

Biography

At the age of ten Simone Honijk started with classical piano lessons and continued these lessons for nine years. However, over time, singing became her real passion! From the age of 20 she took vocal lessons with professional teachers (pop and jazz styles) and attended many vocal improvisational and interpretational workshops with various professionals. (i.e. Mathilde Santing, Carmen Gomes, Joris Teepe, Sheila Jordan, Jody Gilbert).

Simone later started performing and singing in an a capella vocal group, a small jazz choir and as a backing vocalist of a soul/funk band. Then, wanting to try her wings as a soloist, she started a duo with professional guitarist Cees Swart, performing a repertoire of jazz and pop songs, as well as his own compositions.

In the years following, she felt her heart pull more towards the jazz idiom, because of her love for improvisation and freedom of interpretation. She then dove deeper into more modern and mainstream jazz styles with various Dutch jazz groups (i.e. concert in Cristofori, Amsterdam with Rob van Bavel, Jasper van Hulst en Rene van Beeck in sept. 2005). In addition, Simone sang with various bigband ensembles; along with guest performers, such as Frits Landesbergen.

In 1999 she attended the Vocal Jazz Workshop at Stanford (Palo Alto, California, USA).

There, she studied with Madeline Eastman, Judy Niemack and Dena De Rose as well as the guest teacher Kenny Barron.

In 2005, Simone completed her studies at the Vocal Jazz Department at the Amsterdam Conservatory and obtained her degree. In the Conservatory she actively attended clinics given by Deborah Brown, Mark Murphy, Nancy Marano, Rhiannon, Edwin Rutten and Ronald Douglas: as well as masterclasses by Bobby Mc Ferrin, Dianne Reeves and Dee Daniels.

Upon completion of her degree, she studied acting and singing at the Amsterdam Theatreschool.

Since 2003 she has been performing with her own jazz group, "The Simone Honijk Quartet" and as a guest vocalist of different professional jazz ensembles.

Since 2008 Simone has been working in projects in which they are certain composers or jazz musicians Central (D. Ellington/B. Strayhorn, Bill Evans, 2012 Stephen Sondheim and in 2013 project about Tadd Dameron with also her own lyrics).

In 2012 she also organized (together with the jazz singer Karen Vrijburg) 10 special concerts for piano trio's called "To The Full".

In November 2014 a concert with her new Quartet has been recorded in the "Focus On Vocal Jazz" series voor Djazz TV . She will record a new cd with this trio at the end of 2015 , start of 2016!