

Critics praise Nikola Meeuwsen (born 2002) for his rich palette of colours, compelling artistic vision, and personal style, which balances power with poetry. He draws deep inspiration from the individualistic and expressive style of Romantic-era musicians such as Horowitz, Cortot, Heifetz, Kreisler, Rachmaninov, Cziffra and Gould.

Nikola became the first Dutch pianist to win First Prize at the Queen Elisabeth Competition in Brussels in 2025. Later that year, Janine Jansen named him as Artist-in-Residence for her International Chamber Music Festival Utrecht in 2026.

Known for his depth of musicianship, rich palette of colours and technical brilliance, Meeuwsen's sold-out solo recital at the Concertgebouw's renowned Master Pianists series in Amsterdam received universal acclaim. Already a sought-after soloist in concert halls across Europe, the 2025/26 season sees Meeuwsen embark on major recital tours of China, Korea and Japan, as well as Brazil.

Other highlights of the season include appearances with the Luxembourg Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Norwegian Radio, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, and Netherlands Philharmonic, where he will be replacing Maria João Pires, working with conductors including Ricardo Minasi, Tarmo Peltokoski, Marc Albrecht, Martin Rajna, Thomas Zehetmair, Antony Hermus, Holly Hyun Choe and Richard Egarr.

Meeuwsen made his solo debut at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam in 2024 and has performed with orchestras including the Belgian National Orchestra, the Residentie Orkest in the Hague, Kammerorchester Essen, and the Prague Symphony Orchestra.

A devoted chamber musician, Meeuwsen has collaborated with established artists including Janine Jansen, Augustin Dumay, Denis Kozhukhin, Inmo Yang and Yamen Saadi. He also regularly performs with his teacher and mentor, Enrico Pace.

Meeuwsen was recognised as a talented musician from an early age, winning the Steinway Competition at the age of nine and receiving the Concertgebouw Young Talent Award in 2019. He has studied with Marlies van Gent since 2010 and with Enrico Pace at the Accademia Pianistica in Imola since 2014. Since 2022, he has been an artist in residence at the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, where he studies with Frank Braley and Avedis Kouyoumdjian.

In his home city of The Hague, Meeuwsen plays on a Bösendorfer grand piano loaned to him by the Dutch Musical Instruments Foundation (NMF).