

CAREL KRAAYENHOF

Bandoneonist | Composer

Carel Kraayenhof was eight years old when he started playing the piano; he took classical music lessons and played ragtime. Carel discovered music as his greatest passion and source of inspiration.

In the mid-1970s, Carel was strongly influenced by his brother Jaap with Irish, Scottish, and English folk music, and he taught himself to play the melodeon and the English concertina. In the early 1980s, Carel discovered the bandoneón: its sound touched him deeply. From that moment on, he knew without a doubt that he wanted to become a bandoneonist. He taught himself to play the complex instrument and soon performed in three self-founded tango bands: Tango Cuatro, Viento del Sur, and Sexteto Canyengue.

In 1987, Carel was invited by Astor Piazzolla to be the bandoneón soloist for his Broadway tango musical *Tango Apasionado* in New York. In 1990, he was invited by Osvaldo Pugliese to come to Argentina. In 1993, he received the *Gouden Notenkraker* award from the Dutch Association of Performing Arts. That same year, he was invited by the Rotterdam Conservatory to establish the Argentine Tango Department for the World Music Department. In 1996, Sexteto Canyengue performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival. In 1997 and 1998, they were the headlining act at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

On February 2, 2002, Carel's career took a significant leap forward. He performed Piazzolla's *Adiós Nonino* at the wedding of HRH Prince Willem-Alexander and the Argentine Máxima Zorreguieta. More than 55 million people worldwide watched the ceremony. The wedding's "soundtrack" went triple platinum. In the years that followed, he received several awards, including the 2003 Edison People's Choice Award Classic and an official recognition from the Argentine government in 2005 for his efforts as an ambassador of tango music. In 2012, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands appointed Carel as an Officer of the Order of Orange-Nassau.

Carel's concerts remain immensely popular, and he tours with various ensembles worldwide. He has released 30 albums and participated in numerous projects and collaborations with Dutch and international artists.* In 2018, he received an Edison Lifetime Achievement Award (Jazz/World Music) for his significant contributions to Dutch musical culture.

Since 2022, Carel has been performing with his *Carel Kraayenhof Quartet*. The quartet is currently presenting the music theater programs *100 Years of Piazzolla* and *Carel Celebrates the Tango*. He also performs in a duo with singer/guitarist Leoni Jansen and with concert pianist Marietta Petkova. Additionally, he collaborates with the *Matangi String Quartet* and has recently started working with violinist Lisa Jacobs and her *String Soloists*, with whom he presents the program *Piazzolla in Paris*.

With over 70 original compositions, Carel is an established name in tango and South American music. From solo pieces for bandoneón or piano to full orchestral scores, his creativity knows no bounds. His flexibility as an artist and his adaptability across different musical genres underscore his artistic versatility. Tango is Carel's passion, and making music is his way of life.

* Notable collaborations include Yo-Yo Ma, Ennio Morricone, Sting, Kristjan Järvi, Joshua Bell, Lavinia Meijer, Youp van 't Hek, Herman van Veen, André Hazes, Bløf, Trijntje Oosterhuis, and Caro Emerald. Carel has also performed with the London Symphony Orchestra, NDR and MDR Orchestras, Orchestre National de Lyon, and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

General management

Domselaer Artist Management | Marco van de Klundert

marco@domselaer.nl +316 2150 3480