

# THE MERCHANT HOUSE

## ABOUT MARJES BENOIST

Marjes Benoist (1948), pianiste en docent gespecialiseerd in jong talent, werd op haar vijftiende toegelaten tot het Conservatorium van Amsterdam. Ze studeerde bij Jan Odé, Jan Wijn en Hans Dercksen, won de prestigieuze Jacques Vonk Prijs voor beste pianist van Nederland en vervolgde haar studie in Rome bij Guido Agosti. Daarna studeerde zij nog twee jaar aan het Tsjaikovsky Conservatorium in Moskou bij meesterpianist Yevgeny Moguilevsky.

Benoist geeft al veertig jaar pianoles aan Nederlandse conservatoria en is gespecialiseerd in jong talent. Vanaf 1991 is zij als hoofdvakdocent piano verbonden aan het Conservatorium van Amsterdam. Onder bezielende leiding van Benoist is de Sweelinck Academie, de Jong Talent afdeling van het Conservatorium van

Amsterdam, uitgegroeid tot een gerenommeerd instituut met internationale erkenning en allure.

Benoist heeft veel opgetreden, zowel solo als met orkest, in o.a. Nederland, Frankrijk, Duitsland, Italië, Engeland en de Sovjet Unie. Daarnaast werkte ze vaak mee in muziektheaterproducties, o.a. bij Toneelgroep Baal met Louis Andriessen en is ze regelmatig jurylid voor pianoconcoursen als het Prinses Christina Concours, YPF en Tirana (Albanië). Als muziekadviseur was zij verbonden aan het Stimuleringsfonds van Nederlandse Omroeporganisaties. Ze geeft lezingen en masterclasses in binnen- en buitenland, publiceert in muziekvakbladen en organiseert sinds 2008 zomercursussen voor jong pianotent met Marlies van Gent.

A modern take on the Amsterdam tradition of a merchant  
A playful mix of life and commerce  
A radical shift in showcasing contemporary art  
Art space founded by Marsha Plotnitsky in 2012

**The Merchant House**  
Herengracht 254  
1016 BV Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

**Open:**  
Every Friday from  
12:00-19:30 and  
by appointment

# Max ZORIN

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Bio:

Acclaimed for his imaginative and dramatic performances, Max Zorin has thrilled audiences and critics across the globe with his superb technique and engaging personality. His creative programming and eclectic style fueled by a vibrant musical interest that spans beyond the standard classical repertoire brings a fresh ear to new and accustomed audiences.

Upon the release of his award-winning debut album “*French Touch*”, a collection of 20<sup>th</sup> century French works for violin and piano, Strings Magazine hailed his record as “*simply magnificent*”. In 2015, Zorin released his first music video “*Mack The Knife*” with an original arrangement for jazz quartet and won the Global Music Award as “Emerging Artist”.

Other recent engagements includes a solo tour across Spain and Portugal with the San Jose Youth Symphony, as well as performances in China, Brazil, Argentina, France, Russia and USA. Zorin collaborated with a wide range of distinguished artists from Maxim Vengerov, Itamar Golan, the Grammy Award-winning Parker Quartet to jazz/fusion violinist Didier Lockwood and rock guitarist Rik Emmett.

Zorin has been featured in prestigious venues such as Alice Tully Hall (New-York), Tel Aviv University (Israel), Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, the Glinka and Symphonic Hall in Saint Petersburg (Russia), the Philharmonic Hall of Odessa (Ukraine), Granada International Music Festival (Spain), Summit Music Festival (New-York), Aspen Music Festival (CO), Music at Penn’s Woods Festival (PA) and on various international radio and TV broadcasts.

Zorin is the co-artistic director of *Rencontres Musicales Internationales des Graves*, a summer music master-course and festival located in the wine region of Bordeaux (France) where performances are held in some of the most prestigious Chateaux of that region. The family run festival and is also a platform for promoting new music and host annually over 120 students from all over the world.

Born in Israel into a Russian family of professional musicians, Max began studying the violin at the age of five with his father, and gave his first performances when he was eight years old. His past teachers include Dorothy De Lay, Naoko Tanaka, Peter Oundjian, Ani Kavafian and Philip Setzer (Emerson String Quartet). At age 17 he won a First Prize at the Corpus Christi International Competition (USA).

Zorin holds degrees from the Juilliard School, Yale University and a doctorate from Stony Brook University. During his studies at Yale, he was drawn to acting and directing. His was cast in “*The Skriker*”, a Yale Drama School production and the world premier of Elise Thoron’s “*The Green Violin*” which ran at the Prince Music Theatre in Philadelphia.

Zorin is currently on the faculty at Penn State University and regularly presents master classes at various musical institutions worldwide including the Royal Academy of Music in London (UK), State Conservatory of Thessaloniki (Greece), Illinois State University and Columbus State University (GA) among others.

Zorin performs on a violin crafted by J.B. Vuillaume (Paris ~1860) and a bow by Edwin Clement (Paris, 2011).