countries.

Past projects

Prémio Jovens Músicos - First place in the chamber music category (2018)

Dream - performance designed for the final round of the “Storioni Competition” (2019)

Ciudades - the first CD of MSQ released by the label 7 Mountains Records (2020)

Sonho - performed at Casa da Música in Porto at the final round of AGEAS Competition (2020)

Dutch Classical Talent Music Award - Finalists of the DCT with the project “Music beyond words and movement” (2021-2022)

Board members

The board members of Stichting Maat Saxophone Quartet work as a volunteers for the Stichting. Therefore, there is no monetary remuneration for each one of them.

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