

# AMSTEL QUARTET

*"The most colourful saxophone quartet in the world"*



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Remco Jak - soprano saxophone  
Olivier Sliepen - alto saxophone  
Bas Apswoude - tenor saxophone  
Ties Mellema - baritone saxophone

Chameleonic and passionate, that would be the best way to describe the four saxophonists that make up the Amstel Quartet. Whether it is old music or the very latest sounds, pop music, jazz, classical or world music - once you hear the Amstel Quartet play, all borders between these genres simply fade away. Technical limitations appear non-existent and musical boundaries are there merely to be crossed.

This adventurous attitude has brought the foursome a multitude of admirers worldwide. And justifiably so, because a performance by the Amstel Quartet has the thrilling energy of a pop concert. The quartet takes you along on a breath-taking and moving journey time and again. It is not without reason that the Dutch press has dubbed the Amstel Quartet 'The most colourful saxophone quartet in the world.'

[www.amstelquartet.nl](http://www.amstelquartet.nl)





# PRESS

*"This saxophone quartet is balm for the soul."*

De Volkskrant, Pablo Cabenda, July 2016

*"If you dare to capture the essence of Wagner's Ring in 20 minutes you are either completely crazy, or just genius."*

Westfälische Nachrichten, Stefan Herkenrath, July 2016

*"Musical borders do not to exist for the Amstel Quartet."*

Klassieke Zaken, Oswin Schneewisz, January 2015

# MEDIA

## AUDIO

▶ P. Glass - Mishima

▶ M. Nyman - Here to There (The Piano)

▶ S. Barber - Adagio

▶ J.S. Bach - Fugue in c BWV 537

## VIDEO



# PROGRAMMES

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## THE HOLLAND-AMERICA LINE

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Minimal music by **Glass, Fiumara, Riley, Vrolijk, Lang**

Ever since the end of the nineteenth century the Holland-America Line took fortune seekers across the ocean from Amsterdam to New York. With them travelled music and it pollinated composers on both shores. Join the Amstel Quartet on a boat trip and sail past the ecstatic music of Terry Riley and Philip Glass, via the magically beautiful sounds of Renske Vrolijk and the powerful tones of David Lang on to Anthony Fiumara's serene quartet. Philip Glass, who will be turning 80 in 2017, has a particularly prominent place in this program, with his dazzling classic "Music in Similar Motion" and the hauntingly beautiful soundtrack of Mishima. A mer-à-boire for the minimal-fan!

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## A NIGHT AT THE CINEMA!

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Film scores by **Morricone, Bernstein, Glass, Wagner, Barber, Nyman**

Music makes everything better. Parties come alive with music and supermarkets would be far more boring places to visit without a musical background. Storytellers have been utilising the power of music to enhance their stories from the very beginning. Music plays an essential role in films too. It intensifies key scenes and makes the drama even more dramatic. But every now and again the music breaks out from its supporting role and earns itself a place in the concert hall. In A Night at the Cinema you will hear stories without words and see films without images.

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## BEAUTY AND TEARS THROUGH THE AGES

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Tears of both joy and melancholy, find their voice in music throughout the ages.

Music by **Buxtehude, Vasks, Tallis, Pärt, Obrecht, Jacob TV, Vrolijk**

Solace and beauty have been intertwined since time immemorial. The still sounds of the old composers such as Jacob Obrecht, Thomas Tallis and Dietrich Buxtehude find a contemporary continuation in the comforting music by Peteris Vasks and Arvo Pärt. At the same time Dutch composers Renske Vrolijk and Jacob TV let the musical tears of their poetic work wistfully pour out of the quartet's saxophone bells.

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## SAX AVEC ELAN!

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PHILIPPE ELAN AND THE AMSTEL QUARTET

Music by **Jacques Brel, Charles Aznavour, Edith Piaf and others**

Drift away with moving French chansons and compelling stories, in the unique combination of chansonnier Philippe Elan and the Amstel Quartet. Elan is a household name to anyone with a passion for the French chanson. He once began his musical career playing the saxophone in the local brass band, but it soon became apparent that his true passion was to sing. The saxophone continued to play a part in his life though and so it was no coincidence that he said yes to a collaboration with the Amstel Quartet: they understand like no other what singing is. And the chansons by Brel, Aznavour and Piaf are perfectly suited to him. The press quite rightly wrote: "Philippe Elan sings these songs with such charm and passion that he effortlessly illustrates why these chansons have become classics."

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## AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES

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**Sweelinck, de Hartmann, Dijkstra, van Onna, Lago, Fiumara, Dun, Nyman, Schumacher, Abou-Khalil**

What Jules Verne achieved in 80 days, the Amstel Quartet can realise in 80 minutes: in a head spinning concert we take a trip around the world. We begin in the Netherlands, in Amsterdam's red light district, to be more exact. From there the quartet guides you past highlights around the globe: from futuristic Shanghai, via the Ethiopian capital Addis Abeba to a caravan crossing the Arabian desert. And all that in 80 minutes, you don't even have to leave your chair.

[view trailer](#)

# RECORDINGS



2015 Sax Avec Elan!



2014 Songs of Clarity



2012 Amstel Tracks NOW!



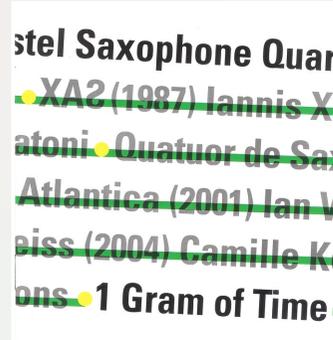
2011 Live @ the Toonzaal



2011 Amstel Raga



2007 Amstel Peijl



2005 1 Gram of Time



2005 Baltica



2004 Amstel Tracks



2002 Straight Lines



# CONTACT

## AMSTEL QUARTET

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Photo's: Marco Borggreve