

Biography

MARION VAN DEN AKKER

Mezzo-soprano Marion van den Akker is a multifaceted artist. A random glance at a concert season reveals a wide range of opera roles, concert performances and masterclasses. In 2003-2004, for instance, she sang the role of Fyodor in *Boris Godunov* with the Residentie Orchestra, Prince Orlovsky in *Die Fledermaus* with the Brabant Orchestra, the mezzo role in *Kopernikus* by Claude Vivier at De Nederlandse Opera during the Holland Festival, Lola in *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Nefertiti in the opera *Akhnaten* by Philip Glass. Additionally Marion van den Akker performed Brahms' *Alto Rhapsody*, the *Anne Frank Cantata* by Hans Kox, and Jean Lambrechts' *Cante Jondo*. She gave masterclasses on the song cycles of Robert Schumann and lectures on the oeuvre of the Canadian composer Claude Vivier and the Russian composer Sofia Gubaidulina.

Marion van den Akker studied at the Sweelinck Conservatorium Amsterdam with Erna Spoorenberg. She continued her studies with Henk Smit and Aafje Heynis in the Netherlands and with Josephine Veasey in the U.K. A grant allowed her to participate in masterclasses given by Nicolai Gedda, Italo Tajo and Brigitte Fassbaender.

As a soloist, Marion van den Akker has worked with conductors Hartmut Haenchen, Hans Vonk, Aldo Ceccato, Edo de Waart, Kenneth Montgomery, Jean Fournet, Henry Lewis, George Pehlivanian, Alexander Liebreich, Gennadi Rozdestvensky, Kees Bakels, Eri Klas, Mark Foster, Marc Soustrot, Reinbert de Leeuw and Yakov Kreizberg.

Van den Akker has a particularly affinity for Mahler's orchestra songs. Her performance of Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* with the Netherlands Dance Theatre was received with great enthusiasm. Her concert repertoire also includes the Verdi's *Requiem*, the *Stabat Mater* by Dvořák and by Rossini, Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* and *Ninth Symphony*, and the passions of Johann Sebastian Bach.

On the opera stage, Marion van den Akker has interpreted the title role in *Dido and Aeneas* and *Carmen*, Rosina *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Paisiello) Emilia *Otello*, Cherubino *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Dorabella *Così fan tutte*, The Child *l'Enfant et les Sortilèges*, Fyodor *Boris Godunov*, Prince Orlovsky *Die Fledermaus*, Laura *La Gioconda*, Nefertite *Akhnaten*, Laura *Iolanthe* and Principessa *Suor Angelica*. Roles in contemporary opera include Monnica *Marthe* (Willem Dragstra) and the mezzo part in *Kopernikus* (Claude Vivier). Van den Akker has appeared with De Nederlandse Opera, the Giessen Opera, Nationale Reisopera, Opera Festival Stia (Italy) and the Flemish Opera (Belgium).

Marion van den Akker is active as a chamber musician. She has appeared with the Allegri String Quartet, the Raphaël String Quartet, Ebony Band, Valerius Ensemble, the Ravel Quartet, Parkanyi Kwartet and Ruysdael Quartet. Her chamber music repertoire includes works by Respighi, Brahms, Schubert, Chausson, Schoenberg, Musorgsky and Gubaidulina.

Additionally Marion van den Akker has given solo recitals with pianists Rian de Waal, Martijn van den Hoek and Jeroen Sarphati in Toronto, New Delhi, Manila, Curaçao, Lugano, Firenze, Casablanca, Athens and Corfu.

Various contemporary Dutch composers have been inspired by Marion van den Akker's voice and have composed music for her. These include Sebastian Huydts (Emerson Songs), Willem Jeths (I Go), Caroline Ansink (Jeanne d'Arc) and Robin de Raaff (Dickenson Songs). Peter Jan Wagemans 'Das Neunte Lied' was premiered during the Gergiev Festival 2007 and will be repeated in the 2008/09 season in a performance focusing on Robert Schumann.

Marion van den Akker is programmer of the series 'Royaal Vocaal' in de Nieuwe Kerk (The Hague).

In August 2008 she will give a recital with soprano Johannette Zomer and pianist Rian de Waal at the Peter de Grote Festival and Summer Academy in Groningen, where she and Rian de Waal will also give duo masterclasses. For future engagements click on 'agenda'.

www.marionvandenakker.com

