

**“The Artistry of Dick Oatts & Young Groningen Musicians”** will take place from December 2006 till May 2007, including a workshop week in April 2007 and in May 2007. The preparations start in September 2006.

*Content:*

The project contains the professional integration of young extremely talented jazz musicians. Involved as guest artists are famous jazz musicians Dick Oatts, saxophone player, composer and arranger, and David Berkman (pianist, composer and arranger).

Aim of this project is to select an ensemble that consists of recently graduated musicians (or a combination of recently graduated and almost graduated students) that will qualify itself in composing, arranging and preparing a production of one or more concerts and a CD. The artistic end product is a CD performing the ensemble's own work together with guest artist Dick Oatts, which will also be performed in a concert.

There is an open enrolment. An ensemble that has demonstrable talent to compose, arrange and produce at a high level will be selected to participate in the programme.

They should hand in a motivated letter and a realistic project plan, which will be judged by a committee, consisting of: the lector; the head of the Jazz Department of the Prins Claus Conservatoire; the artistic coach Kurt Weiss; manager Business and External Affairs of the conservatoire Sipke Bakker, and an external member. Ensembles that opt for the programme will also be asked to submit a video recording of a performance, along with the scores of compositions and/or arrangements.

The selection committee will have interviews with the young talented musicians who seem suitable, based on the demands stated above. Finally a carefully weighed choice will be made based on the convincing artistic input and spirit of entrepreneurship of the ensemble.

After this, the selected ensemble will be coached for four months by an artistic and business coach. The business aspect of the coaching will mostly focus on how to get an audience and making and selling the CD.

The artistic coach is trumpet player and arranger Kurt Weiss. Coaching will not only take place by means of lessons to the young musicians, but also applied to the setting, e.g. the coach will visit concerts in which the ensemble is performing. Finally it will also be question-based, mostly in groups. There will be two workshops: from April 16 - 20, 2007 David Berkman is guest teacher and will work with the ensemble intensively for a week on the compositions, arrangements and further preparation for the concerts and the CD production. The programme will be designed in such a way that the master classes and workshops are open to the general public. David Berkman will also perform and give a presentation, in which he will go more deeply into “the Art of Composing and Arranging” by giving a number of historical and contemporary examples.

After this intensive week the ensemble will qualify itself further under supervision of the coach Kurt Weiss. In the week of May 7 – 11, 2007, there will be a collaboration with saxophone player Dick Oatts, in order to realize, in that same week, the production of the collaborative CD, followed by a concert in which the recorded work will be performed. The CD will be released approximately six weeks after that (late June, early July). This project and the CD will be brought to the attention during the North Sea Jazz Festival in July 2007 in Rotterdam.

The final artistic product of this project therefore is a CD with the work of talented and/or recently graduated young jazz musicians, collaboratively made with a famous jazz musician and presented in an exciting way in the city of Groningen. The idea is to enhance recent initiatives and impulses of jazz stages in the city of Groningen that sometimes take place together with the programme ‘New York comes to Groningen’ of the Prins Claus Conservatoire. On the CD is clearly stated that it is achieved with funding of the Community of Groningen, in the framework of the programme “Groningse Nieuwe”. This is confirmed by the logo of the Community of Groningen together with the logo of the Hanzehogeschool.