



# ORKAAN

Staged concerts for  
young audiences

**Programme  
Season 2025/2026**

[oorkaan.nl](http://oorkaan.nl)



# PROGRAMME SEASON 2025/2026

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YAM AWARDS



YEAH!  
YOUNG EUROPEAN AWARD



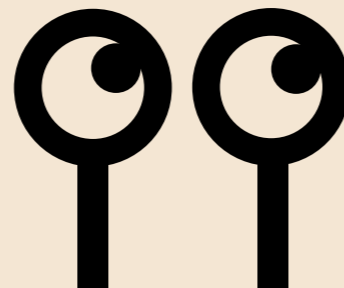
### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

An Oorkaan publication, December 2024

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# PREFACE

Dear theatre programmer,

We're proud to announce that as of 2025, we will be part of the Dutch Basic Infrastructure for the Arts (BIS), and we would like to present to you our programme for season 2025-2026. We take you and your young audience to the East and the West, from Indonesia to the Caribbean and South America, with 21st-century music and the classics from across the whole world. All to bring the infinite world of music to as many ears, small and large, as possible.

During season 2025-2026 we will be performing two premiere productions. At the same time, our very own Oorkaan Ensemble has its debut in large theatres, with actors, in a co-production with De Toneelmakerij: 'Kantjil en de tijger'.

In the autumn of 2025, we will present a new production with the young, dynamic Aires Tropicales (flute, clarinet, oboe, horn and bassoon). Their music is a fusion of classical, Latin American, jazz and flamenco and the influence of their homeland Cuba can be heard and felt throughout.

From February 2026, the Oorkaan Ensemble and guest violinist Valentine Blangé will perform the reprise of 'Tempo', the successful 2024 staged concert, with music from composers such as Ravel, Vivaldi, Beethoven and Bartók, and a new composition by Martijn Padding.

There are also two other special international co-productions coming to the Netherlands. The first is 'Viva Banana', with the Tocuyito Trio, a co-production with our Viennese partner Jeunesse, directed by Caecilia Thunnissen and nominated for the international YAMaward 2024.

The second, youth opera 'Elektrische Fische', is a co-production with the Wiener Staatsoper and Jeunesse, directed by Kenza Koutchoukali and featuring new music by Hannah Eisendle.

Aires Tropicales, the Tocuyito Trio and Wieger Meulenbroek, assistant director of 'Viva Banana', are all alumni of the Jeunesse-Oorkaan-Academy, where every year four ensembles and four theatre makers are trained in the Oorkaan Method. In 2025, Muziekgebouw Productiehuis will join the academy as partner.

In addition, we offer workshops to go with all of our productions and create educational material for visiting schools, with the possibility to link workshops at schools. There's also the 'Make your own radio play' workshop for schools, open days and as fringe programming.

In short, a brilliant programme with a lot of choice and always with world-class musicians of international allure who perform staged concerts with music from all places and all eras. We look forward to coming to your venue and your audience!

On behalf of the Oorkaan team,

**Sietske de Haan**, business manager and **Caecilia Thunnissen**, artistic director

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH OUR LATEST SHOWREEL!](#)



With the

# Aires Tropicales Quintet



## BUZZ

Co-production with Orpheus' KinderKaravaan and Elbphilharmonie Hamburg

**MUSIC:** A fusion of classical, Latin American, jazz and flamenco including Mozart, Danzi, Buena Vista Social Club and Paquito D'Rivera

**CREDITS: Aires Tropicales Quintet:**

Flute **Claudia Veloso Álvarez**

Oboe **Jorge Ruíz**

Clarinet **Ninián Rodríguez**

Bassoon **Ramón Alejandro Márquez Ramos**

Horn **Karla Hernández**

Director **Stefan Ebner**

The Aires Tropicales Quintet embodies a fusion of cultures and musical traditions within the framework of a traditional woodwind quintet. Originating from Cuba, their performances reflect a lively mix of influences. Unlike the typical repertoire of West European woodwind quintets, they embrace works of both great classical and Latin American composers, including flamenco music and Afro-Cuban polyphonic vocals.

The energy and unique background of these five Cuban musicians turn the West European woodwind quintet tradition upside down. Besides classical pieces by Mozart and Danzi, they play music by Paquito D'Rivera, Coqui Calzadilla and the

Buena Vista Social Club. Oboist Jorge Ruiz brings something extra to it with his virtuoso percussion, adding a much-appreciated dimension to their Afro-Cuban repertoire.

This young quintet, founded in 2021 at Fontys Academy in Tilburg, always plays by heart and perfectly reflects Oorkaan's artistic profile. In 2024, they took part in the Jeunesse-Oorkaan-Academy. Their outdoor performance can be seen in Dutch concert halls and theatres from October 2025. Get ready for a musical journey, filled with passion, rhythm and cultural riches with the Aires Tropicales Quintet!

**Dates:** KinderKaravaan 2025 and from October 2025

**Venue:** Outdoor location (city park or festival) and small/medium hall

**Duration:** 50 minutes

**Age:** From 4 to 104

[WATCH AIRES TROPICALES' PERFORMANCE AT PODIUM KLASSIEK HERE](#)



With the  
**Tocuyito  
Trio**



# VIVA BANANA

**MUSIC:** Carlos Pino-Quintana – ejío, Copla y Pate'perro  
Pedro J. Castellano – Mujer Merideña (Creole waltz, arr. for Melodica, Cello and Voice, Joseph Ávila, Dalina Ugarte and Santo Scala)  
Tocuyito Trio – El Silbón y el Sereno  
Simón Díaz – Tonada de Luna Llena (worker's song from the Llano, arr. for piano trio, Joseph Ávila, Dalina Ugarte and Santo Scala)  
Nelson Martínez – Tamborera No. 9 San Benito (arr. for piano trio, Carlos Pino-Quintana)  
Aldemaro Romero – Fuga con Pajarillo (arr. for piano trio, Icli Zitella)  
Traditional – Pajarillo (arr. for Cello, Cuatro en Maracas, Joseph Ávila, Dalina Ugarte and Santo Scala)  
Laura Aya (choreography) – Joropo Zapateao y Escobillao, for foot percussion  
Dalina Ugarte – Maria Lionza, for Maracassolo  
Simón Díaz – Tonada del Cabrestero (worker's song from the Llano, arr. for piano trio and Cuatro, Joseph Ávila, Dalina Ugarte and Santo Scala)  
Joseph Ávila – Paraphrase on Polo Margariteño (Fisher's song, for piano)  
Johann Sebastian Bach – Prélude from English Suite No. 6 in D minor, BWV 811  
Traditional – Pajarillo (arr. for piano trio, Carlos Pino-Quintana)

**CREDITS:**  
**Tocuyito Trio**  
Violin **Dalina Ugarte**  
Cello **Santo Scala**  
Piano **Joseph Avila**

Director **Caecilia Thunnissen**  
Assistant director **Wieger Meulenbroek**  
Choreography **Joropo Dance Laura Aya**  
Scenography **Sophie Baumgartner**  
Lighting design **Bartek Kubiak**  
Set **Johannes Plos**

This staged concert by Oorkaan and Jeunesse offers the whole family an extraordinary visual listening experience. The Tocuyito Trio takes us on a colourful journey through the magical and fiery world of Venezuelan sounds and rhythms. 'Viva Banana' is a colourful journey of dance with explosive rhythms and exotic soundscapes. Venezuelan culture and nature were the inspiration for this staged concert, with mysterious mountains and stories about magical beings, brought to life by the music.

'Viva Banana' is a new production directed by Caecilia Thunnissen, with piano trio Tocuyito Trio. Theatrical elements, humour and the music itself make it suitable for everyone aged 6 to 106.

You won't want to miss this completely new take on a classical piano trio that this international co-production of Jeunesse Austria and Oorkaan brings! Pianist Joseph Avila talks about the Jeunesse-Oorkaan-Academy: 'For me, taking part in the Jeunesse-Oorkaan-Academy was the perfect way of getting to know a world of creative possibilities in which I now feel at home. It broadened my professional perspective and increased my pleasure in making music.'

**Dates:** In agreement  
**Venue:** Small/medium hall  
**Duration:** 50 minutes  
**Age:** From 6 to 106

[TRAILER](#)

[MORE INFO](#)

NOMINATED  
FOR  
YAM AWARDS  
2024





With the  
**Oorkaan  
Ensemble**  
Co-production with De Toneelmakerij

LARGE  
HALL

# KANTJIL EN DE TIJGER

**MUSIC:** Frieda Gustavs, Jordy Sanger, Michele Mazzini and others

**CREDITS:**  
**Musicians Oorkaan Ensemble:**  
Harp **Michela Zanoni**  
Clarinet **Michele Mazzini**  
Bajan **Robbrecht Van Cauwenberghe**  
Percussion **Veysel Dzhesur**  
Cello **Jan van der Plas** (guest musician)  
Actors **Denise Aznam, Bodil de la Parra, Hanna van Vliet and Bo Bojoh**

Text **Paulien Geerlings and Melissa Knollenburg**  
Director **Paul Knieriem**

**A musical performance for young people about a secret family history**

De Toneelmakerij and Oorkaan take you on a journey to a world full of hidden memories. Poetical music theatre about a grandmother with a big secret, a brave girl that wants to know the truth and the dwarf deer Kantjil she unexpectedly befriends.

Indra's grandmother has been through a lot. She's old and sick now, and Indra, her mother and her sister look after her. Mom doesn't say much, while

the sister loves to talk! Family members come and go. They are nervous, sometimes making jokes and other times sombre. What does Indra's sister know that Indra doesn't? And what is happening with Grandma?

Indra hears Grandma talk in her sleep at night. About a country far from here, a country Indra doesn't know. While everyone else is in uproar, Indra goes off in search of Grandma's dream world. It's not long before she gets help from Kantjil, a dwarf deer that is so much smarter than the big animals that think they're the boss. Together, they put together the pieces of Grandma's past. But do they find all the pieces? Can Indra help her grandma? Are you ever too old to make sense of the past? And are you ever too young to find out your family history?

'Kantjil en de tijger' can be booked through STIP Theaterproducties (for both standard and school concerts).

**Dates:** 19 October 2025 to 4 January 2026  
**Venue:** Large hall  
**Age:** From 8 to 108

“ We're bringing the knowledge and experience we gained in our production 'Gong and the four noses' with its Indonesian music. For that performance, we immersed ourselves in Gamelan and learned to play some of those beautiful instruments. What can't be expressed in words, we will let people hear and feel with music. **Robbrecht Van Cauwenberghe (Oorkaan Ensemble musician)** ”



With the  
**Oorkaan  
Ensemble**



“ The mix of instruments and arrangements gives a mischievous edge to all these composers, from Beethoven to Brahms and from Bartók to Vivaldi. That’s partly due to the playfulness of the performers. They follow each other across the stage, challenging each other, distracting each other only to then play together again. They almost remind you of children on a school playground. Sometimes they’re islands, lost and searching, and other times they fit together like pieces of a puzzle, physically and musically, to form a whole – **Theaterkrant** ”

## TEMPO

**MUSIC:** Maurice Ravel (1875 – 1937) – Bolero (1928)  
Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741) – Concerto no. 2 in G minor, opus 8, RV 315, “L’estate” Part II: Presto (1723)  
Arnold Schönberg (1874 – 1951) – Sechs kleine Klavierstücke opus 19, no. 6 (1913) (arr. Michele Mazzini)  
Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) – 11 Bagatelles opus 119, no. 2 (arr. Michele Mazzini) and no. 10 (arr. Oorkaan Ensemble)  
Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897) – Piano Quartet no. 1 opus 25, Part IV: Rondo alla Zingarese (1861) (arr. Robbrecht Van Cauwenberghe)  
Martijn Padding (1956) – excerpts from: “Oorkaan tempi”, composed especially for the Oorkaan Ensemble (2023)  
Béla Bartók (1881 – 1945) – Allegro barbaro (arr. Michele Mazzini)  
Elena Kats-Chernin (1957) – Eliza’s Aria (Wild Swans Ballet)

**CREDITS:**

**Musicians Oorkaan Ensemble:**

Harp **Michela Zanoni**

Clarinet **Michele Mazzini**

Bajan **Robbrecht Van Cauwenberghe**

Percussion **Veysel Dzhesur**

Violin **Valentine Blangé** (guest musician)

Director **Rianne Meboer**

Musical dramaturgy **David Dramm**

Costume design **Romy van Eijk** (LoGoCoMo)

Set **Han Ruiz Buhrs**

Lighting design and technique **Jeroen Oostenveld**

Artistic director **Caecilia Thunnissen**

Production **Rugiero Vitalis**

When you talk about music, you talk about time. And time is endless, certainly if you’re seven. Or seven-and-a-half, almost eight, next week, the day after tomorrow, tomorrow, one more night’s sleep. And time disappears when you’re drawn into a world full of wonder. That’s when time appears at its most infinite. Until, at once, it’s over.

The members of the Oorkaan Ensemble speed through the musical dimension as experienced game avatars. They rush, leap, crash, run and

stand still. But who actually sets the tempo? They are bombarded with rhythms! Let’s hope that ends well... Having fun with notes, chords and each other, we travel through music that is full of unexpected twists and turns and surprising musical layers. We turn left, right, miss a turn, but we always get back to the same track.

As masters of their musical controllers, they are the ultimate masters of their instruments too, in ‘Tempo’, they play western classical pieces by Beethoven, Brahms and Vivaldi. As if that’s not enough, they also reach new heights with contemporary classical music composed by Martijn Padding especially for them. Not being shackled by sheet music, chairs or anything else with legs, they make time both to race forward and to stand still for almost an hour. A staged concert to be drawn into like a black hole. Until you fall out of it, at the end, on your seat in the concert hall.

**Dates:** 26 January 2026 to 31 August 2026

**Venue:** Small and medium, festivals  
- in agreement

**Duration:** 50 minutes

**Age:** From 7 to 107

TRAILER

MORE INFO





# THE OORKAAN ENSEMBLE PLAYS

“ We hear four musicians who get the very most out of their clarinet, bayan, harp and percussion. They switch effortlessly between traditional and experimental music, exploring the boundaries between composition and improvisation.

**Fedor Teunisse, artistic director AskolSchönberg and HIIIT (previously Slagwerk Den Haag)**

”

## CONCERT PROGRAMME AND BOOKING

Completely new to our programme is the combination of a matinee of staged concert 'Tempo' and an evening concert by the Oorkaan Ensemble. These concerts, with a broad range of music in unique arrangements and with dynamic presentation, can also be booked separately.

## SHIMMERING

The Oorkaan Ensemble presents the music from its debut album 'Shimmering' and enters into dialogue with the fascinating music of Türkiye and Indonesia. New compositions, centuries-old traditional music and the ensemble's own arrangements of well-known classics rub shoulders and are given a new look by constantly switching between all sorts of instruments. The music performed includes that of Fazil Say, Claude Debussy, Iwan Gunawan and Steven Kamperman. This programme can be booked for concerts lasting between 30 and 90 minutes. That could be, for example, a lunch concert with a focus on Turkish or Indonesian music or a full evening concert with music from both cultures.

 [Listen on Spotify](#)

“ The colours simply fly off their first recording! [...] Gliding, scraping, drumming and rattling, they create fascinating mixes of sound. - **Jenny Camilleri, Volkskrant newspaper**

”

## GROOVES & COLOURS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Scientists say that people can perceive an amazing ten million different colour nuances. The Oorkaan Ensemble will do everything it can to let you experience these colours, from all over the world. You can expect Turkish party vibes combined with bluesy spirituals, some Gamelan-inspired sounds on steroids and a genuine global tango. The music performed includes that of Margaret Bonds, Steven Kamperman, Michele Mazzini and Ayuo Takahashi. This programme lasts 45 minutes.

[MORE INFO](#)

[RECORDING MADE IN THE CONCERTGEBOUW AVAILABLE ON REQUEST](#)



German youth opera,  
directed by  
Kenza Koutchoukali

## ELEKTRISCHE FISCHE

MUSIC: Elektrische Fische by Hannah Eisendle, with libretto by Krysztina Winkel

### CREDITS:

#### Ensemble

Soprano **Emma Cinzia Zanollo**

Tenor **Levin Lukas Karzel**

Cello **Cristina Basili\***

Clarinet **Andraž Jagodiz**

Percussion **Kaja Wlostowska\***

\*Alumni Jeunesse-Oorkaan-Academy

Composition **Hannah Eisendle**

Libretto **Krysztina Winkel**

Director **Kenza Koutchoukali**

Scenography and costume design **Mahshad Safaei**

Dramaturgy **Katharina Augendopler**

Production **Krysztina Winkel**

Artistic director **Caecilia Thunnissen**

'Elektrische Fische' tells the story of 13-year-old Emma, who had to move from Dublin to a small town in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern with her mother and two siblings. This abrupt change of location causes her great grief, she misses her grandparents,

the English language, even the tea bags, which look different in Germany. Together with her new school friend Levin, she devises a plan on how to get back to her homeland. The sea, as both connecting and separating the two places, takes on a whole new meaning when Levin's mother suddenly needs help and Emma responds at just the right moment. 'Elektrische Fische' is about change, feeling homesick, family and friendship, and searches for answers to the question: "What does home mean to me?".

'Elektrische Fische' is a touring youth opera (10 +), based on Susan Kreller's novel, and is a co-production of the Wiener Staatsoper, Jeunesse and Oorkaan.

**Dates:** In agreement

**Venue:** Small/medium hall

**Other than standard concert  
and theatre venues - in agreement**

**Duration:** 40 minutes

**Age:** From 10 to 110



TRAILER

MORE INFO





## MAKE YOUR OWN RADIO PLAY

In addition to its staged concerts, Oorkaan is offering a special workshop: 'Make your own radio play'. In this workshop, children (or adults!) work on making a radio play, learning to use a variety of elements such as music, text and sound effects. The workshop is ideal for concert and theatre venues that would like to expand their programming with an interactive activity.

The workshop can be booked separately and is well-suited as a stand-alone programme element during festivals, open days or as fringe programming for existing concerts.

It can be carried out in almost any space, such as a studio or classroom. The Oorkaan workshop trainer brings a professional mobile recording studio with them. The radio plays made by the participants are published online after the workshop. That way, the creations can be shared with parents, family and friends!

If you'd like to know how these radio plays sound, listen [HERE](#) to the ones made during Kunstfestival IkToon in Hilversum.

**Duration:** 60 to 90 minutes, in agreement





“ Instruments are added, alternated and swapped effortlessly. Oorkaan finds the perfect balance between string, bowed, wind and percussion so that all the works they take on seem to fit into the same mould. That allows the diverse pieces to fit together perfectly. - Theaterkrant

”



# EDUCATION AND FRINGE PROGRAMMING

## EDUCATION MATERIALS

Oorkaan school concerts take the classroom to the concert hall. The classes prepare a visit to a concert, together with their own teacher, using an education kit adapted to the concert they will be attending. We offer three lesson packages:

- Package 1 consists of a digital education kit (that the teacher themselves can do in the class), the concert visit and a 'throwback box' for reflection on the concert.
- Package 2 is the same as Package 1, but with the addition of an Oorkaan workshop trainer in the class and a Meet & Greet with the musicians.
- Package 3 consists of Package 2 plus the 'Make your own radio play' workshop. For more information about the education materials, please get in touch with us at [educatie@oorkaan.nl](mailto:educatie@oorkaan.nl).

## FRINGE PROGRAMMING

Oorkaan completes the concert experience with enhancing activities such as workshops and Meet & Greets with the musicians. That way, we give children the opportunity of discovering live music in an informal way, enhancing the experience of the staged concert. Together, we create an encounter they'll remember for a long time.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## BOOKING INFORMATION

For more information about prices, family concerts and school concerts (including workshops/fringe programming), please get in touch with:

Bianca Smărăndoiu  
Manager Sales and relationship management  
[bookings@oorkaan.nl](mailto:bookings@oorkaan.nl)  
(+31) 202440217

## VISUAL MATERIALS

Oorkaan records all its productions and makes a long trailer. The long trailer contains a selection of key moments from the performance. Recordings and long trailers can be requested through [bookings@oorkaan.nl](mailto:bookings@oorkaan.nl).

## STAGE AREA AND CAPACITY

The required stage size and maximum audience capacity vary from one production to another. We provide a technical rider with all productions. Some Oorkaan productions are also suitable for venues with a different kind of stage such as festivals or other outdoor locations. For more information and to request a technical rider, please get in touch through [bookings@oorkaan.nl](mailto:bookings@oorkaan.nl).

## OORKAAN METHOD - HOW OUR PERFORMANCES ARE CREATED

Oorkaan makes performances based on the Oorkaan Method. The method focuses on the one hand on creating scenic material based on the music and with the musicians, and on the other hand, on the musician developing into a versatile performer. In addition to musicians, directors can also be trained according to the Oorkaan Method, helping them to discover all they need to be able to develop a staged concert. Caecilia and her artistic team offer master classes in this method, now internationally recognised. Master classes were given at such events as mdw – Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien, ArtEZ Zwolle, the Cello Biennale Amsterdam and the Grachtenfestival.

The Jeunesse-Oorkaan-Academy was founded in 2021. Artistic director Caecilia Thunnissen and a team of Oorkaan trainers train musicians and theatre makers in creating and performing staged concerts for a young audience. The academy consists of master classes spread across six months, with an end presentation.

## NEWSLETTER

Sign up [HERE](#) for the newsletter, to stay up to date with Oorkaan and our staged concerts.