



## *International Percussion Premiere Night* 1<sup>st</sup> edition – percussion duo

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### H A N S   L E E N D E R S

Hans Leenders studied conducting and percussion at the Rotterdam Conservatory. During his studies, he received the 'Kranichsteiner Musikpreis' at the 'Ferienkurse für neue Musik' in Darmstadt (1992). With the percussion ensemble 'Percussive Rotterdam', he received the 2nd and the special percussion prize at the 'International Gaudeamus Interpreter's Competition' in 1993. From 1995 to 2000 he was percussionist at the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Since 1997, he teaches orchestral conducting and classical percussion at the Rotterdam Conservatory (Codarts).

Early in his career, Hans Leenders was awarded the 'Anton Kersjes' scholarship for young conductors which enabled him to follow master classes with Ilja Moesin, Valery Gergiev and Jorma Panula. He was finalist at the International Kirill Kondrashin Competition for conductors. In 1999, Leenders was appointed assistant-conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra with Valery Gergiev, thanks to the 'Bernard Haitink Scholarship', a scholarship granted to orchestras offering young conductors 'training on the job'. In 2004, he won the Cadaquès conductors competition.

Since 1998, Hans Leenders frequently conducts a variety of orchestras both in the Netherlands and abroad. In 2004, he made his debut with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and in September 2001, and conducted the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in several concerts of the Gergiev Festival, which was dedicated to Shostakovich. Abroad, he was guest-conductor with the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse and conducted the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg.

From 1999 until 2003, Hans Leenders was assistant-conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra with Valery Gergiev as chief conductor. He got as one of the most gifted young conductors in The Netherlands the 'Bernard Haitink Scholarship'. Leenders conducted during that time all major Dutch Symphony Orchestras like The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestras, the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, The Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hague Philharmonic. In addition to the more standard repertoire, he frequently conducts music of the 20th/21st century with the Asko and Schoenberg Ensemble. In 2008 he conducted the National Liberation Concert in presence of Her Majesty the Queen and live broadcasted by the National Television of The Netherlands.

Hans Leenders belongs to the most talented young conductors of his generation. He has gained a reputation as a conductor with an interest in a broad repertoire area. He dominates the standard repertoire and isn't afraid to experiment.

For example he conducted several concerts with contemporary works from the world-famous DJ and producer Armin van Buuren, and broke lances for the music of important contemporary Dutch composers like Peter-Jan Wagemans, Tristan Keuris, Joey Roukens and Klas Torstensson.