

artistic director Candida Thompson

Am
sterdam
Sinfonietta

everything
breathes musical passion



innovative projects & adventurous programming



Amsterdam Sinfonietta is an ensemble of 22 gifted musicians who perform under the direction of Candida Thompson, artistic director since 2003. The ensemble's defining feature is the strong involvement and artistic drive of each individual member. The group has gained a reputation for distinguished, performances and innovative programming, often featuring surprising combinations of works. It collaborates with renowned artists and performs in major venues around the world.

Amsterdam Sinfonietta – founded in 1988 – is a highly respected ensemble with strong roots in the Dutch cultural scene. Every season Amsterdam Sinfonietta presents a series of concerts in the Concertgebouw and the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam. The orchestra has residencies in Leiden and Enschede. Besides these series Amsterdam Sinfonietta is regularly invited by all regional concert halls in The Netherlands. The orchestra boasts a young and loyal audience.

Amsterdam Sinfonietta performs ingenious programmes featuring well-known repertoire combined with commissions, new arrangements or rarely performed works. Recent commissions include world premières of compositions by Sofia Gubaidulina, HK Gruber, Michel van der Aa and Dobrinka Tabakova. Over the past seasons Amsterdam Sinfonietta has initiated and recorded new arrangements of various chamber music works. These include works by Beethoven, Brahms, Mahler, Schulhoff, Haas, Shostakovich and Berg. Amsterdam Sinfonietta



World première 'Up-close' with Sol Gabetta, Konserthuset Stockholm, March 2011

enjoys intensive collaborations with pre-eminent musicians. Guest artists such as Janine Jansen, David Fray, Jean-Guihen Queyras, Barbara Hannigan, Maxim Vengerov, Thomas Hampson, Sergey Khachatryan, Christianne Stotijn, Håkan Hardenberger, Martin Fröst, Julian Rachlin, Sol Gabetta, James Gilchrist, Natalia Gutman and Isabelle van Keulen have made return appearances with the orchestra. On rare occasions the orchestra performs with conductor, inviting giants like Gustavo Dudamel, Valery Gergiev and Gennady Rozhdestvensky.

The group has been a guest at many festivals including the Adelaide Festival, Gergiev Festival, Schleswig Holstein Festival and La Roque d'Antheron and also appears regularly at the Holland Festival, the Robeco Summer Series and Carte Blanche Series in the Amsterdam Concertgebouw. Every year the ensemble shows its versatility with a New Year's programme that goes beyond the bounds of a conventional concert.

Bobby McFerrin



Jonny Greenwood





Amsterdam Sinfonietta

This New Year's programme has become a tradition attracting new and diverse audiences in many national venues. Joining forces with artists such as Bobby McFerrin, Roby Lakatos, Wende Sniijders and Chick Corea has resulted in intriguing on-stage chemistry and compelling concerts. The orchestra also participates in multidisciplinary projects. Together with the Dutch-Italian choreographers Emio Greco & PC, the ensemble presented a theatrical production featuring a contemporary

collage of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*. Amsterdam Sinfonietta has also worked with the actor Jeroen Willems and stage director Pierre Audi in a programme centred around Alban Berg's *Lyrical Suite*. Upcoming projects include a Dessner-Greenwood double portrait featuring recent compositions by Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead and Bryce and Aaron Dessner from the successful rock band The National.

candida

thompson, artistic director & lead violin

In the summer of 2003 Candida Thompson was appointed artistic director of Amsterdam Sinfonietta. She studied with David Takeno, graduating with honours from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She further developed her artistic prowess at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada. Since completing her studies Candida Thompson had led chamber orchestras in the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Germany and The Netherlands. As a soloist she played with several international orchestras such as Moskow Chamber Orchestra, The English String Orchestra, Wiener Symphoniker, the Netherland Radio Chamber Orchestra and Amsterdam Sinfonietta. She has regularly performed chamber music with musicians such as Xenia Jankovic, Bruno Giuranna, Janine Jansen and Isabelle Faust. Under Candida Thompson's leadership the orchestra has made successful tours and highly acclaimed CD recordings.



Candida Thompson

international reputation



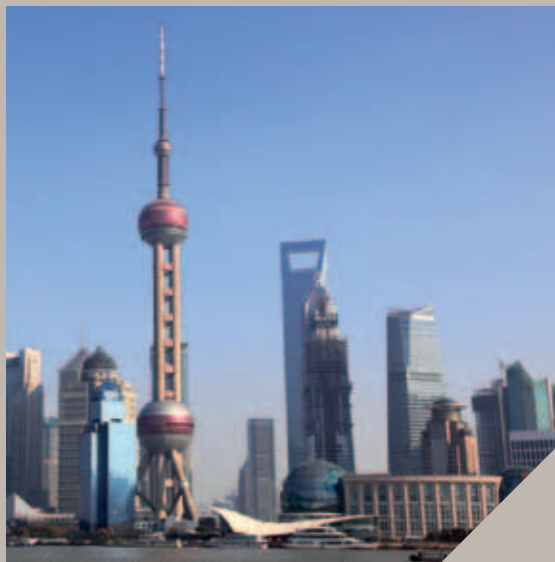
*Beijing, National Centre for the Performing Arts,
China tour, 2010*

Every season Amsterdam Sinfonietta travels abroad. Apart from frequent visits to European countries, the orchestra recently performed in the USA, Australia and China.

“Amsterdam Sinfonietta is a divine ensemble, descended from the heavens, its sound more luxuriantly spacious than one imagines is possible from a group of 25 players.” *Australian tour, 2006*

“Expect the unexpected from the Amsterdam Sinfonietta. The all-string outfit doesn’t just play music. It also commissions, re-interprets and re-configures examples of the art form.”

Music OMH, European tour ‘Liebestod’, 2011



Shanghai, China tour, 2010



Luxembourg, Philharmonie, European tour, 2011



Berlin, Konzerthaus, Germany tour, 2011

past

tours

- 2005 – **Spain**
Janine Jansen *violin*
Emanuel Abbühl *oboe*
- 2006 – **Australia**
Claron McFadden *soprano*
Maxim Rysanov *viola*
- 2007 – **Germany**
Martin Fröst *clarinet*
– **Turkey**
Kim Kashkashian *viola*
– **Spain**
Håkan Hardenberger *trumpet*
- 2008 – **US**
Kim Kashkashian *viola*
- 2009 – **Belgium**
Geir Draugsvoll *bayan*
– **France**
Alexandre Tharaud *piano*
– **Italy**
Jean-Guihen Queyras *cello*
- 2010 – **China**
Pieter Wispelwey *cello*
- 2011 – **Europe**
Sol Gabetta *cello*
– **Germany**
David Fray *piano*

Pieter Wispelwey



Håkan Hardenberger



Janine Jansen



liebestod

european tour, march 2011

Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson *artistic director & lead violin*

Sol Gabetta *cello*

Jeroen Willems *actor*

Pierre Audi *stage director*

R. Wagner *Prelude from Tristan and Isolde*

A. Berg *Lyric Suite, performance in combination with a monologue*

M. van der Aa *Up-close, commission for cello, string orchestra and film projection*

Upon the invitation of the European Concert Hall Organisation, Amsterdam Sinfonietta performed a multimedia programme entitled 'Liebestod'. The acclaimed composer Michel van der Aa created a work for the Argentinian cellist Sol Gabetta, Amsterdam Sinfonietta and film projection. Pierre Audi stage directed the actor Jeroen Willems in a monologue, based on love letters written by Alban Berg. Wagner's *Prelude* is the opening work in this theatrical programme about love and disillusionment.

March 2011

Stockholm – Konserthuset

Luxembourg – Philharmonie

Brussels – Palais des Beaux Arts

Amsterdam – Concertgebouw

London – Barbican Hall

Hamburg – Elbphilharmonie



Sol Gabetta



Michel van der Aa



Pierre Audi

upcoming tours

Sol Gabetta – October 2012 & August 2013

In the autumn of 2012 Amsterdam Sinfonietta will make a European tour premièring a new work by the Latvian composer Peteris Vasks. The Argentinian cellist Sol Gabetta will perform the newly written cello concerto by this 'neo-Romantic' composer. This commissioned work will be coupled with C.P.E. Bach's *A major Cello concerto*, an exciting example of the Sturm und Drang (Storm and Stress) style, displaying violent contrasts of emotion and rapidly changing tempos and dynamics.

P. Vasks	Commission for a cello concerto (approx. 20 min.)
C.P.E. Bach	Cello concerto in A major

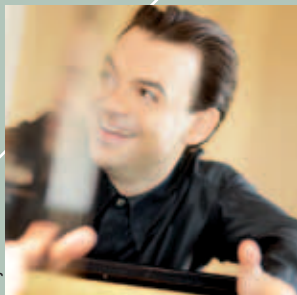
Orchestral repertoire: t.b.d.



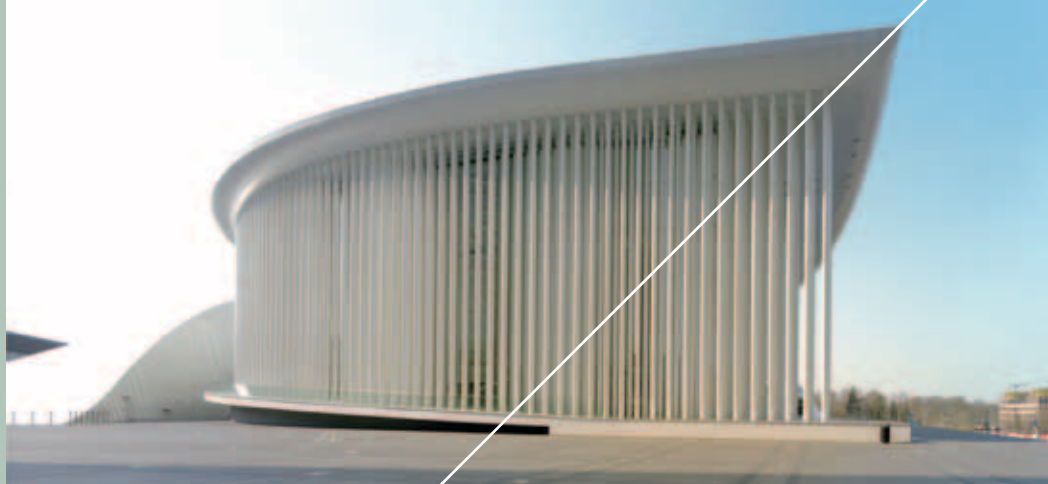
Sol Gabetta



Martin Fröst



Dejan Lazic



Luxembourg Philharmonie

Martin Fröst – April 2013

Amsterdam Sinfonietta and the clarinetist Martin Fröst have enjoyed past collaborations. Their recording of Mozart's *Clarinet concerto* for BIS label sold over 100.000 copies. The project in April 2013 offers audiences a choice between an adventurous programme and a Classical-Romantic one. Both programmes provide a balance between core repertoire and fresh, vivacious folk arrangements.

Programme 1

A. Copland	Clarinet concerto
Traditional	Klezmer dances
F. Hogberg	New work 'Silence without Purpose' for film, clarinet and strings (approx. 10 min.)
S. Rachmaninov	Vocalise for clarinet and strings

Orchestral repertoire: works by E. Korngold and D. Shostakovich.

Programme 2

A. Weber	Clarinet concerto no.1
J. Brahms	Hungarian dances for clarinet and strings
S. Rachmaninov	Vocalise for clarinet and strings

Orchestral repertoire: works by J. Brahms and E. Korngold

Dejan Lazic – November/December 2012

The Croatian pianist Dejan Lazic is one of the most promising pianists of his generation. Amsterdam Sinfonietta and Dejan Lazic will perform Shostakovich's *Piano concerto no. 1* and Haydn's all-time favourite: his *Concerto in D*. Lazic explores the common ground between the two composers. His musical quest reveals an unexpected new dimension of the established repertoire.

J. Haydn	Piano concerto in D
D. Shostakovich	Piano concerto no. 1

Orchestral repertoire t.b.d.

recordings

Amsterdam Sinfonietta has recorded an impressive number of CDs for labels including BIS, Philips, Challenge Records, Globe and Channel Classics. Under Candida Thompson's artistic direction the ensemble has recorded five CDs for Channel Classics, which received many outstanding reviews. Upcoming releases include an all-Britten CD featuring the soprano Barbara Hannigan and tenor James Gilchrist and a recording with works by Gustav Mahler is planned.



Brahms Schönberg



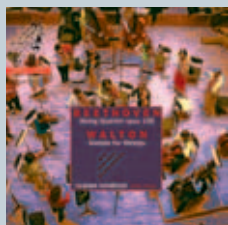
The Bohemian Album

“The Dvořák Serenade sounds newly-minted in this bright, lively performance. Swift tempos, immaculate ensemble, and invigorating rhythms combine to deliver a performance about a thousand times more enjoyable than the usual “romantic” panting and heaving the work so often receives from larger ensembles. 10/10 (Artistic Quality/Sound Quality)”.

Classics Today about The Bohemian Album



Shostakovich



Beethoven Walton

“This is an amazing disc in every respect. The Amsterdam Sinfonietta plays with such incredible unanimity of ensemble, but at the same time with such natural flexibility of pulse, that you miss absolutely none of the intimacy of the quartet originals.... this is one of the most perfect recordings of anything that I have ever heard... flawlessly polished, emotionally gripping interpretations. Miraculous! 10/10 (Artistic Quality/ Sound Quality). *Classics Today about Shostakovich*

“Amsterdam Sinfonietta tears into the beginning of Walton’s Sonata for Strings with unstoppable vigour, and that pulse of excitement beats throughout a terrific performance”. *Gramophone about Beethoven Walton*

concerts

2011/2012

Elegy for a Rose October 2011



Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson

artistic director & lead violin

James Gilchrist tenor

Jasper de Waal French horn

J.S. Bach	Violin concerto in E major
H. Purcell	Fantasia upon one note
H. Purcell	Two arias
R. Vaughan Williams	Fantasia on a theme by Thomas Tallis
M. Locke	Curtain Tune from 'The Tempest'
B. Britten	Serenade for tenor, horn and strings

The *Serenade for tenor, horn and strings* is Britten's most bewitching and mysterious work. In this performance Amsterdam Sinfonietta accompanies the light, expressive voice of the English tenor James Gilchrist. Jasper de Waal, principal hornist of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, takes on the other significant solo role in the *Serenade*.

Vivaldi's Sonnets November 2011



Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson

artistic director & lead violin

Sergey Khachatryan violin

A. Vivaldi	The Four Seasons
P.I. Tchaikovsky	Souvenir de Florence

Few are aware that Vivaldi wrote a sonnet for each of his four seasons prior to composing the music. Only after reading the sonnets does the listener become aware of what Vivaldi has musically depicted in these works: the twittering of birds, thunderstorms and even barking dogs. *The Four Seasons* is a unique challenge, testing the powers of any violinist, so the extremely virtuosic violinist Sergey Khachatryan has naturally long cherished the wish to perform this work.

Visions Fugitives December 2011



Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson

artistic director & lead violin

Sergey Khachatryan violin

S. Prokofiev	Visions Fugitives (arr. R. Barshai)
A. Aharonian	Commission for violin and strings (world première)
P.I. Tchaikovsky	Souvenir de Florence

'Rarely is the violin played with such passion and integrity... Great violinists such as Milstein, Menuhin and Grumiaux must have listened with approval from the heavens...' (NRC Handelsblad). The Armenian violinist Sergey Khachatryan is one of the most intriguing musicians on the current scene. He will perform a new work by his compatriot Artur Aharonian, commissioned by Amsterdam Sinfonietta.

Johann Sebastian January 2012

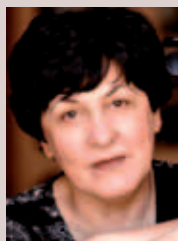


**Soloists from
Amsterdam Sinfonietta**
Candida Thompson
artistic director & lead violin

J.S. Bach	Trio sonata in G major
J.S. Bach	Violin concerto in A minor
J.S. Bach	Violin concerto in E major
J.S. Bach	Gamba sonata in G minor
J.S. Bach	Air from Suite no. 3
J.S. Bach	Inventions and Sinfonias

Soloists from Amsterdam Sinfonietta take to the stage with a varied chamber music programme inspired by the German genius Johann Sebastian Bach. Artistic director Candida Thompson appears as the soloist in Bach's brilliant and festive *violin concertos*. The Canadian cellist Kaori Yamagami will perform a solo sonata, which Bach originally composed for the gamba.

Beethoven's Little Symphony February 2012



Amsterdam Sinfonietta
Candida Thompson
artistic director & lead violin
Natalia Gutman cello

M. Ravel	Suite Ma mère l'Oye
C. Saint-Saëns	Cello concerto no. 1
G. Kurtág	Merran's Dream and Lygatura Y
L. van Beethoven	Symphony no. 8

The cellist Natalia Gutman is one of the last surviving great players from the golden generation of Russian musicians. She performs Saint-Saëns' *First Cello concerto* with Amsterdam Sinfonietta. Following the

tranquil atmosphere of Kurtág's miniatures we hear Beethoven's wondrous *Eighth Symphony*. Beethoven often referred to this short, jocular work as 'my little symphony in F'.

The Four Seasons of Glass March 2012



Amsterdam Sinfonietta
Candida Thompson
artistic director & lead violin
Robert McDuffie violin

P. Glass	Violin concerto no. 2 'The American Four Seasons' (Dutch and Belgian premières)
T. Keuris	Variations for strings
J. Adams	Shaker Loops

Philip Glass has proved as none other that contemporary music can draw large audiences. Amsterdam Sinfonietta will give the Dutch and Belgian premières of his long-awaited *Second Violin concerto* 'The American Four Seasons' with the American violinist Robert McDuffie, to whom Glass dedicated the work.

Songs of Death April 2012



Amsterdam Sinfonietta
Candida Thompson
artistic director & lead violin
Christianne Stotijn
mezzo-soprano

D. Shostakovich	Prelude and Scherzo
M. Mussorgsky	Songs and Dances of Death (arr. T. Verbey)
C. Debussy	Préludes for string orchestra
D. Shostakovich	Chamber Symphony opus 118a (arr. R. Barschai)

'Stotijn's charisma and her beautifully recorded altoish depth of tone is enough to hold me spellbound' (BBC Music Magazine). Once again she performs with Amsterdam Sinfonietta. Mussorgsky's macabre song cycle is dominated by the terrifying poems, in which devouring death assumes four different forms.

Lento Religioso May 2012



Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Candida Thompson

artistic director & lead violin

Severin von Eckardstein

piano

E. Korngold	Lento Religioso
L. van Beethoven	Piano concerto no. 2
P.J. Wagemans	Commissioned work
F. Schubert	Symphony no. 5

Von Eckardstein makes his first appearance with Amsterdam Sinfonietta. De Volkskrant wrote about him: 'on rare occasions it happens: one enters the concert hall as one's usual, everyday self and departs transformed, enriched, strengthened'. In the Vienna of Schubert and Beethoven, Korngold was heralded as the new Mozart a century later. In 1937, this child prodigy who developed into a composer of great stature, composed *Lento Religioso*, a revelation.

Photography

Marco Borggreve
Amsterdam Sinfonietta
Candida Thompson
Michel van der Aa
Sol Gabetta
Håkan Hardenberger
Sergey Khachatryan
Christianne Stotijn

Mats Bäcker
Martin Fröst

Felix Broede
Janine Jansen

Hang Jin Cho
Pieter Wispelwey

Cupertino
Skyline Shanghai

Jason Evans
Jonny Greenwood

Jim Four
James Gilchrist

Jens Hübner
Konzerthaus Berlin

Beni Kaufmann
Natalia Gutman

Susie Knoll
Dejan Lazic

Ann Marsden
Bobby McFerrin

Erwin Olaf
Pierre Audi

Shane Shu &
Michel Cupido
Severin von Eckardstein

Christian Steiner
Robert McDuffie

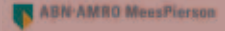
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