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Beyond borders : broadening the artistic palette of (composing) improvisers in jazz

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Dick de Graaf studied saxophone and flute at the Rotterdam Conservatoire. Beside, he attended master classes with John Clayton, Joe Diorio, David Schnitter, Lee Konitz, and Bob Brookmeyer and took private lessons with Joe Lovano.

As a side-man and as a leader of his own groups, Dick has performed at many national and international jazzstages. He played with a.o. Chet Baker, Misha Mengelberg, Jasper van 't Hof, Kenny Weeler, Tom Harrell, Benny Golson, Billy Hart, Toumani Diabaté and Erkan Ogur, and toured festivals and clubs in Europe, South and West Africa, Japan, Indonesia, New Zealand, USA and Canada.

As a soloist, composer, arranger and self-managing artist dedicated to jazz – in his vision “acting as a guesthouse in which elements from the surrounding musical world are welcomed with curiosity”- he recorded more than 30 CD's that received positive response by both public and press. His Challenge Records Awarded CD's *Sailing* and *New York Straight Ahead* got enthusiast critics in Down Beat magazine.

After a number of cross-over projects, a.o. “The Burning of the Midnight Lamp: Dick de Graaf plays Jimi Hendrix”, “Djigui: les Sofas de Bamako featuring Dick de Graaf”, “Schubert Impressions for Jazz Quintet”, “Istanbul Connection”, and “Trio Nuevo: Jazz Meets Tango”, he became the co-founder and artistic director of the Clazz Ensemble, a concert band operating on the borders of jazz and contemporary composed music. Dick's compositions and arrangements were prominent in the projects “Aventures” (2007), “Clazz in Zeeland” (2009), “His Master's Choice” (2012) with his arrangements of Louis Andriessen's music, “Bach DNA” (2014), commissioned by the International Bach Festival Dordrecht, and “Monk Inside Out” (2015).

With the reed section of the Clazz Ensemble, Dick formed the saxophone quartet Dicke Luft, to perform and record his composition *Carillon* (2013), based on the twelve hours of Peter Schat's Tone Clock. With his Dick de Graaf New Quartet, he released the CD *Bird Buzz* in November 2017, with music composed in the context of his doctoral study *Crossing Borders. Broadening the Artistic Palette of (Composing) Improvisers in Jazz*.

Dick de Graaf is a teacher of saxophone and small ensembles, as well as a research coach at the master programme of Codarts University for the Arts in his hometown Rotterdam. Beside he conducts clinics, master classes, and lecture concerts in conservatoires and at various stages in the Netherlands and abroad.