

ESTHER APITULEY PRESENTS BACH & BLEACH

Esther Apituley has an unparalleled ability to convey the immediacy and vitality of the classical repertoire. Her theatrical concerts make the works of the great composers accessible to a broad public. By combining classical music with other disciplines, and through her choice of dramatic themes, she gives a surprising, sometimes anarchic twist to classic compositions.

The key to this lies in the innovative ideas she has brought to music performance: reducing the distance between the performer and the audience, and creating a lighter, more playful and relaxed atmosphere, makes the music immediate, intense, exciting and captivating. Achieving this requires a new approach and a fresh style of presentation.

About the production

Bach & Bleach is a musical theater production in which a viola player and a cleaning lady accidentally meet on stage. A scheduling error at the theater is the likely cause of the uncomfortable situation in which the two women find themselves. The viola player is keen to start the concert, seeing as the audience is already seated, but the cleaner refuses to give way as her work is important too. She grumbles, and scornfully refers to the viola as a 'little guitar'. She points out that her vacuum cleaner, by contrast, is a genuine Nilfisk, and she carries on with her cleaning. The viola player shrugs her shoulders, and the concert begins, but as soon as she starts playing the cleaning lady switches on the vacuum cleaner. When the viola player tells her she's taken things too far, the cleaning lady apologizes, saying 'I thought that you were making a noise, so I could too.' The tone is set. Both women stubbornly carry on doing what they have been paid to do: one of them gives a concert with an eight piece ensemble, while the other dusts the stage.

Gradually, the music touches the cleaning lady more deeply, and she becomes entranced by the concert, leading her to make some outlandish remarks. She even imagines that all kinds of people come on to the stage at her bidding, at which point she finds herself surrounded by a group of people (a choir) who start to sing Bach's 'Crucifixus', creating a heavenly atmosphere that lifts her far above her everyday reality. The viola player has opened up a whole new world for the cleaning lady.

It seems as though the universe has been working to bring these two people together here and now. Bach's music opens up the cleaning lady's imagination, and the music shows her that she has more to her than she thinks.

Bach & Bleach is an ode to the power of the imagination and to the emotional power of Bach. At Esther Apituley's concerts, the finest classical music is performed in an informal, intimate atmosphere. Working with a local choir brings an extra dimension to the show. In short, Esther Apituley brings a fresh, new approach to performing classical music.

"Everything is made up of music; everything you can comprehend, everything you may desire, and everything you cannot stand." Esther Apituley

REVIEWS AND REACTIONS:

- 8Weekly: "The text by Ko van den Bosch is (...) full of truths that are poetic yet hit home." "Time flew by during this enjoyable, accessible performance - mopping the floor was never so much fun."

- *Hein Hansen (TV journalist)*: “How can I put this? I was moved - it touched my heart. I laughed and cried, and I was astonished and surprised. It was a fantastic performance. Everything was just right - the crazy musicians, the Chaconne, during which Esther snorted like a horse, and the passionate performance.”
- *Paul Witteman (TV presenter)*: “What a fantastic show, with charming, talented young musicians. The choir of garbage collectors at the end was a stroke of genius, and the Chaconne was played superbly.”
- *Haarlems Dagblad*: "An exciting musical adventure" "(...) interesting to put a fantastic actress next to a terrific musician (...)", "(...) funny, thanks in large part to Breederveld's excellent facial expressions (...)"
- *Theaterkrant*: "Serious Bach with a comedy undertone", "The result is an enjoyable theater/concert show by Esther Apituley with a variety of pieces, performed by a strong ensemble, and interwoven with the dry humor of Breederveld, a born comedienne." "Time flew by during this enjoyable, accessible performance - mopping the floor was never so much fun."

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