

# MAAT SAXOPHONE QUARTET

## ECHO RISING STARS



NOMINATED BY FUNDAÇÃO CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN, CASA DA MÚSICA &  
PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS

SEASON 2025/2026

## PROGRAM 1

### 70'-80'

**Grave et presto** - Jean Rivier (1938) 6'

**String Quartet in F Major, M.35** - Maurice Ravel (1902-03; arr. Daniel Ferreira) 28'

—— Pause ——

**Two pieces for string quartet: Adagio and Allegretto** - Dmitri Shostakovich (1931; arr. Lisa Wyss) 7'

**New work** - Aleksandra Vrebalov (2025) 10'

**String quartet** - Henriette Bosmans (1927; arr. Adrian Tully) 12'

**Meditando** - Armandinho (arr. Daniel Ferreira) 5'

### Synopsis

In this program Maat Saxophone Quartet combines music originally written for the saxophone quartet, such as the gem *Grave et presto* but also the new commission by the American-based Serbian composer Aleksandra Vrebalov. Being the far relatives of the string quartet, Maat presents as well masterpieces for string quartet, such as the *String Quartet in F Major* by Maurice Ravel or Shostakovich's *Two pieces for string quartet*. The program ends with *String Quartet* by Henriette Bosmans, a Dutch composer with Portuguese roots, much like Maat itself. And finally, as Portuguese as it gets, the traditional fado song *Meditando*, this time in a saxophone quartet.

### Program notes

The Maat Saxophone Quartet brings a varied program, with music from different time periods and styles. The program includes original works, arrangements of well known masterpieces, and a new piece, showing the full potential of the saxophone quartet.

#### Grave et Presto – Jean Rivier (1938)

The concert begins with **Grave et Presto**, written by French composer Jean Rivier in 1938. This saxophone quartet gem is a mirror of the musical styles of its time, moving from slow impressionistic music (Grave) to a fast and lively neoclassical second movement (Presto).

#### String Quartet in F Major, M.35 – Maurice Ravel (1902-03; arr. Daniel Ferreira)

Ravel's **String Quartet in F Major** is considered by some the composer's first masterpiece. Written in 1902-03, this piece stands out for its harmonies, constantly traveling from tonal to modal, surprisingly contrasting movements and melodies. In this arrangement, made by the arranger in house Daniel Ferreira, Maat keeps the elegance and depth of the original music while offering a new perspective through the sounds and colours of the saxophone quartet.

### **Two Pieces for String Quartet: Adagio and Allegretto – Dmitri Shostakovich (1931; arr. Lisa Wyss)**

After the pause, the program continues with two movements by Dmitri Shostakovich, arranged by Lisa Wyss: the slow and thoughtful *Adagio* (from the opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*) and the quick and playful *Allegretto* (from the musical *The Golden Age*). The saxophone quartet brings out the emotion and character of these short pieces, originally arranged for string quartet, highlighting both the darker and lighter sides of Shostakovich's music.

### **New Work – Aleksandra Vrebalov (2025)**

Vrebalov's music is known for blending different styles and cultural influences. This piece, written especially for the Maat Saxophone Quartet, will explore the full range of what the saxophones can do, adding a fresh, modern voice to the concert.

### **String Quartet – Henriette Bosmans (1927; arr. Adrian Tully)**

Henriette Bosmans was a prominent female composer and pianist in the early 20th century, a period when the music world was largely male-dominated. Bosmans wrote this *String Quartet* in 1927, combining romantic and early modern music in three different movements. Although Bosmans was Dutch, she was also of Portuguese descent, the two countries to which the Maat Saxophone Quartet is connected.

### **Meditando – Armandinho (arr. Daniel Ferreira)**

The concert closes with ***Meditando***, a traditional instrumental fado song originally written by Armandinho and arranged for saxophone quartet by Daniel Ferreira. This traditional fado is as Portuguese as one can get, and ends the program with a feeling of home for Maat.

## PROGRAM 2

60'

**Nocturne** - Lili Boulanger (1911/1914) 3'30

**Cortege** - Lili Boulanger (1911/1914) 2'

**String Quartet in F Major, M.35** - Maurice Ravel (1902-03; arr. Daniel Ferreira) 28'

**New work** - Aleksandra Vrebalov (2025) 10'

**Meditando** - Armandinho (arr. Daniel Ferreira) 5'

### Synopsis

In this program Maat Saxophone Quartet combines music originally written for the saxophone quartet and arrangements from other formations. Being the far relatives of the string quartet, Maat presents the masterpiece *String Quartet in F Major* by Maurice Ravel, and from the same period Lili Boulanger's *Nocturne* and *Cortege*, for violin and piano. The new commissioned work by the American-based Serbian composer Aleksandra Vrebalov is presented, and as Portuguese as it gets, the program ends with the traditional fado song *Meditando*, this time in a saxophone quartet.

### Program notes

The Maat Saxophone Quartet brings a varied program, with music from different time periods and styles. The program includes original works, arrangements of well known masterpieces, and a new piece, showing the full potential of the saxophone quartet.

#### **Nocturne - Lili Boulanger (1911/1914) 3'30 + Cortege - Lili Boulanger (1911/1914) 2'**

In this program, *Nocturne* and *Cortège* by Lili Boulanger, composed between 1911 and 1914, offer a glimpse into the brilliant, yet tragically short-lived, career of this French composer. These two miniature works, are originally written for violin and piano, arranged by the arranger in the house Daniel Ferreira, and show Boulanger's brilliance in her compositions.

#### **String Quartet in F Major, M.35 – Maurice Ravel (1902-03; arr. Daniel Ferreira)**

Ravel's *String Quartet in F Major* is a classic piece for string quartet, arranged here for saxophones by Daniel Ferreira. Written in 1902-03, this piece is known for its beautiful harmonies and intricate melodies. The saxophone arrangement keeps the elegance and depth of the original music while offering a fresh perspective through the unique sounds of the saxophone quartet.

#### **New Work – Aleksandra Vrebalov (2025)**

Vrebalov's music is known for blending different styles and cultural influences. This piece, written especially for the Maat Saxophone Quartet, will explore the full range of what the saxophones can do, adding a fresh, modern voice to the concert.

#### **Meditando – Armandinho (arr. Daniel Ferreira)**

The concert closes with *Meditando*, a traditional instrumental fado song originally written by Armandinho and arranged for saxophone quartet by Daniel Ferreira. This traditional fado is as Portuguese as one can get, and ends the program with a feeling of home for Maat.

## PROGRAM 3

60'

**Grave et presto** - Jean Rivier (1938) 6'

**String quartet** - Henriette Bosmans (1927; arr. Adrian Tully) 12'

**New work** - Aleksandra Vrebalov (2025) 10'

**Music from Threepenny Opera** - Kurt Weill (1928; arr. John Harle) 12'

**Rhapsody in Blue** - George Gershwin (1924; arr. Johan van der Linden) 8'

### Synopsis

In this program Maat Saxophone Quartet combines music of the 20th- and 21st-century originally written for the saxophone quartet, such as the gem *Grave et presto* but also the new commission by Aleksandra Vrebalov, an American-based Serbian composer. Being the far relatives of the string quartet, Maat presents as well the *String Quartet* by Henriette Bosmans. *Music from Threepenny Opera* and *Rhapsody in Blue* end the program, combining classical, jazz, and modern styles, and showing the full range of possibilities of the saxophone quartet.

### Program notes

The Maat Saxophone Quartet brings a varied program, with music from different time periods and styles. The program includes original works, arrangements of well known masterpieces, and a new piece, showing the full potential of the saxophone quartet.

#### Grave et Presto – Jean Rivier (1938)

The concert begins with **Grave et Presto**, written by French composer Jean Rivier in 1938. This saxophone quartet gem is full of contrast, moving from slow, serious music (Grave) to fast, lively sections (Presto).

#### String Quartet – Henriette Bosmans (1927; arr. Adrian Tully)

Henriette Bosmans is a prominent Dutch composer, and wrote her *String Quartet* during a period when her lyrical, late-Romantic style was influenced by the French impressionist movement, resulting in a work that is both expressive and structurally refined.

#### New Work – Aleksandra Vrebalov (2025)

Vrebalov's music is known for blending different styles and cultural influences. This piece, written especially for the Maat Saxophone Quartet, will explore the full range of what the saxophones can do, adding a fresh, modern voice to the concert.

#### Music from Threepenny Opera - Kurt Weill (1928; arr. John Harle)

The program continues with music from Kurt Weill's *Threepenny Opera* (1928), arranged by John Harle. *The Threepenny Opera* is a mix of jazz, cabaret, and classical elements, reflecting the satirical world of 1920s Berlin. This arrangement transforms Weill's iconic work - originally written for voice and orchestra - into a chamber music piece that highlights the versatility and character of the saxophone.

## **Rhapsody in Blue - George Gershwin (1924; arr. Johan van der Linden)**

Finally, the concert concludes with *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) by George Gershwin. Originally written for piano and orchestra, this iconic piece bridges the worlds of classical music and jazz, capturing the energy and spirit of early 20th-century American life.

## **PROGRAM 4**

### **OUT OF THE BOX - 60'**

#### **BLACKBIRD**

**O Virtus Sapiente** - Hildegard von Bingen (1180-90) 5'

**Nocturne** - Lili Boulanger (1911/1914) 3'30

**Cortege** - Lili Boulanger (1911/1914) 2'

**String quartet** - Henriette Bosmans (1927; arr. Adrian Tully) 12'

**New work** - Aleksandra Vrebalov (2025) 10'

**Rhapsody in Blue** - George Gershwin (1924) 8'

**Porgy, I is your woman now** - George Gershwin/Nina Simone 3'

**Blackbird** - Paul McCartney 3'

#### **Synopsis**

In this program **BLACKBIRD**, the Maat Saxophone Quartet celebrates music by female composers who broke barriers in their time, creating powerful music when it was rare for women to be recognized as composers.

The program begins with the medieval chant "**O Virtus Sapiente**" by **Hildegard von Bingen**. Then, **Lili Boulanger's** two short pieces originally written for violin and piano. **Henriette Bosmans'** string quartet adds both romantic and modern styles, and the commissioned new piece by **Aleksandra Vrebalov** brings something the contemporary perspective to the program.

While most of the music is by women, **George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue"** is also included, a piece that blends jazz and classical music—much like the other composers who pushed boundaries. The program ends with **Nina Simone's "Porgy, I is your woman now,"** originally written by Gershwin, and the version presented is from Nina Simone, honoring Simone's powerful role in the civil rights and women's rights movements, and **Paul McCartney's "Blackbird,"** a song inspired by the struggles for equality and freedom during the civil rights era.

As interludes in between pieces, small short pieces by Hildegard von Bingen will be played by each one of the musicians of Maat, as solo pieces, showing in this way not only the ensemble itself but also its individualities.

Maat performs the program playing by heart, adding movement on stage, making this concert into a one-bow performance. Besides the playing of the four saxophones, Catarina Gomes will also sing, in a program that is a tribute to female creativity, equality, and musical freedom.

## OTHER PROJECTS

Maat Saxophone Quartet would like to present different projects that have been done recently, if any possible interest might come for bookings outside of the ECHO Rising Stars program.

## METAMORPHOSIS

Kafka's novella transformed into a virtual opera by Nuno Lobo.

**Metamorphosis** is a unique adaptation of Kafka's classic novella, addressing contemporary themes in the current digital age such as the search for identity, social isolation, and the daily struggle for acceptance. In this virtual opera, three talented creators, composer Nuno Lobo, visual designer Pedro Lobo, and theater maker Sean Hauser, are venturing into new territory, beyond the conventional paths of opera. Four saxophonists, taking on the roles of dramatic characters, replace singers, using solo melodies to portray the dialogues of the narrative in collaboration with their animated alter egos (in a projected animated film). This gives a distinct voice to the struggles of Gregor Samsa and his family.

### TEASER

#### Makers

Composition: Nuno Lobo

Libretto: Nuno Lobo & Alessio Meurs

Visual design: Pedro Lobo

Directed by: Sean Hauser & Nuno Lobo

Scenography: Thomas Maas

Light design: Wilfred Loopstra

#### Maat Saxophone Quartet

Daniel Ferreira (soprano saxophone)

Catarina Gomes (alto saxophone)

Pedro Silva (tenor saxophone)

Mafalda Oliveira (baritone saxophone)

#### Artistic and business direction

Maat Saxophone Quartet





## RENASCER

**Renascer** means 'reborn' in Portuguese and is the title of Maat Saxophone Quartet's project where the main figure is the iconic Portuguese guitar player Carlos Paredes, who's being honoured by arrangements of his music and the attendance of guitarist António Carlos Costa. The arrangements are done by Maat Saxophone Quartet and the program is being completed by new compositions inspired on Fado songs, by Arnold Marinissen (NL), Nuno Lobo (PT), Alejandro Erlich Oliva (ARG) and Hugo Correia (PT).

Renascer fuses the warm tradition of Fado music with the excitement of contemporary compositions, played by one of the most united saxophone quartets in the Netherlands and with the addition of the mesmerising character of the historic Portuguese guitar.

Renascer is also the second album of the Maat Saxophone Quartet, released in 2023 under the label 7 Moutain Records, and was nationally acclaimed in the biggest newspapers in the Netherlands.

### CD RENASCER LINK

