

EMLYN STAM



Artist Biography

VIOLIST, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & ARTISTIC
RESEARCHER

THE

NETHERLANDS · [EMLYNSTAM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:emlynstam@gmail.com) · [EMLYNSTAM.COM](http://emlynstam.com)

— SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Emlyn Stam

Dr. Emlyn Stam is a violist, artistic director and artistic researcher whose work explores the relationship between historical memory and contemporary creation. Moving between early twentieth-century performance traditions and the music of today, his practice investigates how sound carries cultural memory across rupture, loss and reinvention.

Since 2014, he has been Artistic Director of New European Ensemble, an international ensemble specialising in contemporary and twentieth-century music. Under his leadership, the ensemble has developed multidisciplinary productions that connect new music with literature, philosophy, politics and history.

As a performer, Emlyn Stam has collaborated with leading composers including Oene van Geel, Kate Moore and Martijn Padding, who have written solo works for him. He has performed as a soloist with ensembles including the Schönberg Ensemble under Reinbert de Leeuw, Orquestra d'Espinho and the Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra, and appears regularly as a chamber musician with the Ysaÿe Trio and New European Ensemble.

In 2019 he completed his PhD at Leiden University with the artistic research project *In Search of a Lost Language: Performing in Early-Recorded Style in Viola and String Quartet Repertoires*, exploring historical performance practice and the relationship between early recordings and contemporary interpretation.

Alongside performing and curating, Emlyn Stam teaches and supervises artistic research at Fontys Academy of the Arts and the Royal Conservatoire The Hague. His current projects continue his exploration of musical memory, interpretation and the afterlives of European cultural traditions in the present.

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Dr. Emlyn Stam is a violist, artistic director and artistic researcher whose work explores the relationship between historical memory and contemporary creation. Moving between early twentieth-century performance traditions and the music of today, his practice asks how sound carries cultural memory across rupture, loss and reinvention.

Since 2014, Emlyn Stam has been Artistic Director of New European Ensemble, an international ensemble dedicated to contemporary and twentieth-century music. Under his leadership, the ensemble has developed a distinctive artistic profile through productions that place music in dialogue with literature, philosophy, politics and history. Projects such as *1984*, based on George Orwell's novel and created in collaboration with Edward Snowden and Boris van der Ham, and *Ships Vanishing in the Horizon*, a film project with composer Mikel Urquiza, reflect his interest in performance as a space where artistic experimentation meets wider cultural questions.

As a violist, Emlyn Stam combines a broad repertoire with a particular interest in the relationship between historical performance traditions and contemporary creation. Several prominent composers have dedicated works to him, including viola concertos by Oene van Geel, Kate Moore and Martijn Padding. He has performed as a soloist with the Schönberg Ensemble under the direction of Reinbert de Leeuw, Orquestra d'Espinho and the Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra, and has appeared frequently on Dutch radio and television.

Emlyn Stam is also active as a chamber musician. As a founding member of the Ysaÿe Trio and as a member of New European Ensemble, he has performed internationally at festivals including the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland, International Chamber Music Festival Utrecht, Grachtenfestival Amsterdam, Sound of Stockholm, Connect Festival Malmö and the Giverny Chamber Music Festival in France.

Alongside his performing career, Emlyn Stam has developed a profile as an artistic researcher. In 2019 he completed his PhD at the Academy of Creative and Performing Arts at Leiden University with the research project *In Search of a Lost Language: Performing in Early-Recorded Style in Viola and String Quartet Repertoires*. His research investigates how early recordings can provide new perspectives on musical interpretation and focuses on performance practices of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

His research has been presented internationally through lectures and lecture-recitals at institutions including the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Hochschule der Künste Bern, Conservatorio Giuseppe Verdi Torino, University of Leeds and University of Surrey. His publications include

contributions to *Early Music* (Oxford University Press), *ECMTA Magazine* and the volume *Tristan 1903* (Routledge).

Emlyn Stam combines his artistic practice with teaching and mentorship. He is viola professor and Head of Research and Theory in the Master of Music programme at Fontys Academy of the Arts in Tilburg, where he supervises artistic research and contributes to the development of new approaches to conservatory education. He is also involved as a teacher at the Ensemble Academy of the Royal Conservatoire The Hague.

Before focusing more fully on contemporary music and artistic leadership, Emlyn Stam was Deputy Principal Viola of the Residentie Orkest in The Hague (2008–2014). He has also worked as guest principal viola with ensembles including the Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Philharmonie Zuidnederland, Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest, Nederlands Kamerorkest and Opéra de Toulon.

His current artistic projects continue to explore questions of musical memory, interpretation and the afterlives of European cultural traditions in the present.