

My English is a little 'rusty', sorry about that! I feel honored to be fellow of the HKU and I hope to be helpful in the future in any possible way. I guess most of you don't know me, so in this zoom i'll tell shortly about my music career and show some video's.

I am a guitarplayer, composer and bandleader. I studied classical guitar. Back then - I graduated in 1983 - there were no other departments such as jazz and pop. My whole life I listened to all kinds of music. There was no internet or Spotify, so I went to the music-library lending all kinds of records and taped what I liked on my taperecorder. So in 1 evening it could go from Perotinus, (medieval music) through Bach to Stravinsky, Mingus, Zappa. I joined bands, a music theatre production and played contemporary written music, pop, jazz and improvised music.

But I was quite critical and not really satisfied with these productions.

And when I became 27 - actually really at my birthday - I thought "Help! in 3 years I will be 30!! And what have I done until now??" So i made a decision, (and this turned out to be an important decision) I made a promise to myself that I would be able at age 30 to invite friends and family to come to a concert where I would be proud of. **Something of myself!**

And I started my own band: CORRIE EN DE BROKKEN

Brokken means pieces, it was kind of a collage where all these influences and music styles mixed and merged to a style of my own, difficult to label. Maybe marketing-wise not really clever, because the first question of bookers mostly was (and still is) "what kind of music do you make?" and that was hard to explain. Nevertheless I convinced many bookers. I actually made this 'hard to label' issue to something special. "Listen to this! It doesn't resemble to anything, haha. It's unique! So then I could send the demo we made.

We played that first season so many times! There were a lot more jazz venues back then than nowadays. It was great!

But still it wasn't enough to earn a living, so I played in a few commercial bands too. One day I played in a pop-venue in Amsterdam. Afterwards people came to me and asked "Who the hell Are You? Why don't I know you? Where do you play normally?" I mentioned Bimhuis. Never heard of! So I noticed that even in this small country the musical world was completely divided. The audience of Paradiso never came in the Bimhuis and vice versa. So then I started CORRIE EN DE GROTE BROKKEN.

A 12 piece band with pop ánd jazz musicians. Let's listen to a compilation.

[COMPILATIEFILM CORRIE EN DE GROTE BROKKEN](#)

This band was so much fun, we played in Paradiso AND Bimhuis, we played jazz AND popfestivals. We had airplay on radio 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6;-)) all great musicians, all personalities, individuals. It was a gamble putting them together. They didn't know each other (well, some jazzo's knew one another and some pop-guy knew another 'pop-guy') So it was a bit risky and tricky... But it turned out to be such a great match!

HIJ DIE NOOIT RISICO'S NEEMT ZAL NOOIT CHAMPAGNE DRINKEN

When I started my first band in 1986 we didn't care about money.

We just thought 'let's try and see what happens'.

10 years later it was a different situation!

Everyone was older, and I wanted to plan enough time for rehearsals.

I couldn't ask the musicians to block 3 weeks without paying for their time.

So I applied for a grant at Fonds Podium Kunsten for the project.

NB When you apply for a grant you must have a legal form.

In Nederlands een rechtspersoon.

So I founded de stichting Brokken. (the end of the video showed the logo)

Of course there are guidelines for applying for a grant but I think what's **most important is your inner artistic motivation.**

I have always written my own applications.

This first application for Corrie en de Grote Brokken was honored, which was great of course! But it was such a huge band with 12 musicians and 3 technicians, we did play some festivals but only did 1 tour a year. To make a living I still had to do other productions too. I played with Scapino Ballet, I played in the houseband of a TV-show and even the circus!

And I formed a few smaller bands too. I've really had wonderful years, traveling around, played in many countries. Not with Corrie en de Grote Brokken though but mostly with my quartet.

(collaborations Toumani Diabate, Touria Hadraoui)

Then in 2012 I broke my hand. It was a complicated fracture and I wasn't sure if I could ever play again. Luckily it healed. Though I can't play Bach anymore at the classical guitar, I somehow managed to bend this disadvantage to something positive. It made me go deeper, more to the essence.

[SOLO IMPROVISED HANDS](#)

The recording we just heard was for a documentary. Improvising hands improvising minds, 8 musicians about improvising. It may be interesting! : <http://www.handsminds.nl>

I also made a solo record after the incident. In August 2013 I had made a reservation for a studio-recording with a trio. The scheduled project however, was cancelled. Pianist and good friend Albert van Veenendaal suggested to use the studio days to record my own album. A solo album. After initial doubts (who is waiting for this and what pieces am I going to record?), the idea settled in my head. OK, I will go there but totally unprepared. Tabula Rasa. Sit down and play and see where I stand. The only assignment for myself was to take time, let time in. Let it last and play as few notes as possible. The recording has become a time document, a self portrait. The album is called Self Portrait in Pale Blue.

ELK NADEEL HEEFT Z'N VOORDEEL

I started with instrumental music but with Corrie en de Grote Brokken with two singers in the band text became important too. (you can hardly sing lalala the whole time ...) In the first program we also had a piece with spoken word and I liked that a lot! So for our second program I wanted to make a kind of opera. I chose stories, text from theatre-plays, poems all from different writers and compiled a libretto. From that moment on text became a huge source of inspiration for my compositions!

The idea's for music to the tales are totally different.

For example we listen to a story of Toon Tellegen.

'De eendagsvlieg' wishes to have another day....

I made a framework which had to do with time, you can actually hear the seconds, like the ticking of a clock, but also feel time closing in, because of the chord progression that is becoming shorter and shorter.

The wish of the eendagsvlieg for another day will be fulfilled. Because of this given I simply play the whole progression again. 2 days > 2 times

**[TOON TELLEGEN & HET WISSELEND TOONKWINTET:
DE EENDAGSVLIEG \(beginnen bij 1:35\)](#)**

From 2002 on I started Writers in Concert and worked with many writers telling their own stories. I did a lot of musical encounters on the spot. Except for the soundcheck we didn't rehearse with the writers. The writer tells his or her story and I give cues during the concert. Sometimes the music can be illustrating, sort of programmatic even, but rather it is a multi-layered happening. I don't want anything to be predictable. I am striving to build different layers, leading to a concentration during the concert, carrying along both the musicians, storyteller and the audience on an evening in which something really happens. There and Then. On the spot.

It's like a movie for your ear.

You can get inspiration from so much more than only your own discipline!

But I started longing for an instrumental band again!

And I formed VANBINSBERGEN PLAYSTATION

let's see a short aftermovie with fragments of some pieces.

[AFTERMOVIE VANBINSBERGEN PLAYSTATION NORTH SEA](#)

Okay let's back up and summarize!

- Find your own voice, follow your heart.
- Find your inner force, develop your strong points
- Try everything. Consider everything an experiment.
- Take risks but also trust on your own intuition.
- Find opportunities. Try to see an advantage in a setback.
- Look around. Broaden your horizon. Inspiration can be found everywhere.
- A mind is like a parachute. It doesn't work if it's not open.

That was a Frank Zappa quote

Finally, another quote (look up "10 rules John Cage") - and of course given the circumstances this ain't always easy but just try -

- Be happy whenever you can manage it. Enjoy yourself. It is lighter than you think.

What might be helpful - certainly nowadays - is becoming member of a union. For moral support between colleagues and for practical and financial issues. <https://www.vrijekntv.nl> <https://bimpro.nl> <https://pvfm.nl>

Questions??

After summer I hope to form a Think tank, who would be interested? Only 3 persons. But all of you can mail me anytime when you have questions!

Houd moed en - als er nog tijd is: Hold on [HOLD ON \(als laatste\)](#)