

PRESS RELEASE

**BRANDT ATTEMA SUCCEEDS BART SCHNEEMANN**

**AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

**NETHERLANDS WINDS ENSEMBLE**

The Netherlands Wind Ensemble (Nederlands Blazers Ensemble, NBE) is entering a new phase with the appointment of Brandt Attema as its new artistic director. Effective from September 1, 2024, he will succeed Bart Schneemann, who announced over a year ago his intention to step down from the role. The Supervisory Board, in close collaboration with the ensemble's musicians, initiated a selection process to find his successor.

Trombonist Brandt Attema (born 1978) has been a core member of the Netherlands Wind Ensemble since 2000. His many years of experience with the NBE have greatly inspired him and further developed his love for a wide diversity of music.

Attema states: "The quality of the musicians, the joy of playing, and the immense dedication of the NBE players make me very excited to commit myself to the ensemble as artistic director. I will primarily seek connection and hope to pass on the inspiration and energy that emanate from the ensemble to new generations of musicians and the audience in particular."

John Jaakke, chairman of the Supervisory Board, commented: "We are very pleased that with the appointment of Brandt Attema, we have found a top musician from within our own ranks to continue and further develop the artistic policy of the NBE. We know Brandt as an inspiring musician who can connect and develop the NBE content-wise."

After 36 years, Bart Schneemann (born 1954) is stepping down from his role as artistic director and musician with the NBE. During his tenure, he developed a unique signature for the NBE. In each program, he sought a dramatic line connecting different types of music, in addition to the high musical quality of the ensemble and the infectious joy for musicians and the audience. He put the NBE on both the Dutch and international music maps, with the New Year's concert at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam being a yearly highlight.

Bart Schneemann's contribution to the development and fame of the NBE is significant and decisive. Bart is unique as a musician and artistic director and has always given the audience the best of his talents and creativity. We, on behalf of a large audience, are very grateful to Bart for this.

With the change in artistic leadership, the business leadership of the NBE will also change. Elena van Slogteren (born 1986), who has been with the NBE since 2008 and is currently the ad interim managing director, will be appointed managing director as of July 1, 2024. She succeeds Niek Wijns (born 1956), who was managing director from 2011 to 2023 and is still involved as artistic coordinator and producer of NBELIVE. Niek Wijns and Bart Schneemann formed a unique team jointly responsible for many of the NBE's successes.

## Bio Brandt Attema

Brandt Attema (Leeuwarden, 1978) has performed as a soloist, in chamber music ensembles, and in orchestras around the world. In addition to his role with the Netherlands Wind Ensemble, he plays in the international quartet Slide Monsters and the New Trombone Collective. Together with harpist Astrid Haring, he forms the unique bass trombone-harp duo AttemaHaring. Until 2019, he was the bass trombonist for the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, and since 2019, Attema has been a Professor of Trombone at the Hochschule für Musik in Karlsruhe.

Since its founding, Attema has been active in Splendor Amsterdam, where he experiments with unique combinations such as the Bassic Quartet, which includes tuba, bass clarinet, and baritone saxophone, or a duo with cimbalom player Vasile Nedea.

## About NBE

The Netherlands Wind Ensemble (Nederlands Blazers Ensemble, NBE) is a group of over twenty top musicians who come together around eighty times a year to perform special programs both domestically and internationally. Shared passion and a thirst for adventure drive the NBE to create theatrical music programs that rarely fit under a single musical label; the NBE combines contemporary and classical music of all kinds, stimulating the senses and imagination. The NBE is always seeking intriguing collaborations with musicians from other cultures and exciting combinations with other disciplines. With its innovative programs, the NBE aims to surprise, captivate, move, and stimulate a wide audience. **Over NBE**

Het Nederlands Blazers Ensemble (NBE) is een groep van ruim twintig topmusici die zo'n tachtig keer per jaar samenkomt om in binnen- en buitenland bijzondere programma's te spelen. Gezamenlijke bezieling en honger naar avontuur drijft het NBE tot het maken van theatrale muziekprogramma's die zelden onder één muzikale noemer te vangen zijn; het NBE combineert eigentijdse en oude muziek van alle soorten en maten die de zinnen en verbeelding prikkelt. Het NBE is altijd op zoek naar intrigerende samenwerkingen met musici uit andere culturen en spannende combinaties met andere disciplines. Met de vernieuwende programma's wil het NBE een groot publiek verrassen, boeien, ontroeren en prikkelen.

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Photo Bart Schneemann: Peter Lodder

Photo Brandt Attema: Jasper Grijpink

For more information:

Marieke de Ruiters | Marketing & Communication Nederlands Blazers Ensemble

[mdr@nbe.nl](mailto:mdr@nbe.nl) | T 020-6237 806 | M 06-1540 8859 | [www.nbe.nl](http://www.nbe.nl)

