

## A Nightingale Migrating from Metal to Classical and Back.



Dynamo Open Air: the ultimate Heavy Metal Festival. A tip on an old landfill. The Dutch band The Gathering performed there in 1999. A heavy metal band evolving into melodic rock with sometimes very quiet moments filled with only the voice of Anneke van Giersbergen – a little girl on a huge stage. In front of her are tens of thousands of long-haired and richly tattooed metal fans of the roughest kind from all across Europe. You could hear a pin drop at those moments, followed by a huge applause as the instruments took over again. While taking pictures... goose bumps!

NRC Next, a Dutch newspaper, praised "her crisp, butterfly-like vibrating voice." Anneke will and can do lots with that voice. In the first year (2011) of the TV series 'De Tiende van Tijd', they dared her to sing the aria 'When I am laid in earth' from the chamber opera 'Dido and Aeneas' by Henry Purcell, followed in 2015 by 'Russian Lullaby' by Irving Berlin. She did and very successfully so. It inspired her to realize a long cherished desire in the theatre production 'Lost Past', to perform classic arias with a contemporary twist, in which she was accompanied by the Icelandic band Árstídir.

Singing IS her life. Even before her tenth birthday, she knew. Anneke would sing, so to speak, 24/7, if she didn't have to sleep or eat. If singing is your life and if you want to make it your livelihood and if you are not a household name in the country you live in, it's not easy. And it certainly will not make you rich. Even after nearly 25 years of great achievements outside the Netherlands, a household name in her own country, she is not.

But apart from the early days with the metal band The Gathering, when returning from major festival stages, she had to take on a job as a cleaning lady to make ends meet – she managed very well to get by. With her husband Rob Snijders, she runs 'Strictly Creative', that organizes the tours in which she alone, or with artists from various genres, shines in North and South America and Europe. At home, in the Rips in East Brabant, in the setting of an ordinary family

life with their son Finn (11), Anneke and Rob make all the plans. And, if at all possible, Finn joins them on the tours.

Her voice is praised by almost every music professional.

HP/De Tijd wrote about Anneke: "The most credible pop singer of the Netherlands". Spain 2016: The amazing singer Anneke van Giersbergen presents The Gentle Storm at Be Prog! One of the best female voices of our time ... Still, RTL4 Late Night recently informed the "The Publicity Company", which represents Anneke, that she was "too unknown" to appear in their TV program. Furthermore, we regularly have to explain why we put so much time and energy into making a film about... "Anneke, who?"

What's wrong with the Netherlands?

Interviews with people, who know her and the music business very well, like Giel Beelen (VARA/BNN) and Rob Trommelen (MOJO), will be asked to answer that question.

Great bands like Within Temptation and Epica, who are inspired by The Gathering, will also be approached to talk about Anneke's talent. She surely did not get her award from her peers for best singer in the Netherlands in 2006 just for her good looks.

This period of two years, in which we are following her, is a very interesting one for Anneke. As she described it eight months ago:

*"I'm at a very interesting period in my career. Ever since I went solo, I have done a lot and also very different things in different genres, with all kinds of people. Now I want to focus on just two things. I'm physically at the end of my rope and I can't handle the stress of doing everything at the same time and have zero days off in a year :-).*

*I'm going to focus on a new Dutch theatre career with acoustic, quiet music AND on the heavy rock/metal train, which I am already on, but which will intensify greatly. For that purpose, I formed a new band with a new band name, got me a new great booking agent for outside the Netherlands, and I am writing a new album that should be the best ever.*

*Starting March, I will do a month of touring with a classical theatre program called 'Lost Past' with the Icelandic band Árstídir. Throughout 2016, I will go on solo tours and in early 2017, for the first time ever, I will take a month off! I will take my time to shape the new Metal album and make the preparations for a 1.5 to 2 years tour with the new band. In December 2016, I have a sold out 'fan weekend' in which approximately 50 people from all around the world come to Amsterdam for a weekend together. Then we will do all kinds of fun things and there will be a large, final concert before I take a long break. We do a lot of things ourselves, management, production (done by Rob), web shop etc. And I do a lot of things in between, more under the radar, like living room concerts, weddings, private parties and singing as a guest singer on other people's records. We record those in our own studio. And we will move to Eindhoven sometime next year :-)* "

By the end of 2017, she will be in the business for 25 years, a good reason for a celebration and time for this documentary to be published. We're halfway through filming. In 'Impressions of the first eight months with Anneke', you yourself can ascertain why Anneke is worth it. If, with good reason (but also without), you want to hear or see more, please contact us.