

Biography

Nederlands Blazers Ensemble / Netherlands Wind Ensemble

Driven by shared enthusiasm and a sense of adventure, the musicians who make up the Nederlands Blazers Ensemble (Netherlands Wind Ensemble) pursue their own brand of musical theatre, which resists easy pigeonholing. For half a century, the NBE has plotted an unmistakable course through the changing cultural landscape of the Netherlands and continuously searches for new and unexpected directions. The NBE plays music of all times, genres and cultural backgrounds, as long as it stimulates the senses and stirs up the imagination. On stage, the ensemble is known for its tireless energy and mischievous sense of fun. And through the years, countless musicians, composers, poets, writers, actors, dancers, directors, designers and artists have found each other through the NBE's pioneering, pan-cultural productions.

On average, the 20 members of the ensemble perform 80 times per year. From their Amsterdam base, they and their guests from all over the globe tour both large and smaller venues in the Netherlands and abroad. In addition, the ensemble has been a musical guest during official Dutch state visits to India, Thailand and Turkey and has been featured in the famous Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall.

The NBE emphatically endorses the valuable social role music can play for those who are less well off in society. The ensemble has set up projects with partners including Stichting Vrolijkheid, which brightens up asylum centres and Musicians Without Borders, which tries to harness the power of music as a force for reconciliation and hope in conflict areas.

There is a natural connection between the NBE and youths, students, amateurs and young composers. Their educational programme reaches from introducing children to music and collaborations with local amateur music societies to coaching promising young talent at the highest level. Quite a few of these young talents now a days take part in the projects of the NBE.

NBElive, the ensemble's own label, was set up to make live performances available in recorded form 'for those who were there and those who wished they had been'. NBElive has so far brought out 39 CDs and DVDs, to great acclaim: the new recording of Mozart's Gran Partita was awarded the Edison Muziekprijs, a prestigious Dutch music prize.

www.nbe.nl