

Merel Vercammen

bio



Merel Vercammen has performed all over the world, appearing in concert halls such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, and Wigmore Hall in London. Trained as a classical violinist at the Royal College of Music in London, where she graduated cum laude, she also brings improvisation back into classical music and takes the violin to places beyond the traditional concert stage. She has performed at major Dutch pop festivals including Down The Rabbit Hole and Into The Great Wide Open. In 2023, the Dutch financial daily Het Financieele Dagblad selected her as one of its 50 Young Promises of the year.

Since 2018 Merel has formed permanent duos with pianist Dina Ivanova and cellist Maya Fridman. She has frequently collaborated with musicians such as Olga Pashchenko, Erik Bosgraaf, Ties Mellema, Sterre Konijn, Bernadeta Astari, Rembrandt Frerichs, and Maria Milstein, and has appeared as a soloist with the Nederlands Kamerkoor, Pynarello, and the Doelen Ensemble.

Her discography now includes four albums and a digital EP. On her debut album *Symbiosis* (2019) with Dina Ivanova, she pairs César Franck's Violin Sonata with works by Mathilde Wantenaar and Poldowski. It was followed in September 2019 by *The Zoo*, an album consisting entirely of free improvisations – something rarely done in classical music. In 2021 came *The Boulanger Legacy* with Ivanova, devoted to the musical heritage of sisters Lili and Nadia Boulanger. These albums received enthusiastic reviews in the international press and led to invitations for radio and television appearances; two were listed by *de Volkskrant* among the best albums of the year.

As a soloist Merel performs a wide range of repertoire, from violin concertos by Beethoven, Brahms, Dvořák, and Laloto contemporary works. In 2022 she gave the world premiere in Amsterdam of Evgeny Kissin's Piano Trio, and Patricia Kopatchinskaja is currently writing a new work for her.

Merel has long been committed to increasing recognition for contemporary and female composers. She has a close artistic connection with the Dutch composer Mathilde Wantenaar, who wrote her first violin concerto for Merel. On her debut album Merel recorded Wantenaar's *Sprookjes* ("Fairy Tales"), and at her request Wantenaar also composed the oratorio *Dear Professor Einstein*.

Her interests in science and music come together in the biennial SNAAR Festival, which she founded and serves as artistic director. She has also developed interactive performances at the intersection of art and science. Alongside her work as a violinist, Merel studied mathematics and obtained a Master of Science in Music, Mind & Brain from Goldsmiths, University of London, and a Master's in Cultural Economics & Entrepreneurship from Erasmus University Rotterdam.

She plays a violin made by Jean-Baptiste Vuillaume (Paris, ca. 1845) and a 19th-century bow by Franz Albert Nürnberger, both on loan from the Nationaal Muziekinstrumenten Fonds (NMF).

More: www.merelvercammen.com