

The Glass Grinder / De Glazendraaier

Rogier Kappers



"Unbelievable..." (Podium Witteman, Dutch National TV)

"Mesmerizing..." (ARD, German TV)

"Virtuoso..." (Top 2000 a gogo, Dutch National TV)

"Pure magic..." (Dubai International Street Music Festival)

"Goose-bumps for half an hour..." (audience reaction)

Singing Glasses

Why did the glass organ, extremely popular in the 18th and 19th century, almost completely vanish from the world? The story goes that the thin, ethereal sound of singing glasses can bring a state of trance or hypnosis. Some people would even have gone insane...

Rogier Kappers, The Glass Grinder, built the only glass organ in the Netherlands, consisting of 52 cognac-, wine-, beer-, champagne and port glasses. On his transport bike, he wanders around the country, showing up on street corners, squares and festivals, and enchants his audience with old and new songs - from Bach, Beatles to Brel - on the singing glasses.

The instrument has an intriguing appearance, with subtle details. It makes audiences curious, and invites them to look up close, touch and ask. After the show people can take a close look at the organ, and see if they can make a glass sing.

The Show

'De Glazendraaier' is behind his organ, a large glass rotates slowly and produces a low tone through an ingenious mechanism. Rogier introduces himself and tells us that as a small boy he was already fascinated by the sound of singing glass. He starts playing a thin melody line over the low bass tone. The hypnotic sound of the glasses immediately captivates the audience.

Rogier plays a diverse musical repertoire of pop- rock and classical music. In between he tells stories about his journey of discovery on glass: How did he build his instrument? Which types of glasses sing best? What is the history of glass music etc. His repertoire includes Beatles, Bach, Brel, Abba, Cohen, Schubert and evergreens as *Summertime* and *House of the Rising Sun*. There is a special place for the delicate music of world famous Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, whose minimalistic music seems to be made for glass.

General

- Length: 3 X 25 minutes
- Public: The show can be seen by a 30 to 300 audience
- The glass organ is on a transport bike, and mobile in town
- Space: Ideally 4 x 2 m flat surface, no stage needed
- A quiet place (fragile sound of glass organ)
- We prefer a quiet background (i.e. a building)
- In case of poor weather circumstances, we are flexible to reschedule shows. We can perform with a cover, tent, easy-up or covered spot in case of rain
- At temperatures below 15°C, we use (gas or electric) heaters that we bring ourselves

Max. audience, sound & light

- We have our own sound set (220 volt) that will be sufficient for maximum 80 people
- Above that, a PA system is needed
- When necessary, we can play with a mobile (accu) speaker system up till 30 people on any place
- We ask the festival to take care of the lights if we play in the evening. Please contact us about the details.

Backstage

- We need a space to dress & store/charge equipment.
- Between shows we need a safe place to park the bicycle, or someone to guard the set
- We come by mini-van, and we need a parking space close to the performance area
- We need 90 minutes to set up and sound check
- We break down in 20/30 minutes.
- If an overnight is agreed, we need a double room
- No diets

