

Dag in de Branding **Festival voor** **Nieuwe Muziek**

23rd Edition of Dag in de Branding: John Cage's 100th Anniversary

In 2012, on 5 September to be precise, it will be exactly 100 years since John Cage, unconventional composer and pioneer of experimental music, was born in Los Angeles. The Hague-based festival for New Music 'Dag in de Branding' will use this 23rd edition on Saturday 10 March 2012 to celebrate John Cage's one hundredth anniversary – by putting on the Dutch première of the radio play *The City Wears a Slouch Hat* (1942), a piece crucial to Cage's development. It will be followed by a performance of *Credo in Us* plus a selection from his compositions for prepared piano. Earlier in the day the programme features works by Gilius van Bergeijk, Alvin Lucier and Hugo Morales Murguía, as well as recitals from Junko Ueda, Jóhann Jóhannsson and Hildur Guðnadóttir.

John Cage

John Milton Cage was an American avant-garde composer who studied under Henry Cowell and Arnold Schönberg and who developed into one of the greatest innovators of classical music in the 20th century. If John Milton Cage had not been such a great inspirer, today's contemporary music would have sounded different. Which is all the more reason for putting on an inspiring Dutch première of *The City Wears a Slouch Hat* on 10 March 2012. In an era when radio was in its infancy as a new medium, CBS Radio asked Cage to compose the music for an experimental radio play written by Kenneth Patchen. The ambitious Cage was immediately fired with enthusiasm and hoped that his innovatory ideas would herald a breakthrough into the world of music. Unfortunately, nothing could have turned out further from the truth. *The City Wears a Slouch Hat* was Cage's only venture into the genre of an explicit musical setting for a dramatised script. It turned out to be crucial in his development, yet at the same time it was also his most 'significant failure'. The piece will be performed on 10 March 2012 by six percussionists from Slagwerk Den Haag and actors from STET The English Theatre in The Hague.

Ensemble Modelo62

The Cage Year 2012 is the theme running through the programme of the first edition of Dag in de Branding in 2012. The opening concert by Ensemble Modelo62 in Korzo spotlights composer in residence Hugo Morales Murguía. To put his work in perspective, the ensemble asked him to choose a few pieces by composers who have influenced him. Ensemble Modelo62 will play pieces by Cage, Alvin Lucier and a new work by Gilius van Bergeijk. The Cage composition *Branches* will be performed, in which Cage used a selection of 'natural materials' (plants and cacti), whereby the audience hears a totally unique musical world via a sophisticated amplification system.

Junko Ueda

In the Ketelhuis, in Theater De Regentes, satsuma-biwa player Junko Ueda gives a solo performance highlighting the Eastern influences that played such a big part in Cage's work. Ueda performs ancient songs where she accompanies her story-telling singing with stunning, ancient and yet avant-garde string music. And, as in John Cage's work, silence forms the magical core of this music.

Jóhann Jóhannsson and Hildur Guðnadóttir

This edition once again stages a concert from the successful series *DayDreaming* in Paard van Troje. *DayDreaming* is a series of concerts with adventurous programming that explores the boundaries of pop, classical, electronic and improvised music. This third concert is proud to present Icelandic duo Jóhann Jóhannsson and Hildur Guðnadóttir. Composer and producer Jóhann Jóhannsson (1969) is co-founder of Kitchen Motors in Reykjavík, which specialises in instigating and putting on concerts, exhibitions, performances and chamber operas. Hildur Guðnadóttir received the Icelandic Theatre Award Gríman in 2011 for music she composed for a production of King Lear.

SAT 10 MARCH 2012 | G23 DAG IN DE BRANDING | FESTIVAL FOR NEW MUSIC

Various locations in The Hague | Starts at: 15:00 | Entrance: € 40 (passe-partout)

Tickets and reservations via www.dagindebranding.nl

15.00

Korzo theater, Prinsestraat 42

Ensemble Modelo62 – work by John Cage, Alvin Lucier and Gilius van Bergeijk

17.00

Paard van Troje, Prinsegracht 12

3rd edition of DAYDREAMING - 4 adventurous afternoon concerts

Jóhann Jóhannsson and Hildur Guðnadóttir

19.00 (passe-partout holders only)

Theater de Regentes, Weimarstraat 63

Junko Ueda

21.30

Theater aan het Spui, Spui 167

Slagwerk Den Haag, STET The English Theatre, Royal Conservatory, Gerard Bouwhuis (piano)

The City Wears a Slouch Hat [Dutch première]

Credo in Us

and pieces for prepared piano

Dag in de Branding, festival for new music in The Hague, was initiated by the Platform for New Music; a covenant of the Johan Wagenaar Stichting, The Royal Conservatory, Korzo Theater, Paard van Troje, Residentie Orkest, Theater De Regentes, TAG and Theater aan het Spui. By putting on four festival editions a year, Dag in de Branding aims at strengthening the allure and profile of contemporary music in The Hague. It achieves this by broadening the range of new music on offer and by enabling people to listen in a structured way to new music in the cultural life of The Hague. Another way is by initiating at least one major project a year, which would usually fall beyond the bounds of the individual partners.

Note for the editorial staff | Not for publication

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