

Violinist **Merel Vercammen** (b. 1988, Nijmegen, the Netherlands) graduated cum laude from the Royal College of Music in London. She received prizes at the London Grand Prize Virtuoso Competition, the National Competition of the Foundation for Young Musical Talent of the Netherlands and the Princess Christina Concours. Merel has performed throughout the world and played in renowned concert halls such as the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg and Wigmore Hall in London.

Merel had her first violin lessons when she was five years old and began studying at the HKU Utrecht Conservatory under Eeva Koskinen at the age of fifteen. At the Royal College of Music in London, she earned a Bachelor of Music as well as a Master of Performance, under Jan Repko. She then proceeded to study under Ilya Grubert at the Santa Cecilia Music Foundation in Portogruaro, Italy. Furthermore, she has followed masterclasses by Josef Rissin, Lewis Kaplan, Daniel Hope, Alina Ibragimova and Zakhar Bron. Her debut album *Symbiosis* with Russian pianist Dina Ivanova came out on Gutman Records in March 2019, and has been very well received in the (inter)national press.

As a soloist, Merel has performed in violin concertos by Beethoven, Brahms and Otto Ketting, the last of whom conducted his own work. In 2017, she premiered a violin concerto by composer Mathilde Wantenaar, written especially for her. In addition, she has developed an interactive performance about music and the brain (*The New Mozart Effect*) and engages in improvisation. In September 2019, Merel released her second album, *The Zoo*, which contains free improvisations with eight duo partners.

*Merel plays a violin made by Italian violin maker Andrea Postacchini 1820, kindly made available on loan to her by the Dutch Musical Instruments Foundation (NMF).*

[merelvercammen.com](http://merelvercammen.com)