PRIMO ISH-HURWITZ

COMPOSER

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PROFILE

Primo Ish-Hurwitz (2001, Heerenveen) is a Dutch composer. As many other composers of his generation, he tries to connect modern classical music with a broader audience by drawing inspiration from both classical and popular music from many different genres and time periods. His music contains strong neoromantic elements and has a very versatile, colorful and personal character, with a lot of harmonic, melodic and rhythmic compositional virtuosity.

EDUCATION

Conservatorium van Amsterdam — Bachelor Classical Composition 2019-2023, with lessons from:

- Willem Jeths (main teacher)
- Meriç Artaç (main teacher)
- Joël Bons
- Wim Henderickx
- Richard Ayres

(Leiden University — Propedeuse Bachelor Mathematics 2017-2018)

SELECTION OF WORKS / PROJECTS

Toonzetters (2022-2024)

Ish-Hurwitz has been initiator and artistic leader of concert program Toonzetters, in collaboration with Oranjewoud Festival, with 20 new pieces by young Dutch composers for piano, percussion and/or electronics, with film.

NRC, Trouw: 4/5 stars (concert at Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ); Luister: 9 (CD by 7)

Mountain Records); two concerts + CD have been broadcasted by NPO Klassiek.

new piece for NJSO (2024) - for string orchestra

commissioned by the Dutch Youth String Orchestra

Sonata for Baritone Saxophone and Piano (2023)

commissioned by Mafalda Oliveira and Marta Mata; recorded by 7 Mountain Records

3 Preludes to El Amor Brujo (2022)

commissioned by the Dianto Reed Quintet for their Dutch Classical Talent Tour; recorded on CD by AvroTros Klassiek

Arrangement for string orchestra of Adagio from Mahler's 10th Symphony (2023)

for Amsterdam Sinfonietta's 2023 winter tour with the Jussen brothers (NL/DE)

The Missing Piece (2022) - for 2 percussionists

as part of 'Toonzetters'; recorded on CD by 7 Mountain Records

Adem in adem uit (2023) & Geheim (2023) for 4 voices and ensemble as part of the Utrechts Requiem 2023

Listen (2020 & 2022)

winner of the first prize of the Alba Rosa Viëtor Composition Competition; premiered at the Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ and on Radio 4 in February 2022

De Ketelmannen (2019)

a commission by jongNBE and Festival Jong Talent Schiermonnikoog, performed at Podium Witteman (NPO2) and in 2022 at the Concertgebouw

and other pieces written for: Lars Wouters van den Oudenweijer, Noa Wildschut, Nymphéas Trombone Quartet, Prisma Trio, Folke Nauta, Cellofestival Zutphen, CvA Symphony Orchestra, Nachtlicht Ensemble, Theodoor Heyning, Frisian Youth Orchestra (see website for a more complete overview).

compositions have been performed at the Concertgebouw, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, de Doelen, TivoliVredenburg, SPOT Groningen, Oranjewoud Festival, November Music, Grachtenfestival, Wonderfeel, NPO Radio 4, NPO Klassiek, Podium Witteman, Concertzender, and in Belgium, Italy, Spain and Portugal.

AWARDS

Nieuw Geneco Fair Practice Award 2023 (with Oranjewoud Festival) First Prize at the Alba Rosa Viëtor Composition Competition 2022 Royal Conservatory Prize for Young Composers, in 2015 and 2016

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Specialized member Advice Committee for Arts and Culture Policy 2025-2028 gemeente Den Haag

Curator concert series String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam 2026

i.c.w. Barbican String Quartet

Arranger for Amsterdam Sinfonietta

Adagio from Mahler's 10th Symphony

Arranger for Nederlands Blazers Ensemble

first movement from Shostakovich's 11th Symphony

Miserere by G. Verdi

Jury member Composition Competition Nederlands Blazers Ensemble — 2019 first round, region North-Netherlands