

'W A T E R # 2'
A PIANO RECITAL WITH POETRY
and a touch of theatre (video)
MONIQUE COPPER PIANO & NARRATION

<i>Rutger Kopland</i> Luciano Berio	<i>Water</i> Wasserklavier
<i>C. Bogaards *)</i> Mirjam Tally	<i>Light spots</i> Different Rains 2003
<i>I. Gerhardt</i> Sinta Wullur	<i>Radiobericht 2013 *)</i> Aqua Piano 2003 *)
<i>Monique Copper</i> Ton Bruynèl	<i>Mist</i> Brouillard 1995
Herbert Bielawa <i>Poetry</i>	Sitting on the Beach *) <i>after Ogden Nash</i>
Sinta Wullur	Samudra 2014

*) for Monique Copper

Translations of the poetry into English: Paul Goodman
Video recordings of Dutch waters: Monique Copper
Video design: Marnix Carpentier Alting
Studio editing: Nol de Koning

About the Water programme

In this programme Dutch pianist **Monique Copper** pays a tribute to water and her country, the Netherlands, which is so 'full of water'. She shares with you the feelings and experiences water can evoke, from vague mist and strong waves or more unpredictable aspects.

This is my **second Water** program. In these concerts I perform piano works all inspired by the theme of Water. During the performance these works are connected by my narration of poetry with a backdrop of a video projection about Dutch waters. **Water**, this rippling, waving, deep, streaming, oh so wet water with its sometimes unexpected characteristics.

As I grew up near the river IJssel, one of the side rivers in the Rhine Delta where the Netherlands is situated, I always felt closely related to the water since my youth. At a certain moment I realized that my repertoire built up since long, consisted of many pieces on this very subject by Chopin, Debussy, Ravel, Bartók, Kurtág and more.

However I missed these fluent compositions by my contemporaries.

At present five compositions have been written since and especially for me.

In **Water 2** I play two of these. It was Herbert Bielawa (1930 - 2015) from Berkeley CA who was one of the first who immediately started composing in 2003: 'Sitting on the beach', with a text after a poem by Ogden Nash, cleverly woven into his composition to be narrated during the performance. Besides these two commissions you will hear in **Water 2** compositions by composers with whom I have built up special friendships during my career as a pianist. And poet Carla Bogaards wrote her poem especially for this project.

The whole program is a set of piano pieces that sounds as imaginary as water can be in all its identities, performed with the constant flowing presence of Dutch waters on the screen. This video is filmed by myself, as was the case with the first Water program. The editing and direction is done by film specialist Marnix Carpentier Alting together with visual artist Nol de Koning. The same artists with whom I worked for **Water 1**. My **first Water** concert program was developed for the concerttour that I made to the Asian countries India, Vietnam and Singapore in 2007 through 2009. so very

The poetry in this programme is by poets from the Netherlands. As theatrical touch during the concert, the "Water" programme is accompanied by an art video about Dutch waters. This video is specially developed by Monique with the help of two video artists.

The development of multimedia in Monique's recitals originates first of all to Ridotto and Margaretha Maimone, who started Ridotto in Amsterdam with Monique. From then on she collaborated with other artists: writers,

poets, theatermakers, actors, stage designers, visual artists. Her collaboration with theatre-light designer Marnix Carpentier Alting, with whom Monique reproduced Vasily Kandinsky's 1928 stage designs for Modest Moussorgsky's piano work *Pictures at an Exhibition*,**) , formed the starting point for a stage design to Monique's Water programmes. Both artists visioned an abstract video installation of water surfaces from the Netherlands as background. A film with various rhythms and colors can now be experienced together with and lightening the recital. However the musical story of the chosen music and poetry stays on the foreground.

**)Kandinsky's original directions were found, recreated and performed with Monique at the piano performing Moussorgsky's masterpiece simultaneous with the narration of specially written short poems by Dutch poet Willem Wilmink. Monique performed this multi media show all over the world. In 1 she presented this for Ridotto.

Monique Copper has a reputation not only for innovative recital programs, but also for lecture recitals and illustrated children's programs - a 'one-woman-multimedia show'. Inspired by successful performances abroad and at home Monique collaborated with artists of various kinds to create new programmes. The "Water" program is a logical development of this kind of work.

From 2007 onwards, Monique Copper made several successful concert tours with the first program on this water theme: classical works combined with the contemporary. She travelled to five large cities all over India. The tour continued to Vietnam. From that time on Monique toured furthermore through the Netherlands and to Poland, Switzerland, Singapore, California. During her trip to India & Vietnam the papers in India and the Netherlands wrote:

"... A mesmerising performance...."

"...Riding the waves and diving in. Her fingers ran all over the very responsive keys of the grand piano at the Kala Academy on October 17th, now swishing a shimmer of sound, sometimes chasing a wave accross the keyboard, now plunging deep into the depths to surface a threatening tsunami, or riding brightly on the gentle surf. The many faces and voices of water flowed into a very receptive audience, who were refreshed by the unique approach of Monique Copper, the Dutch pianist visiting Goa....."

"Monique Copper is a very talented musician, who, since many years, has been supported by Gaudeamus Contemporary Music Center Amsterdam at concert tours all over the world, during which she presents a wide range of music styles and music from our own country"

Monique writes*"The waterprogrammes are a mirror of my being, of the feelings I have by living in a country with water omnipresent. The choice of the 'water' theme also originated by my discovery how many wind-, water- and snowbased compositions are represented in my repertoire, built up since my youth. I decided to compose a programme consisting of just 'waterworks' and take the opportunity to present an 'image' of my deep love for the surroundings where I grew up, live and work. The Netherlands borders the North Sea and the land is crisscrossed by rivers, lakes, canals and polderditches. All these waterways make the aerial view of our country look like patchwork, the water being the stitching. Our cities as well are famous for their canals.*

The marine painters from 17th Century, our "Golden Age", are also very well known. One of them is Ludolf Bakhuizen, my very own ancestor. A booming cultural life had started in the Netherlands in that age because of the trade of exotic products since the Dutch were navigating the oceans. This created rich merchants who commissioned art from painters like Rembrandt van Rhijn and the marine painters.

*I am not a painter, I am a pianist expressing in my own way my love for the water. I express my feelings with classical pianoworks and works by contemporary composers. Remarkably not many Dutch piano compositions could be found on this matter. I discussed this subject of water and music with contemporary composers and I commissioned new works as all these composers reacted so enthusiastically. The result is seven new compositions which I premiered. Water can be poetic, soothing, threatening and dangerous. I hope to express our Dutch way of living with water and the Swedish way by means of Mirjam Tally's *Different Rains* and Anne Boye's *clearness of the Swedish Spring Water*.*

Monique Copper received her musical education in Geneva, Rotterdam, Utrecht and London. Her tutors are Ria Groot, Ton Hartsuiker, Geoffrey Madge, Stephan Savage, Martino Tirimo and the Brazilian master pianist (and Arthur Rubinstein's daughter) Luli Oswald. Furthermore she is coached by specialists on Bartok, French music, contemporary music and electronic music.

She lived in London for several years, performing throughout the UK, and made her debut at the Purcell Room. As well as touring the Netherlands, Monique Copper has performed in countries in Europe, South America, Asia and the USA.

At home Monique forms duo's with a flautist, an Indonesian singer/composer, performing gamalan inspired works and with the Vietnamese composer and instrumentals Ngo Hong Quang. Other recent appearances include theatre performances with actor Rein Edzard.

On CD Monique is represented by BVHaast (Poulenc & Debussy; Moussorgski/Wilmink) and Attacca (Dutch

composers).A DVD appeared with video Artist Nol de Koning: Niet langer van land.
Monique Copper lives and works in Amsterdam. She gives recitals all over the world, also with the poetry
narrated by her in English, French, Dutch or German.www.moniquecopper.nl