

Rik Cornelissen

Accordionist, composer, arranger and teacher

Rik Cornelissen (1984) is a renewing and contemporary jazz and classical accordionist. With his broad education and knowledge of styles he knows how to present the accordion as a modern and versatile instrument. Rik debuted with his solo album *Traveller* in 2014, where he received excellent reviews.

He collaborated with Bert van den Brink, Ramon Valle, Juan Pablo Dobal, Ben van den Dungen, Rob van Kreeveld, Angelo Verploegen, Miranda van Kralingen, Francis van Broekhuizen, Teus Nobel, Vincent Houdijk, Wim Warman, Maciej Domaradzki, Marc van Rooij, Robert-Jan Vermeulen, Enrique Firpi, Taco Nieuwenhuizen, Claudio Jacomucci, Tuur Florizoone, the Radio Filharmonisch String quartet and many others. He was involved with different projects for YoOpera, Opera Minora, Opera Zuid and as session-musician for the movie *Zwartboek* (Paul Verhoeven), *Van Gogh: een huis voor Vincent* (Pim Hove) and the theater-show *NU!* (Mini & Maxi).

At ArtEZ, University of Arts in Arnhem, Rik is connected as main subject teacher *Accordion Jazz & Pop*, one of the rare places to study Jazz accordion in the world.

Rik studied Bachelor Classical Music and Argentinian Tango (Codarts Rotterdam 2006) and Master Jazz & Pop (ArtEZ, university of Arts, Arnhem 2009). After his studies he travelled through South- and Central America for over 9 months and continued his education in Italy with one of the leading classical and contemporary accordionist Claudio Jacomucci.

Rik's debut album *Traveller* was a search for new possibilities and sounds on accordion within the jazz and Latin-jazz; focusing on and comparing with the richness of the piano tradition he managed to cross musical boundaries and combine classical techniques with improvisation and groove. This is characteristic for Rik's playing; introvert, thoughtful and cogitating and then exploding, powerful, virtuosic and groovy.

In 2015 Rik released with his group *Tocar* the album 'Birds of Paradise', in collaboration with Radio Filharmonic String Quartet (now: Carezza String Quartet), containing three of his compositions. The reviews were outstanding. In 2016 they were guests at VPRO's *Vrije Geluiden* at the Bimhuis in Amsterdam.

Last year Rik initiated a collaboration with the talented Dutch vibe player Vincent Houdijk and bass player Maciej Domaradzki which became *Trio CHD*. A spirited, adventurous and intimate journey, with an unusual combination of instruments, where lyricism and serenity create a mysterious soundscape.

As a composer and arranger his main goal is to create new music for accordion, either solo as for different groups and ensembles he is working with. His compositions are often inspired by Rik's travels and fascination for nature and universe, levitating between styles varying from jazz and classical to Brazilian, Argentinian and other South-American music.

www.rikcornelissen.com