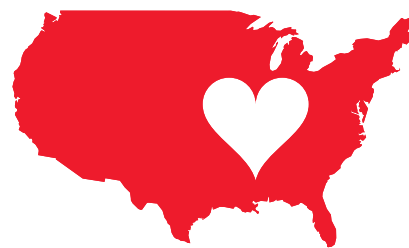


Into The Heart of Music

Controversy and clichés in the birthplace of pop music

3/10/08 - 25/1/09



HEART LAND

While the American presidential election is in progress, the dominant East Coast and West Coast of the world's sole superpower will inevitably claim most attention. In the multidisciplinary Heartland project, the Van Abbemuseum and Muziekcentrum Frits Philips offer a valuable counterweight to the positive and negative clichés about the area that lies between the two Coasts, through the art and music from this region. The melting pot of immigrants and cultures in the Heartland, an area alongside the Mississippi River, extending from New Orleans up to Minneapolis in the west and Detroit in the east, has been the basis for the impressive fusion and genesis of many popular musical genres. From 3 October 2008 to 25 January 2009, *Into the Heart of Music* will shed light on the musical culture of the American heartland through lectures and performances by Low, Peter Guralnick and David Olney, and a documentary film by *The Watchman*.

To speak of the Heartland is to speak of the Heart of Music. Never before has such an explosive musical mixture arisen in a region a mixture that has changed Western popular music forever, and has left in its slipstream an ineradicable impression on man and society, with the Blues as its birth cry, Country as its vox populi, Soul as the banner of the black community and, of course, Rock 'n Roll as the ultimate fusion. All this sprang to life in the region between the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, the Third Coast of America.

The programme *Into the Heart of Music* is a study towards a more finely shaded and up-to-date picture of the musical culture of the Heartland.

Programme of Into the Heart of Music

- Opening event on 4 October. Grand opening concert with *The Section Quartet*, the loudest string quartet on earth, with a special guest to be announced
- *Introducing the Heartland*. Listening course by Frank de Munnik
- *Heartland Café*. Concerts by outstanding Heartland musicians invited by Ad van Meurs
- *Searchin' for the Heart of the Heartland*. Documentary film by Dré Didderiëns and The Watchman.
- Exposition of photographs by *Ernest C. Withers*
- Closing Concert in the Catherinakerk: *Low*

Introducing the Heartland

A road movie in text and music. Two evenings on the musical icons of the Heartland, from Elvis Presley to Robert Johnson and Otis Redding. Music buff Frank de Munnik presents a resounding picture through numerous listening examples of the Heartland's musical culture. Besides the iconic Robert Johnson, Elvis Presley, Otis Redding and Martin Luther King, the spotlight will pause on Aaron Copland, Louis Moreau Gottschalk and the oldest surviving jazz recordings.

Vr/10/10 Muziekcentrum Frits Philips
Do/23/10 Van Abbemuseum

Heartland Café

Ad van Meurs, alias The Watchman, is one of Holland's most talented singer-songwriter in the Americana genre. He blends influences from folk, roots-pop, country and rock into an idiosyncratic amalgam, which is highly regarded in the United States. On six Monday evenings, Ad will present outstanding Heartlanders in Grand Café Meneer Frits (the third hall of Muziekcentrum Frits Philips).

mon/10/10 Peter Mulvey

mon/20/10 David Olney met Tommy Womack

mon/03/11 Boo Boo Davis Mississippi Blues band

mon/10/11 Stacey Earle & Mark Stuart

Searchin' for the Heart of the Heartland

The premiere of a documentary by Ad van Meurs, Ankie Keultjes and filmer Dré Didderiëns will take place on the evening of 8 January 2009. The film documents their 10 day journey through the Heartland, and includes contributions by the well-known producer Jack Clement, the drummer of J.J. Cale, members of the Osage Tribe and other native Americans. Live soundtrack by The Watchman.

Photography exhibition by Ernest C. Withers

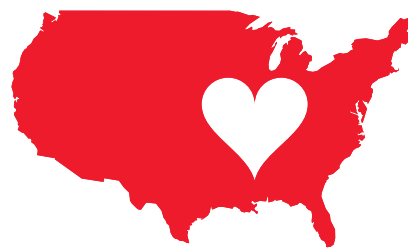
Ernest C. Withers is regarded as one of the twentieth century's leading photographers. Besides working in a photography business in Memphis, he photographed many notable events and individuals. His portraits of Martin Luther King and his shots of the Memphis strikes of 1968 drew worldwide attention. Muziekcentrum Frits Philips will display 22 of his photographs concentrating on music and the civil rights movement, during the Heartland project. This is the first solo exhibition in the Netherlands of Ernest C. Withers.

Closing Concert in the Catherinakerk: Low

Thu/22/01/09

To give a due place to religious-musical America, the impressive Eindhoven church Catharinakerk has been chosen as the final concert venue. The visual presence of the church influences people's thinking and lifestyle and hence also their cultural life in general. Low interprets this line of thought seamlessly in their music and in their outlook. The core of Low consists of the Mormon couple Alan Sparhawk and Mimi Parker. Faith forms an astonishing ingredient which is central to Low's music and lyrics. For Heartland, Low will join forces with a choir, percussionists, and organist-composer David Dramm.

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