

Satyr's Band

The period instrument ensemble *Satyr's Band* was initiated by a young group of musicians who met while studying in The Netherlands. Since the group's formation in 2006 they have performed regularly together across Europe and Australia. While they draw on repertoire from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, as well as contemporary works written for the ensemble, the Satyr's Band designs a unique program for each concert.

One of the main areas of interest is their arrangement of 17th century English masque dances. These may be combined to present a complete Masque, and the performance can incorporate actual masks designed and made by Lisa Goldberg.

Recently they have developed a repertoire of instrumental music from 16th century Italy, incorporating improvisation, written-out diminutions and compositions within the style. As a group of virtuosos, Satyr's Band demonstrates an extraordinary level and a highly individual way of performing. The four musicians have researched and absorbed the musical styles of 16th century Italy thoroughly, and they do not intend to present a musical crossover, rather a unique and engaging performance of the repertoire that exploits all the possibilities within the style, particularly through the use of improvisation.

Satyr's Band is inspired by a whole cultural era, a spirit of time. By actively re-creating this spirit in the form of music making, the ensemble elevates the music to a point of rejuvenation, recreation and a challenge of beauty, which is precisely what music meant to many in the 16th century.

For more information see www.satyrband.com.

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Photo: Barako

Andreas Böhlen – recorder



Born in Würzburg in 1983, Andreas Böhlen moved to Northern Germany in 1988. He began playing recorder at the age of six, and started alto saxophone soon after. Since beginning music he was involved in many different ensembles and bands throughout North and South Germany. While at high school he received lessons in both instruments at the conservatories of Bremen and Cologne, and was awarded many prizes at German competitions including "Jugend musiziert" and "Jugend Jazzt". From 2003-2007 he completed a Bachelor degree in music at the Conservatory of Amsterdam, studying recorder with Walter van Hauwe and Paul Leenhouts. During this period he also majored in jazz saxophone. In Amsterdam Andreas founded several of his own chamber music groups for early music, contemporary music and jazz, namely *Theatrum Affectuum* (violin, recorder, cello and harpsichord), *Duo Obelix* (recorder and percussion) and *Alkitran* (bass clarinet, recorder, double bass and percussion), and he is a member of *The Royal Wind Music*. He specialises in improvisation in various musical styles. Andreas has collaborated with different radio stations in Germany, Holland, Australia and Japan and performs extensively throughout Europe. In 2007-08

he undertook a year of musicological study in Bologna, Italy. He now bases himself in Basel, where he recently completed Masters degrees in both jazz-saxophone at the *Musik Akademie* and in early music improvisation at the *Schola Cantorum Basiliensis*. Andreas has recorded several CDs under his own name: *La meraviglia parlante*, *Airborne* and *Satyr's Band*. For more details see www.andreasboehlen.com

Amy Power – recorder, baroque oboe, shawm



Amy was born in Armidale, Australia, 1980. She completed a Bachelor Degree with First-Class Honours in music at the University of Melbourne, studying recorder with Ruth Wilkinson. As a student she received such awards as the Llorna-Lloyd Green scholarship for music. After graduating in 2002 she moved to The Netherlands to undertake further studies in recorder at the Conservatory of Amsterdam with Walter van Hauwe. In 2009 she completed her Masters Degree in baroque wind playing, focusing on historical oboe with Alfredo Bernardini. While enjoying an active performing career on both instruments, Amy has performed throughout Europe with ensembles such as the *European Union Baroque Orchestra*, *Capriccio Basel*, *Florilegium*, *L'Arpa Festante*, *Le Parlement de Musique*, *Il Concerto Barocco*, *Ensemble Cristofori*, *L'Arte dei Suonatori*, *The Royal Wind Music*, and the large chamber group that she founded, *Ensemble Garnier*. With the *New Dutch Academy* she been both oboist within the orchestra, and has appeared as a featured soloist on recorder. In Australia, Amy was a tutor at the 'Steps in Time' music festival and the Orpheus chamber summer school for early music. When visiting Australia she also performs and gives master-classes at the Early Music Studio, University of Melbourne. She is based in Basel, Switzerland.

Lisa Goldberg – baroque bassoon, dulcian



Lisa is from Canberra, Australia, and was born in 1972. She initiated her music studies in modern bassoon at the Canberra School of Music (Australian Institute of the Arts), where she received a Bachelor of Music, followed by a Graduate Diploma in 1997. She then discovered the baroque and classical bassoon, taking lessons with Simon Rickard who introduced her to all the fundamentals of early music performance including his in-depth knowledge of early reed making. She was soon after performing with him in the *Australian Brandenburg Orchestra*. In 2002 she moved to the Netherlands with an Ian Potter grant to study historical bassoon with Donna Agrell at the Koninklijk Conservatory, The Hague. Since living in Europe Lisa has been playing with many renowned orchestras and ensembles including *Freiburg Baroque Orchestra*, *Anima Eterna*, *Collegium Vocale*, *Concerto Copenhagen*, *Les Musiciens Du Louvre*, *Nederlandse Bach Vereniging*, *Gabrieli Consort*, *Les Muffatti* and the *New Dutch Academy*, and continues to perform with *Pinchgut Opera* in Sydney, Australia. Lisa is based in Ghent, Belgium.

Takashi Watanabe – harpsichord, organ



Takashi was born in Nagano, Japan, in 1975. He graduated from the Tokyo College of Music, majoring in piano. He began studying harpsichord at the age of 20, and completed his post-graduate degree at the Tohō college of Music. In 2002 he moved to Amsterdam to complete his Masters degree with Bob van Asperen at the Amsterdam Conservatory. He has participated in several summer courses, including Antwerpen with Jos van Immerseel, and Sant Feliu de Guíxols with Pierre Hantaï. At the age of 22 he won first prize at the Early Music competition in Japan, and since then has won several other prizes in competitions such as Bruges, Belgium. He is an active musician not only as a solo player but also as a continuo player of many ensembles such as *La Venexiana*, *Theatrum Affectuum* and *Il complesso barocco* and has performed with Rudolf Leopold, Gunar Letzbor, Enrico Gatti, Vittorio Ghielmi and Lorenzo Ghielmi. Takashi Watanabe is also active as a conductor and Musical Director of the “Handel Festival Japan” in Tokyo. In 2003 he conducted “Acis and Galatea” by G.F. Handel, which was highly praised. In 2010 he completed a Masters Degree in historical organs, studying with Lorenzo Ghielmi. Since 2005 he has been living in Pavia, Italy. In 2008, Takashi and his ensemble Riecreation d’Arcadia recorded several CDs for the Austrian broadcast *ORF*. <http://darcadia.blogspot.com/>

History of the ensemble

Satyr's Band has appeared in many festivals and concert series including:

OudeGand, Festival van Vlaanderen (Ghent, Belgium)

Musica Viva (Australia)

Spring Early Music Festival (Melbourne, Australia)

Elder Hall Lunchtime concert series (Adelaide, Australia)

Boekenmarkt series (Damme, Belgium)

Schiedam Huis te poort (The Netherlands)

Stadtfestwochen Hallein (Austria)

Musikalischer Sommer (East Friesland, Germany)

Antwerp Young Artists Presentation (Antwerp, Belgium): Finalist

They regularly undertake concert tours throughout Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Australia.

Recent reviews

Adelaide Advertiser, October 2010

"Rarely would early music command an audience of five or six hundred, but the delightful *Satyr's Band* ensemble did precisely that... At its gentlest, we encounter heartbreaking simplicity...at the other end of the spectrum [the diminutions] require recorder playing of eye-popping virtuosity."

Armidale Express, October 2010

"Satyr's Band have brought the Renaissance to life, incorporating their own improvisations into the performance. The concert was engaging, full of spirit and vivacity... Satyr's Band bills itself as a group of virtuosos, but what makes its performances so stunning is its tight ensemble work."

Gramophone Magazine, December 2008

Referring to their opening concert at the Flanders Festival, Ghent

"Some fine baroque playing from the young ensemble Satyr's Band (full marks for the masks)..."

Ostfriesischer Kurier, Germany, spring 2007

Das Ergebnis ist eine gelungene Kombination zwischen ausdrucksstarker Musikalität und hoher Virtuosität...

Translation: "The result is a successful combination between strong, outstanding musicality and a high level of virtuosity..."

Ostfriesen-Zeitung, Germany, summer 2007

Mit dem Konzert in Aurich konnte das Ensemble die Erwartungen auf ein außergewöhnliches Hörerlebnis voll und ganz erfüllen. Darüber hinaus hat dieser Auftritt wieder einmal bewiesen, dass experimentelle Spielfreude und virtuose Improvisationslust nicht erst eine Erfindung des Jazz, Blues oder Rock'n'Roll sind, sondern eine noch wesentlich längere Vorgeschichte haben.

Translation: "With the concert in Aurich the Ensemble could provide, fully and completely, an exceptional level of listening. Beyond that, this performance proved once again that experimental playing and a desire to improvise are not only inventions of jazz, blues and rock'n'roll, but have a substantially longer history".