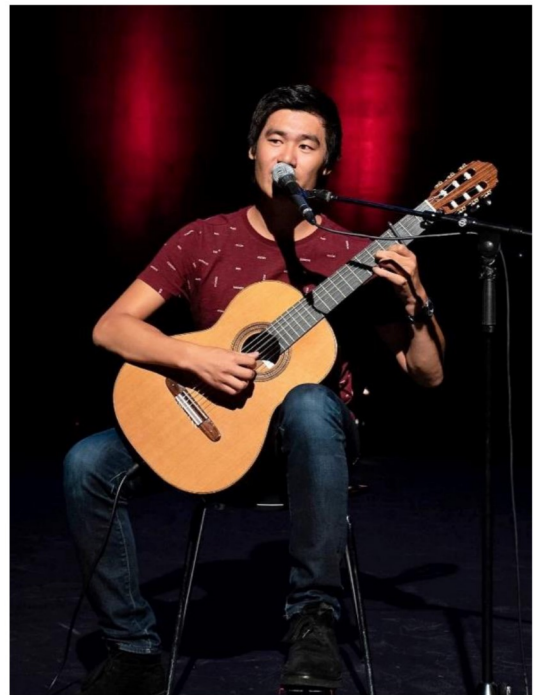


Wim Steenbakker | Master of Vocal leadership | Codarts student

Research Area: Performance Practice

Research coach: Job ter Haar

Biography | Wim Steenbakker was born on the 29th of March, 1994 in Sichuan, China, and raised in Wemeldinge, the Netherlands. After graduating from pre-university education (vwo), he pursued a bachelor's in both Music in Education and Mathematics in Rotterdam, graduating in 2017. In the same year, he was nominated for the *Onderwijstalentprijs* in the category "best prospective teacher in secondary education" for, among other things, his research into autism and music. A year later, he won the Liesbeth List prize at the *Concours de la Chanson*. In 2020, he obtained a master's in Mathematics and was admitted to a master's in Vocal Leadership, from which he hopes to graduate this year. Nowadays, Wim is active as a singer/guitarist, a music and mathematics teacher, and conducts two choirs. He has his own music school where he inspires young and old to find their passion for music.



Choir rehearsals in times of social distancing

Abstract | Due to the COVID-19 pandemic choirs were no longer allowed to rehearse in person in 2020, 2021, and 2022. This posed major challenges, especially for senior choir members who struggle with technology. This research examines the question of how I, as a choir conductor, can contribute to the social connectedness in my elderly choirs and the musical development in times of COVID-19. It describes and reflects on three forms of the rehearsal process: 1) online, 2) hybrid and 3) in-person with social distancing. The 'design as research' (DARe) method forms the basis of this research. Based on desk research and feedback from choir members and fellow conductors, a rehearsal method has been designed, tested, and further developed in ten cycles. The outcome of the research indicates that online rehearsals may very well contribute to the social connectedness and musical development of both the choir and the individual singer. During transition periods, in which live rehearsal is possible with social distancing, hybrid, and fully in-person rehearsals offer the possibility of singing in four-part harmony. The hybrid form allows all members to participate. The use of Vocal Leadership contributes to a clear non-verbal communication and increases reflection, creativity, and the development of musical skills.

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