

Press release

Royal Conservatoire and Nederlands Kamerkoor join forces

New Master's specialisation in Ensemble Singing blends seamlessly into professional practice

The Royal Conservatoire has formed a partnership with the Nederlands Kamerkoor (Netherlands Chamber Choir) and its chief conductor, Peter Dijkstra, to create a new programme, the Master's specialisation in Ensemble Singing. With this course, the Royal Conservatoire intends to provide its students with even better preparation for a professional career. The Nederlands Kamerkoor sees it as an investment in the development of its own pool of talented vocalists. The course will begin in the 2018-2019 academic year and is intended for graduates of a Bachelor Vocal Studies Classical Music or a Bachelor Choral Conducting.

Monica Damen (Head of the Vocal Studies department at the Royal Conservatoire): *“The Royal Conservatoire frequently collaborates with renowned professional partners. It is an essential aspect of the education we provide. We are therefore proud to announce this partnership with the Netherlands Chamber Choir in a new Master's specialisation. The new programme represents a tremendous opportunity for our students to gain practical experience and to build up a network in the world of professional ensembles while they are studying”.*

Tido Visser, the director of the Nederlands Kamerkoor, is also enthusiastic about the partnership: *“Choral music is gaining momentum and is gaining in importance in both artistic and social terms. The Nederlands Kamerkoor is therefore delighted that the Royal Conservatoire is supporting that trend by offering talented singers this tremendous opportunity. A first-class education at a top-flight institute of professional education is a combination that will greatly enhance the students' prospects in the labour market.”*

The students in the new Master's specialisation in Ensemble Singing will spend a large part of the course working with the choir. They will have a chance to work with many prominent international conductors, learning the specific skills they need to succeed as a vocalist in a professional ensemble in the process. Among the skills they will learn are leadership in the context of performing in an ensemble, individual and shared musicianship and professional communication, but they will also develop a personal vision of how to plan a programme and new forms of presentation and concert formats, as well as stage presence in general. The course also includes practical workshops on issues such as the financial and marketing aspects of managing an ensemble. The students will be helped every step of the way with expert advice from the singers, conductors and staff of the Nederlands Kamerkoor.

A wide repertoire will be covered during the Master's specialisation, from Medieval and Renaissance music up to and including contemporary music. The course will give students every opportunity to further refine their musical and vocal skills, while the intensive collaboration with the Nederlands Kamerkoor will immediately enable them to apply the skills they acquire in a professional environment.

Visit the [website](#) for more information about the curriculum and the enrolment procedure.

Note for editors, not for publication: for further information, contact the Royal Conservatoire's communications department: Julia Bontes | T: 070-315 15 82 | E: j.bontes@koncon.nl