

### **Discovering the power of music**

Theo Verbey was born in 1959 in Delft, the Netherlands. He discovered the power of music at the age of seven, as he played a simple recorder accompaniment during a school puppet show: "When I started to play during a 'sad' scene, my classmate's jaws dropped. They stared at me, then at the puppet, then back at me. That was the moment I truly appreciated music's ability to arouse emotion." Theo began writing music soon after, taking music lessons at the Delft Music School and playing trumpet in Delft's community orchestra. He also played the piano and wrote music for rock bands and cabaret groups.

### **Early recognition**

Theo attended the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague, where he studied music theory from 1978 to 1984 and composition from 1982 to 1985 with Peter Schat and Jan van Vlijmen. While still a student, he received recognition for his orchestration of Alban Berg's *Piano Sonata* op. 1. Verbey's work from the early eighties shows the influence of Pierre Boulez and Luciano Berio. He gradually developed his own style, however, integrating elements from American minimalism and basing his rhythmic and formal structures on mathematical principles.

### **An internationally renowned Dutch composer**

After completing his studies, Theo rapidly became one of the most-performed living Dutch composers. His work is often performed by Dutch and international orchestras and ensembles, and has been played at international festivals such as the Donaueschinger Musiktage (Germany), the Tanglewood New Music Festival (USA), the Holland Festival, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (UK) and the Venice Biennale (Italy).

The celebrated Concertgebouworkest commissioned Verbey to compose three pieces: *Ariadne*, *Alliage*, and *LIED*. He was composer-in-residence during the Brabants Orchestra's sixtieth anniversary season in 2009-2010, for which he wrote *Orchestral Variations*. Theo Verbey's works also provided the basis for several successful ballets by Dutch choreographer Regina van Berkel. In 2010, Queen Beatrix chose Verbey's completion of Stravinsky's 1919 *Les Noces* for a national broadcast as part of that year's annual Queens Day Concert.

### **Support for young musicians**

Theo Verbey was passionately committed to the education of young musicians. He began teaching at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague when he was just 25, and joined the faculty of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam in 1995. In 1992 and 1997, he was a member of the jury of the prestigious Queen Elisabeth International Composition Competition in Brussels.

For more information visit [www.theoverbey.com](http://www.theoverbey.com) or send an email to: [info@theoverbeyfoundation.nl](mailto:info@theoverbeyfoundation.nl)