

Recordings to celebrate the world of the oboe

Oboe classics

Han de Vries

The Radio Recordings - 9 CDs, a DVD and a bonus DVD

Han de Vries is one of the world's great oboists, comparable to Heinz Holliger or Léon Goossens. This box celebrates his work with what seems like a complete guide to the oboe repertoire, with 22 concertos and 29 chamber works. (See oboeclassics.com for the full list.)

Han de Vries' superb playing is equal to this mammoth task, with springy rhythms in Bach, some hypnotic Bainbridge, sustained energy in Richard Rodney Bennett, tasteful Cimarosa, enchanting Françaix, elegant Mozart, jaw-dropping Penderecki, graceful Röntgen, electric rock in Peter Schat, and playful duetting with Bart Schneeman in Voormolen's concerto for two oboes.



Catalogue number cc2024

Barcode 5 023581 202422

The tracks have been improved acoustically, and background noises have been removed or reduced. The 32-page CD booklet has an 8,000 word programme note in English with full details of each track and an essay on the Dutch oboe school. There is also a biography, a discography and many photographs.

For copyright reasons, this box is a 'Limited Edition'. When the stocks are gone there will be no reprinting. For the same reasons it is unlikely to be available as a download.



Han de Vries studied oboe with Jaap Stotijn and his son Haakon Stotijn. He won many prizes in his youth, including the *Prix d'Excellence* in 1962. He was a founder member of the Netherlands Wind Ensemble.

At the age of 22, he became principal oboist at the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and remained there for seven years, after which he focussed on chamber music and a solo career. As a soloist, Han de Vries has toured Europe, Japan, Australia, and North and South America, with a repertoire of baroque, classical, romantic and contemporary music. He has made many recordings, one of which won an Edison Award in 1973.

Many composers have dedicated music to him, including Bruno Maderna. He has a large collection of historical oboes, and has edited Baroque and other repertoire. In 1997 he was made an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau.

Comment on the CDs:

"At the radiant centre there is that very personal way of playing the oboe. Some music enables the listener to long for unknown and remote perspectives, worlds that nobody knows. If there is one instrument that is able to reproduce the radiance of this desire it is the oboe. And if there is a single oboist who has realized this to the full it is Han de Vries." *Thiemo Wind, De Telegraaf, Netherlands*

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