

BRASS BAND SCHOONHOVEN

The Brass Band Schoonhoven was founded in 1921 as a fanfare band and transformed into a brass band in 1971. Between 1995 and 1998, the band made a remarkable progression, and was promoted from the second division to the highest level: the Championship division. From 2010 to 2014 Brass Band Schoonhoven was crowned Dutch champion for four times in a row. Internationally, the French and Belgian Open Brass Band Championships were won, together with five Euro Brass Contests. At the European Brass Band Championships, the band scored four consecutive top-six places and won the 2012 own choice competition with 99 out of 100 points. In 2014, the band made its debut at the Brass in Concert Championships and won the Entertainment Section. Because of these successes, Brass Band Schoonhoven was appointed cultural ambassador of the city of Schoonhoven, famous for its silver works. In 2016, the band reclaimed their Dutch title and will perform during the WASBE conference as reigning champions.

Brass Band Schoonhoven is not only active on the contest stage. The band very frequently performs on various concerts at home and abroad. In 2003 and 2005, the band travelled to South Africa for 2 concert tours, and gave lessons to young musicians and conductors in the town ships of Cape Town. Brass Band Schoonhoven also organizes many events and concerts itself, thereby cooperating with the Utrecht Brass and ZIMIHC organization.





Guest Soloist – Robbert Vos - Euphonium

Robbert Vos studied euphonium and conducting at the Fontys Conservatory in Tilburg. At present, Robbert is euphonium player in the Royal Marine Band of the Netherlands, solo euphonium player of Brass Band Schoonhoven and Sterling Virtuoso Artist. He is a frequently invited guest player and soloist around Europe and regularly asked to give low-brass clinics. His trips took him to Norway, Scotland, Wales, Chicago, and Hong Kong.

Robbert started his musical career as a flugelhorn player but later on he switched to the euphonium. In 2004 he started his studies for euphonium with Piet Joris as his teacher at the Fontys Conservatory in Tilburg. He followed the courses Solo Playing, Teaching and Chamber Music. At the same time Robbert started the training Wind and Brass Band Conducting given by Hardy Mertens. In the spring of 2008, Robbert passed both studies with credit. In 2008 he went to the Academy of Music in Utrecht to continue his training of Wind and Brass Band Conducting and started studying with Danny Oosterman. In 2010 Robbert again passed his study with credit. During his studies he continued with lessons on the euphonium (taught by Bernard Beniers) and trombone (taught by Albert Zuiderduin).

Composer – Alexander Comitas (Ed de Boer)

World premiere: “Schumann Resonance”

Brass Band Schoonhoven requested Alexander Comitas (pseudonym for the Dutch composer Ed de Boer) to write a major piece for brass band and percussion. This project was honored with a grant by the Performing Arts Fund NL (“Fonds Podiumkunsten”). The composition “Schumann Resonance” is based on the Schumann resonances, a series of frequencies in the earth electromagnetic field named after the physicist Winfried Otto Schumann. The frequencies are being generated by strokes of lightning and remained constant for thousands of years. Russian scientists speculate that some frequencies are increasing over time, mimicking waves in the human brain. Schumann resonances may therefore influence human well-being, perception and the state of consciousness. However, the name Schumann will be associated with the German composer Robert Schumann (1810-1856), who is considered to be one of the greatest composers of the Romantic era. His music, together with the fascinating physical phenomenon of the resonances inspired De Boer to write a composition for brass band.



Conductor – Ivan Meylemans



The Belgian conductor Ivan Meylemans is the new chief conductor of Brass Band Schoonhoven since January 2017. Ivan is one of the most exciting conductors to emerge in Europe recent years and currently chief conductor of the Zeeland Orchestra in Middelburg, the Symphonic Orchestra of the LUCA School of Arts in Leuven, the wind band “St. Michael” Thorn, world champion fanfare “Kempenbloei” Achel, and Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Brass. As a guest conductor, Ivan Meylemans has worked with major symphonic orchestras in Europe and the rest of the world. From 2007 to 2012, Ivan was chief conductor of the Chamber Orchestra Bruges and in 2012 he made his opera debut at Opera Zuid. Before his appointment in Schoonhoven, Ivan conducted the Noordlimburgse Brass Band, a Belgian Championship division brass band, who became vice champions of Europe under Ivan’s baton.