

## North Sea Round Town presents three exclusive experience concerts during opening weekend inJazz

**A new promising edition of North Sea Round Town is coming up. During the opening weekend, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of June, focus lies on adventurous and unique concerts on special locations in the vivid city of Rotterdam. Together with five great improvisers, clarinetist/saxophonist Joachim Badenhorst opens the 18-day fringe festival with his new program YOURAN. Guitarist Teis Semey will launch his album *Midnight Mess* in a beautiful old church. And the dream project of Artist in Focus Sanem Kalfa, guarantees to be a mesmerising experience at the UNESCO World Heritage Van Nelle Factory with Jan Bang, Ambrose Akinmusire and Kit Downes.**

Once again, North Sea Round Town (NSRT) is full of promising and innovative music at a local and (inter)national level with 350 concerts at 125 locations from **22<sup>nd</sup> of June to the 9<sup>th</sup> of July**. (Co)productions between artists and the festival prevail with Rotterdam, in all its diverseness, as the challenging backdrop where all happens. In addition to jazz, the festival also features related genres such as soul, r&b, funk, impro, electronic, pop and hip hop.

### **Passe-partout**

A new element of this year's program is a passe-partout ticket, that gives access to three exclusive concerts during the opening weekend. These performances are either a new collaboration between NSRT and the makers, or a follow-up to earlier jointly devised projects. Those who want to expand their passe-partout this weekend to discover even more contemporary jazz, can get hold of a Passe-partout Plus that gives access to a nautical adventure on the Maas River, with [Het Jazzschip](#) on Saturday, on June 24<sup>th</sup> (with a.o. Nabou Claerhout, Fuensanta, Jamie Peet and KOFFIE). In addition, the concerts can perfectly be combined with the free showcase program [inJazz](#), which is bustling at the Kop van Zuid area and presents new and contemporary jazz talent.

### **A concert of stillness in deserted factory**

The Belgian clarinetist/saxophonist Joachim Badenhorst opens NSRT on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, with his magical performance '[YOURAN](#)', and connects with this program the showcase program of inJazz. During this concert, Badenhorst explores the boundaries between improvisation and composition, in which tranquility and stillness form the common thread. 'YOURAN' means 'the beginning of things' in Japanese and 'unhurried' in Chinese, which refers to the setting and innovation of the music. Badenhorst is accompanied by a gifted international supergroup: Taiko percussionist Tsubasa Hori (Japan), bassist Beate Wiesinger (Austria), trumpeter Alistair Payne (Scotland), guitarist Simon Jermyn (Ireland) and sample wizard Rutger Zuydervelt (Netherlands). Together with the new industrial hotspot De Kaai at the former butter factory, an unforgettable concert is guaranteed.

### **Sanem Kalfa confronts with multidisciplinary dream project**

This also applies to Sanem Kalfa's (Artist in Focus 2023) dream project, Invisible Columns. The originally Turkish vocalist/cellist will present the multidisciplinary performance on Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, of June in Rotterdam's UNESCO World Heritage icon, the Van Nelle Factory. Central to this concert, is the theme of confrontation, which Kalfa positively explores and shapes with a rich musical color palette. For this special performance, the vocalist has invited three international artists: trumpeter [Ambrose Akinmusire](#) (USA), pianist and organist [Kit Downes](#) (GB/DE) and electronic live artist and sampler, [Jan Bang](#) (NO). Kalfa also introduces texts by [Gozde Turmen](#), her mentor and spiritual guide, and there is a collaboration with the Rotterdam-Italian dancer [Alice de Maio](#). "I love these sympathetic musicians and makers. I am sure that because of our different backgrounds, experiences, and strong personalities, we will go on a special musical journey together", says Kalfa.

### **Familiar and new encounters for Artist in Focus**

In addition to Invisible Columns, Sanem Kalfa gives various other performances, in which duo concerts are a common thread. "I really like the intimate setting of duos. You must surrender yourself completely to each other and anticipate to each other. As an artist you are very vulnerable and 'naked' in that sense, but if the chemistry is present, it is possible to bring music with full confidence and that can result in special moments," explains Kalfa.

The Artist in Focus is also present on Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July, as part of a musical bicycle tour through Rotterdam with violinist/guitarist **George Dumitriu**, with whom she has been playing for 15 years. She will also form a new duo with **Tineke Postma** on June 25<sup>th</sup> at Boerderij Driebergen, experimenting with electronics, saxophone and voice. Postma is part of Kalfa's project 'Miraculous Layers', with which they will be touring in the fall and play at inJazz 2023. And there will be a first musical encounter with trumpeter **Peter Somuah** at the De Machinist on June 30, in which cross-over of different genres are central.

Finally, Kalfa will be the center of the NSRT [Lab] in May at Boerderij Driebergen, where she will compose and create for four days together with Rotterdam cellist **Lucija Gregov** and dancers **Alice de Maio** and **Kelly Bigirindavi**. On Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, the group will show the results in a [public performance](#).

### **Album release Teis Semey**

Kalfa is also part of 'Midnight Mess', the dream project of **Teis Semey**, who was Artist in Focus in 2022. The guitarist will return to NSRT on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, to release his album at Oude Kerk Charlois. In the past year, Semey has refined the musical concept in response to last year's eccentric premiere at the Laurenskerk. Anyone who missed the distinctive 'last supper' in 2022, which is a mix of Scandinavian folk music, indie influences, and jazz improvisation, now gets a second chance. With organist **Kit Downes** and vocalists **Fuensanta**, **Sanem Kalfa**, **Marta Arpini** and **Liva Dumpe**.

### **Pricing passe-partout:**

Early passe-partout €25 | Early passe-partout Plus €65 (until the 15<sup>th</sup> of May)

Regular passe-partout €35 | Early passe-partout Plus €85 (from the 15<sup>th</sup> of May)

Discount passe-partout €25 | Discount passe-partout Plus €65 (under 26 year old, Rotterdam Pas, CJP)

For more information, see the program at [NSRT](#)

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Notification for the editor, not for publication

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