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Universiteit Leiden



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Curriculum vitae

Henri Bok was born in 1950 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. After finishing Grammar School, he went to Leiden University to study French Literature and Linguistics, specializing in Linguistics after his 'Kandidaats' exam.

Concurrent with preparing his 'Doctoraal' exam in French linguistics (which he completed in 1976), Henri Bok started music studies at Rotterdam Conservatoire, studying saxophone with Leo van Oostrom and bass clarinet with Harry Sparnaay. In 1980 he finished his musical studies cum laude, obtaining DM, UM and Chamber Music diplomas (considered to be equivalent to the current Master of Music diploma).

He has collaborated with musicians of many styles and genres, including Gustavo Beytelmann, José Luis Estellés, Mike Garson, Josef Horák, Bennie Maupin, Justo Sanz, Louis Sclavis, Willem Tanke, Henri Tournier, Dawn Upshaw, and Eric Vloeimans.

Henri Bok's interest in new sound combinations has led him to initiate unusual instrumental groups: Duo Contemporain (with marimba/vibraphone), Duo Novair (with accordion), Bass Instincts (with bass oboe), Duo Clarones (bass clarinet duo with Luis Afonso 'Montanha'), Duo HeRo (with jazz pianist Rob van Bavel) and duo Hevans (with Eleri Ann Evans, tenor saxophone).

From 1981 until 2015 Henri Bok was professor of bass clarinet and free improvisation at Rotterdam Conservatoire (later called Codarts), preparing a great many international bass clarinet students for their specialist career.

Henri Bok is currently professor of bass clarinet at Fontys University of the Arts (Tilburg, the Netherlands) and Musikene (San Sebastian, Spain), as well as guest professor at Robert Schumann Hochschule für Musik (Düsseldorf, Germany). Between 2000 and 2017, he also taught the bass clarinet class during the annual Julian Menéndez clarinet summer course in Ávila (Spain).

Henri Bok was the initiator and artistic director of the first World Bass Clarinet Convention. This was held in Rotterdam, in 2005, and was attended by more than five hundred bass clarinetists from all over the world.

His book, *New Techniques for the Bass Clarinet*, written in 1989 (revised in 2011), is widely considered to be the standard work for instrumentalists and composers interested in extended techniques. Collaborations with composers from all over the world have resulted in hundreds of pieces written for and dedicated to him.

Following his first composition, *Vinho do Porto Brasileiro* (1997), Henri Bok has written numerous solo and chamber music works, many of which include microtonality. His compositions are published by Shoepair Music.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions to music, Henri was made a Knight in the Order of the Netherlands Lion by King Willem Alexander in 2014.

List of microtonal compositions

2012

ANNalogy for tenor saxophone and bass clarinet

DOLPHYNS for bass clarinet solo

Fluctuations I for tenor saxophone and bass clarinet

2013

There is a place for multiphonics for bass clarinet solo

2014

Multi-Micro I for tenor saxophone and bass clarinet

2015

E-A-E for bass clarinet solo

TuTu Soft for bass clarinet solo

2016

Duettino I for clarinet and bass clarinet or two bass clarinets

Duettino II for clarinet and bass clarinet or two bass clarinets

GIANT nano Steps for bass clarinet solo

HOMAGE for bass clarinet solo

Late Viola for bass clarinet solo

Small change for tenor saxophone and bass clarinet

2017

Fifty shades of Dee for bass clarinet and piano

Microclimate I for two bass clarinets

Smaller change for bass clarinet solo

Smaller change for tenor saxophone and bass clarinet

2018

3-4-5 for single reed duo or single reed groups

Bat-Kolu-Song for tenor saxophone and bass clarinet

Bh-Dee for bass clarinet soloist and bass clarinet quartet

HS-HB for bass clarinet solo