

Ruben Naeff, Composer

Biography

Educated in both mathematics and music and recently employed as an economist, Ruben Naeff (1981) finds himself in an attempt to comprehend the world and set it to music. His love for mathematics led him to write *De Bètacanon (The Scientific Canon)*, a paean for science that was commissioned by the Dutch national newspaper *De Volkskrant* and in which the fifty scientific topics of the newspaper's eponymous project were sung in a canon in four voices. The financial crash of 2008 inspired him to write *The Dancing Dollar*, in which he set both Citigroup's share price and its former chairman's words to music, and where he asked the Dollar for a dance. After that, many economically inspired pieces came to life, including a businessman's *Elevator Pitch* for solo flute and a neoliberal creed *Credo* for choir, with texts from Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*. Ruben embraces all kinds of music and strives to write music that inspires and moves.

Ruben obtained his master's degree in mathematics from the University of Amsterdam, where he majored in abstract algebraic geometry. During these years, he also studied musicology at the University of Amsterdam, and received composition lessons from Daan Manneke at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and Gilius van Bergeijk at the Royal Conservatoire in The Hague. After his graduation, he was employed at an international strategy consultant firm and as an economist at the Dutch Competition Authority. Currently, he is a recipient of the *HSP Huygens Scholarship* from the Dutch government to study composition with Michael Gordon in a master's program at New York University.

Ruben has collaborated with numerous people and organizations from a wide range of disciplines. He has worked with renowned musicians from *Bang on a Can* and the vocal quartet *Quatre Bouches* and a variety of organizations such as *de Volkskrant*, the debate & fine arts festival *happyChaos* and *Platform Bèta-Techniek*. He has joined forces with such public figures as *NRC Handelsblad* economics editor Maarten Schinkel, scientists and (former) presidents of the *Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences* Robbert Dijkgraaf and Frits van Oostrom, and the Dutch cartoonist Jean-Marc van Tol – and many more.

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An actual version of this biography may be downloaded from www.rubennaeff.nl