

## BIOGRAPHY Willem van Merwijk / Guillermo Lago

Saxophonist / composer / arranger *Willem van Merwijk* (Bemmel, The Netherlands, 1960) is a musical jack-of-all-trades.

He is co-founder of the Aurelia Saxophone Quartet and played the baritone saxophone in this group from 1982 till 2014. In 2014, after having performed over 30 years with the Quartet, van Merwijk decided to leave the group, his goodbye concerts being two concerts with Branford Marsalis in the spring of 2014.

Mr. Van Merwijk is a member of the Netherlands Wind Ensemble since 1990 and regularly performing, composing and arranging for this group. Amongst other things he performed over 30 times at the group's famous annual New Year's Concert in the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Big Hall. As a freelance musician he worked with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Rotterdam Philharmonic and many other orchestras.

*Guillermo Lago* (1960) is musician Willem van Merwijk's composing alter ego. His work is being performed and recorded world-wide. 'Ciudades' by his hand for saxophone quartet has become a repertoire piece for the ensemble.

In 2011 Lago was invited to write the yearly composition at National Memorial Day in the Netherlands that was performed before an audience including HRH Queen Beatrix and broadcasted live on national TV and radio.

In 2013 Lago wrote 'l'Entrata del Re' for the coronation of H.M. King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands, live broadcasted and watched by a world-wide audience.

In 2018 his concerto for alto saxophone 'Leyendas' was premiered at the World Saxophone Congress in Zagreb by Arno Bornkamp and the Croatian RTV Orchestra.

Recent works include 'Ríos' for clarinet quartet and symphony orchestra (premiered at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam by NAKK and Sweelinck Orchestra), 'Heilong' '黑龙' for marimba and string quartet and a concertino for viola and strings 'Pedras quadradas, árvores vermelhas'.

Mr. van Merwijk is very passionate about teaching. He is currently professor of chamber music, saxophone methodics and saxophone at the CvA Amsterdam and professor of arranging at the HKU Utrecht.

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