

## MASTERCLASS: THE PEDAGOGICAL BODY OF SINGING TEACHERS

Dr. Melissa Bremmer in cooperation with Ronald Klekamp (NL)

[melbremmer@hotmail.com](mailto:melbremmer@hotmail.com)    [ronaldklekamp@hetnet.nl](mailto:ronaldklekamp@hetnet.nl)



Although the physicality of learning to sing is widely recognized from a student's perspective, the way voice teachers use their bodies as pedagogical tools in one-on-one voice teaching is still underexposed. Only a few research studies mention the teacher's use of gestures, body-positioning or touch as a pedagogical means to communicate aspects of singing (Nafisi, 2014).

In light of the fact that 70-80% of all human communication and exchange of information is non-verbal, this topic can't be underestimated.

Therefore, in this masterclass we will take a closer look at how voice teachers can, and perhaps partly unconsciously already do, use their bodies to facilitate the learning process of singing: How can the use of teachers' gestures be helpful for voice students? How do teachers employ haptic feedback to help students physically feel how singing can be done? And how do teachers use kinaesthetic empathy to understand their voice students?

In our masterclass we will supervise the teacher on the aspects mentioned above.

The teacher will teach a singer, accompanied by a pianist.

Our focus of attention will be on the nonverbal aspects of the teaching, not specifically on the vocal quality of the singer.

Ronald Klekamp also offers also a class dealing with the coordination between using breath and muscles in the singing body and how to balance between "technical breathing and the natural movement which is already in the phenomenon of breathing".

**Dr. Melissa Bremmer** obtained her Master of Educational Sciences at the University of Amsterdam (1972) after studying classical singing and music education. She went on to do her PhD on the pedagogical content knowledge of music teachers from an embodied cognition perspective at the University of Exeter (UK).

Currently she is Professor of Arts Education at the Amsterdam University of the Arts and leads the Research Group Arts Education together with Emiel Heijnen.

In her work she focuses on embodied music learning and teaching, diversity in music education and Arts Sciences education.

**Ronald Klekamp** studied singing at the Conservatory of Arnhem, Holland with Aafje Heynis and Wout Oosterkamp. After that period, he started studying with Margreet Honig in Amsterdam. He also studied with Petra Bodnik in Düsseldorf to develop a breathing system which is part of vocal technique.

Ronald Klekamp works with a lot of singers in his private studio and he teaches speech and voice in a theatre school. In the conservatory of Amsterdam and Lyon he worked together with Margreet Honig.

In France he teaches in Paris, Lyon and Nantes.

In his vocal coaching Ronald Klekamp gives a lot of attention to physical and breathing awareness to attain a personal and authentic way of singing expressively.

He was on the organising committee of Eurovox 2018 in The Hague.