



Mathilde Wantenaar

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Bio

Amsterdam born composer Mathilde Wantenaar (1993) started her studies at the *Amsterdam Conservatory*, where she studied classical composition with Willem Jeths and Wim Henderickx and subsidiary subjects including piano, cello, classical voice and advanced rhythm.

Wantenaar's music has been described as lyrical, enchanting and eclectic yet authentic. The combination of her craftsmanship and openness to a broad array of genres make Wantenaar a very versatile composer. She works with individual musicians, both vocalists and instrumentalists, as well as small ensembles, large orchestras and everything in between, and is especially interested in creating opera.

After her first chamber opera premiered during the *Opera Forward Festival 2016* of the *Dutch National Opera* Wantenaar completed her composition studies and was admitted to the *Royal Conservatory of The Hague* to study classical voice with Rita Dams and Noa Frenkel where the goal was to further develop her musicality, explore the art of singing in depth and learn more about drama. This proved to be an invaluable experience with regards to her vocal writing in particular, but also her compositional approach in general.

For three years Wantenaar divided her time between her composition practice and vocal studies, until she got her first orchestral commission (*Prélude à une nuit américaine* for the *Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra*) as well as an opera commission (*Een lied voor de maan* for the *Dutch National Opera*) in 2019 and decided it was time to focus solely on composition from now on.

Wantenaar has written for, and collaborated with, the *Dutch National Opera*, the *Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra*, the *Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra*, the *Netherlands Radio Choir*, the *Dutch Wind Ensemble*, *Amsterdam Sinfonietta*, *Wishful Singing*, Liza Ferschtman, Ralph van Raat, Johannette Zomer and many others.

Education

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| 2016 - 2019 | BA classical voice, Koninklijk Conservatorium Den Haag, Rita Dams and Noa Frenkel (not completed) |
| 2012 - 2016 | BA composition, Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Willem Jeths and Wim Henderickx
Subsidiary subject piano by Emile Simonis |
| 2014 - 2016 | Subsidiary subject classical singing by Maari Ernits
Subsidiary subject cello by Maarten Mostert |
| 2011 - 2012 | Preliminary year composition, Conservatorium van Amsterdam |

Compositions and projects

2020

Een lied voor de maan

Chamber opera in three acts for five voices and six instruments. Based on the original story by Toon Tellegen. Commissioned by Nationale Opera & Ballet. Co-produced by Opera Zuid, Theaterakademie August Everding, Fundación Albéniz, La Monnaie/De Munt, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, European Network Opera Academies.

Het lied van de mol

For children's choir, mezzo-soprano, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano. Adaptation of the original opera *Een lied voor de maan*. Commissioned by Nationale Opera & Ballet for Kinderkorenfestival 2020.

La canzone del piccolo uccellino

For piccolo and vibraphone or piano. Commissioned by Het Benelux Fluitconcours and premiered by Ilonka Kolthof.

Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis: Hier ist ja lauter Nacht

For mezzo-soprano and string quartet. Text adapted from J.S. Bach, *Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis*, BWV 21. Commissioned by the Nijmeegse Stichting voor Kamermuziek.

Fanfare to break the silence

For brass section and percussion. Commissioned by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.

We'll never let you down (first act)

Chamber opera about Jacqueline du Pré for baritone/actor, cello/actrice and piano. First act by Mathilde Wantenaar, second act by Max Knigge and third act by René Samson. Commissioned by Doris Hochscheid.

2019

Prélude à une nuit américaine

For symphony orchestra. Commissioned and performed by the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra with conductor André de Ridder.

Dit zijn de bleeke, bleeklichte weken

For choir. Text by the Dutch poet Herman Gorter. Commissioned by the NTR Zaterdagmatinee and premiered by the Netherlands Radio Choir (Groot Omroepkoor) with conductor Philipp Ahmann.

Nachtmuziek

For string orchestra. Adaptation of the original Octet for double string quartet. Commissioned and performed by Amsterdam Sinfonietta.

Arrangement: Sweelinck, 6 variations 'Mein junges Leben hat ein End'

For string quartet. Commissioned and performed by the soloists of Amsterdam Sinfonietta.

2018

Zomernacht

For five female voices a cappella. Commissioned by Frits Prior and performed by Wishful Singing at Podium Witteman, 4 November 2018. Text by the Dutch poet C.O. Jellema.

Damokles

For cello quartet. Commissioned by the Cello Biënnale 2018 and performed by Cellokwartet Ferschtman with Dmitry Ferschtman, Larissa Groeneveld, Ketevan Roinishvili and Willem Stam.

Spring in War-Time

For bariton and piano. Commissioned and performed by Raoul Steffani and Daan Boertien during their Dutch Classical Talent 2018 tour. Text by the American poet Sara Teasdale.

De stille weg

For five voices (SATBarB), piano and violin. Text by the Dutch poet Herman Gorter. Commissioned by Festival De Muze van Zuid and performed by singers from het Nederlands Kamerkoor, Laurens de Man (piano) and Eva Stegeman (violin) in Orgelpark.

A Haunted House

For soprano and chamber orchestra. Commissioned by het Nederlands Studenten Kamerorkest (Nesko 2018). Performed by Jeannette van Schaik and Nesko conducted by Ivo Meinen. Text by Virginia Woolf.

Bach & Soefi

Commissioned by the Dutch Wind Ensemble (Nederlands Blazers Ensemble, NBE)

2017

Octet

For double string quartet. Commissioned by Liza Ferschtman. Performed at TivoliVredenburg and the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, march 2017. Selected for the 64th International Rostrum of Composers of the International Music Council.

Fantasie voor viool en orkest

For violinist Merel Vercammen and the Alkmaars Symfonie Orkest.

Seufzer

For soprano and string quartet. Commissioned and performed by Johannette Zomer and the Tulipa consort.

2016

personar

Chamber opera for solo soprano, choir and string quintet (vl, vl, vla, vc, cb). (20 min)
Commissioned by the Dutch National Opera. Premiered at the Opera Forward Festival.

2015

Dwalende melodie

Solo bass-clarinet piece. Commissioned by Fie Schouten for an album with new bass-clarinet music suited for students and amateurs.

∞ / Infinitus

For choir and organ. Part of the project 'Amsterdams Requiem'. Performed at Orgelpark, 25 April 2015 by choir Neon.

Wiegelied

For piano, cello and violin. Commissioned by Liza Ferschtman. Premiered at the Delft Chamber Music Festival 2015 by Liza Ferschtman, Ralph van Raat and Konstantin Heidrich.

Schemeringen in het avondland

For piano, cello and klarinet. Commissioned by the Erard Ensemble.

Het Verborgene

For string orchestra, harp, vibraphone and choir. Commissioned by Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ. Performed by Amsterdam Sinfonietta and Cappella Amsterdam.

2014

Gossamer

For *Ensemble Five* (five cellos), performed during the Composers' Festival Amsterdam 2014.

Sprookjes 1, 2 & 3

'Fairytale' for violin and piano. Awarded the *Alba Rosa Viëtor Composition Prize*.

Hooglied

For soprano, guitar and percussion. Text by the Dutch writer P. F. Thomése. This piece won the second prize in the Prinses Christina Compositie Concours.

Schemering

For symphony orchestra. Performed by the Royal Flemish Philharmonic in Antwerp, Belgium.

2013

Vergeet ons niet

A thirty-minute performance made in collaboration with three young choreographers; Maartje Fijen, Floortje Doeksen and Floor Nobbe. Performed during the 'Stukafest' festival by the choreographers themselves, soprano Eveline Fijen and myself (improvisation on cello, voice and guitar).

Nooit meer zo'n dag als vandaag

Song for the children of IJburg, Amsterdam. Commissioned by the Dutch National Opera and performed by all the children (and their parents) of IJburg on the schoolyards as part of the project 'Boom! Amsterdam is een opera'.

Alouette

Solo accordion piece for Sofie de Klerk.

2012

Vaar wel, Winschootse jongen

Song for guitar, cello, two voices and loop-station, inspired by the artist Bas Jan Ader who miraculously disappeared at sea. Written in collaboration with Brechtje van Dijk. Performed by Brechtje (voice and guitar) and me (voice and cello) during the Gaudeamus festival, 6 September 2012.

Muze

For male choir. Text by the Dutch poet Vasalis. Performed by De Fundo, directed by Lodewijk van der Ree.

Stemmingswisselingen

For piano, viola, cello, bass, clarinet, bassoon, guitar and bandoneon. Written after winning the *Donemus Aanmoedigingsprijs voor vrouwelijke componisten*.

Awards and competitions

64th International Rostrum of Composers (2017)

The octet for strings, commissioned by Liza Ferschtman, has been selected for the 64th International Rostrum of Composers of the International Music Council.

Prinses Christina Compositie Concours (2015)

At 11 April *Hooglied* for soprano, guitar and percussion was performed in the Hague by Vanja Schoch, Eva Aukes and Tiffany Ku during the finale of the Prinses Christina Compositie Concours. The piece was awarded the second prize.

Alba Rosa Viëtor Composition Prize (2014)

At 28 september 2014, 'Sprookjes 1, 2 & 3' was performed by Merel Vercammen (violin) and Tobias Borsboom (piano). The piece was awarded both the first prize and the audience prize.

Donemus Aanmoedigingsprijs voor vrouwelijke componisten (2012)

(Donemus prize to encourage female composers)

Commission granted to write the piece 'Stemmingswisselingen' for piano, viola, cello, bass, clarinet, bassoon, guitar and bandoneon.

Koninklijk Conservatorium Prijs voor Jong Talent (2011)

(Royal Conservatory Award for Young Talent)

Granted after participation in the annual composition contest of the Dutch Wind Ensemble (Nederlands Blazers Ensemble).