

Tokyo
"Songs in the distance"

Herman van Veen
& Edith Leerkes in concert

"If your travels repeatedly lead you to Tokyo, it has to be a good address. Why else would you unpack your instruments and together with Edith Leerkes and friends come to jest, to play, to sing and to reminisce about you, the dancing chairs, about how the war dissolved, the coffee ended up in the milk, the children were born. The kisses and the words, the snakes in their holes, about the bread on the table, eternity and what it takes."

-Herman van Veen-

Herman is a singer who with tenderness sings passionately yet unrestrained. His words, often bitter sweet, are about the simple things in life. They suggest, provoke and keep you guessing. His music is difficult to describe because its so distinctively his. Classical in structure, it possesses the ardour and zest of gypsy music and encompasses the lyricism of the French literary chanson.

The Dutch guitarist singer Edith Leerkes (1959), like Herman, has her musical creativity rooted in classical and European folk music. Before she started playing with him she performed with her guitar trio in leading concert halls such as Carnegie Hall in New York, the Concert Gebouw in Amsterdam, the Casals Hall in Tokyo and the Konzerthaus in Vienna. Her playing is unusually dynamic, equally tempestuous as it is intimate. Rhythmic as clockwork. She sings like the wind.

Herman van Veen (1945), singer and violinist, writes texts, plays and stories, paints, directs and composes. He has received countless international accolades as well as two honorary doctorates for his humanitarian work and oeuvre. He is bearer of

the Bundesverdienstkreuz, Knight in the Order of Orange Nassau and The Netherlands Lion. Father of four children.

The title of the concert and accompanying CD was inspired by a sentence from an Anton Chekhov story. "Down below in the meadow the girls got up a round dance and sang songs... and in the distance the singing sounded soft and melodious."

A tale in which it is clear that in every significant experience in life music is present. A world without is inconceivable.

During the Tokyo concert Herman will be singing his ballad "*Titia*" for the first time, an ode to Titia Bergsma, the first European woman to put foot on Japanese soil.

Herman van Veen and Edith Leerkes will be touring to Tokyo in June 2011.

For more information: www.hermanvanveen.com