

## Hans Colbers, clarinetist

Hans Colbers studied at the music academies of Maastricht and Amsterdam with, amongst others, Leo van Tol and George Pieterse. In 1990, he graduated with Cum Laude as a performing musician from the 'Conservatorium van Amsterdam'. Two years afterwards, he achieved the diploma of chamber music with the highest possible credits.

As a soloist, his performances with several orchestras at home and abroad include works by the hand of C.M. von Weber, W.A. Mozart, G. Rossini, F. Danzi, L. Spohr, J. Françaix, G. Meyerbeer, H. Badings, I. Strawinsky, J. Brahms, G. Finzi, and L. Bernstein. As a soloist, he worked together with conductors such as Christopher Hogwood, Jaap van Zweden, Reinbert de Leeuw, and Neeme Järvi.

At the Dutch Opera Amsterdam, he performed as one of the instrumental soloists in *Kopernikus* by Claude Vivier (directed by Pierre Audi), as well as in opera productions by Theo Loevendie and Igor Strawinsky.

A devoted chamber musician, Hans Colbers plays in various ensembles like Het Reizend Muziek Gezelschap, the Netherlands Wind Ensemble, the ASKO/Schoenberg Ensemble, Ensemble Caméléon, and the Ebony Band. Additionally, he played with distinguished musicians such as pianists Maria-João Pires, Menahem Pressler, Rian de Waal, Frank vd Laar, Tan Crone and the Chinese cellist Jian Wang, and many more.

Furthermore, he regularly teaches master classes, like during the Festival of Oaxaca in Mexico. Tours have led him to many countries in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. He performed in concerts at large festivals like the Festival of Nantes, the Salzburger Festspiele, the Berliner Festwochen and the Holland Festival.

In 1991, Hans Colbers started as E $\flat$ -clarinetist at the Radio Filharmonic Orchestra and has been associated with the The Hague Philharmonic as a solo clarinetist since 1995. Subsequently, he often performs with numerous other large orchestras in the Netherlands, like the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since 1997, Hans Colbers has been employed as a clarinet professor at the 'Conservatorium van Amsterdam'.

His activities as a producer of mouthpieces started in 2012. This year saw his enterprise, Hans Colbers Mouthpieces, founded and he has made a lot of innovations regarding mouthpieces for clarinets ever since. All pieces produced at Hans Colbers Mouthpieces have been developed by Hans Colbers himself. His foundation rests on new ideas, his drive is fed by new developments, and his aim is to come up with new mouthpieces.