

## Marlies Claasen

Dutch vocalist Marlies Claasen (1971) started with piano lessons at the age of 7 but was drawn to singing at fourteen. At eighteen she started her studies of Dutch language and literature at the University in Utrecht. She also graduated at the Jazz department of the School of the Arts in Utrecht and started a promising career.

Nowadays she lives in Zutphen, a small town in the east of the Netherlands. She started her own agency and promotes her musical activities. She sings jazz and Brazilian music with her partner and guitarist Tom Klein, but also in larger combinations with her own band. Her new cd PAINTING THE SUN was released in November 2003. The reactions to this cd, with compositions written by herself and Tom Klein, were overwhelming. The video clip of one of the songs: DEAR OLD FRIEND, was recorded in Italy, in the beautiful village of Casaprota, north east of Rome, where Tom and Marlies spend their holidays in June 2003. The song Italian Nights was written about this special village that stole their hearts. The people there were so charming that Tom wrote a Hymn for this village: INNO DI CASAPROTA. It is a song in Italian, grand, elegant and with humour! Marlies and Tom flew back to Casaprota to sing this song on a folklore festival. It was a huge success!

Marlies and her band are often seen in theatres, at festivals and in jazz clubs in the Netherlands and abroad. Even the Dutch audience is taken by the Italian song Inno di Casaprota, although they cannot understand the lyrics. Marlies also sings at all kinds of business events. Besides her work as a performing musician she also participates in studio productions.

Marlies also works for Dutch television. Since 2001 she has been the host of a cultural-historic program called De Geschiedenisbus, a program for TV Gelderland with over 350.000 viewers weekly! With this program Marlies has won the NL award 2002 for best regional program. The jury said: MARLIES IS A NATURAL WITH AN INSPIRING PERSONALITY. Besides her work for television Marlies hosts seminars and other business events and she is often seen in corporate films.

With her natural and easy performance Marlies reaches out to her audience: both in presentation or music.