

Marco Blaauw, trumpet

For more than 30 years, Marco Blaauw has been performing as a trumpet soloist specializing in contemporary music. As a soloist and as a member of Ensemble Musikfabrik, he has been at the forefront of innovations in music, always researching and developing his instruments and playing techniques, working on new repertoire and adventurous performing formats in close collaboration with established and young composers.

Engagements have taken him around the world, where he has performed as a soloist with major orchestras and ensembles. His work has been featured at prominent theatre and music festivals and is documented on six solo records and countless radio, CD, and video recordings. In addition to his performance work, Blaauw is active in many other fields, including as a curator, dedicated educator, composer, producer, and researcher.

Blaauw initiated and leads *The Monochrome Project*, an 8-player trumpet ensemble that experiments with long formats to deepen the experience of listening and merging into sound.

In 2016, he started his research project, *Global Breath*, taking his passion for the trumpet to new realms of knowledge and performance. His research reflects the shared human connection in the sound of the trumpet.

Since 2026 Blaauw is artistic director of the Tyrolean festival for Contemporary Music Klangspuren Schwaz in Austria.

In 2026, he has performed the world premiere of *Trompe-oreille* by Georges Aperghis at the Festival Présence (Radio France) in Paris and its Italian premiere at Milano Musica. Further performances of this piece will take place at the Festival Musica Strasbourg and the Megaron Athen. At the Lucerne Festival 2026, Marco Blaauw presents the world premiere of the new composition *Tongue of the Land* by the Australian composer Liza Lim who is writing her piece for the extraordinary Celtic brass-instrument Carnyx together with the Lucerne Festival Contemporary Orchestra (LFCO) and Elim Chan. He will play the German premiere with the BR-Symphonieorchester and Brad Lubman at Musica Viva (Bayerischer Rundfunk) at the Herkulesaal Munich in June 2027.

Blaauw's work has received awards such as the Polish Orpheus Prize, the Karel de Grote Oeuvreprijs of the city of Nijmegen, the Karl Sczuka Prize of the SWR, and most recently, the Palma Ars Acustica of the EBU. Grants from the Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung, Musikfonds, Ministry of Culture and Science NRW, Société Gavignières, and the Art Foundation of NRW have supported his work.