

## **Maria van Nieukerken - conductor**

Maria van Nieukerken is conductor and artistic director of the professional chamber choir PA'dam, Toonkunst Rotterdam and Toonkunst Rotterdam Chamber Choir.

Together with organ-player Wim Dijkstra Maria is artistic leader of the series 'Bach op Vrijdag', a co-production of PA'dam and De Waalse Kerk Amsterdam.

Maria is a professor of choral conducting at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, as well as leading the department, since season 2023/2024.

Maria works regularly as a choirmaster/assistant conductor for Philippe Herreweghe & Collegium Vocale Gent. She was also the choirmaster for Collegium Vocale Gent at all editions of the opera 'Einstein on the Beach' (Philipp Glass).

With her own professional ensemble PA'dam, Maria performs classical music with regularly a special touch. Examples are 'PA'dam sings(!) Bachs Goldbergvariaties' – a unique vocal re-composition of Bachs masterpiece- and 'Canto Ostinato- The Vocal Experience'- a theatrical vocal version of Ten Holts well known minimal music piece. Also Maria & PA'dam worked together a lot outside the classical music scene, f.e. CD recordings and concertshows with metal bands like Epica, Within Temptation and Powerwulf. PA'dam performed in big shows at Afas Live and Ahoy with the Metropole Orchestra and Cinema in Concert.

Maria was conducting Toonkunst Rotterdam and orchestra Collegium Delft in all events around 'De Rotterdamse Mattheus' (Bach) between 2020-2023, including the final concert in De Doelen Rotterdam with 240 kids involved.

In 2019 & 2020 Maria conducted the production 'Tears of Maria' for World Women Day, in coproduction with the famous soprano Johannette Zomer, orchestra and soloists.

In 2017 & 2018 Maria was conductor of the international EuroChoir, with concerts in the Netherlands, Finland and Estonia.

In 2016 Maria was guest-conductor for Capella Amsterdam, where she got a carte blanche for a special programme with theatrical elements.

Between 2001 and 2012 Maria was conductor of the Nederlands Studenten Kamerkoor, where she distinguished herself with contemporary music combined with theatrical elements.

Maria worked together with orchestras such as Florilegium Musicum, Collegium Delft, Vaasa City Orchestra, the Nicolaas Consort, the Rotterdam Symphonic Wind Orchestra, the Amsterdam Tram Wind Band and the Rotterdam International Big Band.