



# NORTH SEA STRING QUARTET

Strings that make you move.

The North Sea String Quartet is one of the most versatile string quartets of the Netherlands. Combining their own compositions with improvisation, their music could be defined as a mixture of jazz, folklore and world music. These are strings that will make you move!

The quartet consists of violinists Pablo Rodriguez and George Dumitriu, violist Yanna Pelsier and cellist Thomas van Geelen. Apart from their classical background, they share a passion for folk music from South America, Europe and Africa, as well as jazz and improvisation. With the use of innovative playing techniques, they manage to translate these musical worlds to the string quartet, as heard on their EP "Feldwerk" (2018).

The quartet loves to join creative forces with other artists. They made a beautiful program of Brazilian music with singer Lílian Vieira, which has staged at Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Dutch television show Podium Witteman. Their collaboration with American singer and violist Roland Satterwhite, which took the group to venues in the Netherlands, Germany and Spain, resulted in their most recent EP, the Delta Blues inspired "Songs for Flying" (2019).

At the moment they are about to release their first album 'Electric Amazigh', which is a collaboration with guitarist Javier Infante (ES). The quintet has premiered his North-African, Canarian and Sephardic influenced compositions at Festival Canarias & Más Jazz Heineken 2020.

**Foundation**  
2016

**Genre(s)**  
JAZZ, WORLD

**Website**  
[northseastringquartet.com](http://northseastringquartet.com)

**Bookings**  
[info@northseastringquartet.com](mailto:info@northseastringquartet.com)

**Social**





### The Kitchen Sessions (EP, 2017)

<https://northseastringquartet.bandcamp.com/album/the-kitchen-sessions-ep-2017>

Last summer, the NSSQ got together in Berlin and recorded their first EP. It contains new compositions, arrangements and collective improvisation, reflecting one year of defining the quartet's musical identity. With four diverse musical backgrounds in one group, there's been a lot of experimenting to mold these together into new music; a very exciting process!

The eight tracks move from mysterious to groovy and from earthly to spacy, but throughout the record you'll hear many different folk music influences. It's this blend of European, South-American and African music we like to call folk-fusion.



### Feldwerk (EP, 2018)

<https://northseastringquartet.bandcamp.com/album/feldwerk-ep-2018>

Our second EP is the result of a journey through different musical fields and genres, broadening our horizons and stirring our imagination. Aside from compositions that are influenced by Irish and Canary Island folk music, we've included our very first arrangement of African music.

In contrast to these folk tunes, you will hear compositions that show another side of the quartet: intimate and sensitive storytelling.

## LIVE PERFORMANCE (click on the image to watch)



North Sea String Quartet plays Feldwerk  
De Doelen, Rotterdam





## Songs for Flying (EP, 2019)

ft. Roland Satterwhite (USA)

<https://northseastringquartet.bandcamp.com/album/songs-for-flying-ep-2019>

Songs for flying is the outcome of a remarkable collaboration between american Berlin-based singer and violist Roland Satterwhite and the Dutch North Sea String Quartet. Roland's soulful songwriting gets embodied by his deep, compelling voice and the sensitive playing of the string quartet, resulting in breathtaking sincerity. The songs are about life and love, snails and dignity, about freedom and commitment; each of them able to give wings to the listener.

## LIVE PERFORMANCE (click on the image to watch)



Live at Mixed Media Lounge - Music Meeting 2019



Songs for Flying release album teaser

[www.northseastringquartet.com](http://www.northseastringquartet.com)

rev.1



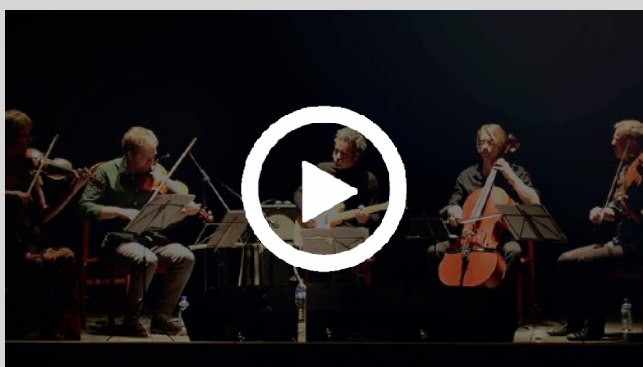
"Chuva" by Zuco103

### **The Brazil String Connection (2019) ft. Lilian Vieira (Brazil)**

North Sea String Quartet joins Brazilian singer Lilian Vieira to offer an exquisite selection of Brazilian classics in an intimate and relaxed atmosphere. "Nuvem Negra" (Gal Costa), "Mais Que Nada" (Sergio Mendes) or "Caxanga" (Elis Regina) are some of the songs that will sound in an evening full of unexpected turns, intense improvisations and marked, at the same time, by the originality and rhythmic solidity that characterizes the quartet



The Brazil String Connection ft. Lilian Vieira Podium Wittenman (TV)



Electric Amazigh ft. Javier Infante  
Pre-release concert in La Palma

### **Electric Amazigh (LP, 2021) ft. Javier Infante (Canary Islands)**

The Dutch jazz-folk string quartet North Sea String Quartet and the Canarian guitarist-composer Javier Infante present "Electric Amazigh". An "electrifying" string meeting and unique collaboration in which acoustic and electric sounds converge

Through eight fascinating pieces written by Javier Infante, influences from North African music (Berbers/Amazigans), Sephardic songs and contemporary jazz are intermingled. Likewise, the Dutch quartet pushes the rhythmic character of these songs through its rhythmic strength and innovative percussion sounds. At times, there seems to be a drummer in the room! The vast electric guitar and string solos give rise to a strong creative and experimental spirit, interspersing beautiful melodies with powerful rhythmic passages.



Creative string playing workshop at Conservatory of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



Collaboration with Barrios Orquestados and Roland Satterwhite



Academy of Improvising Strings 2020 with Tim Kliphuis and North Sea String Quartet (NL)

## Improvisation for young players

The North Sea String Quartet brings string improvisation back into the classroom, offering a range of workshop programs for string orchestras and music schools. Encouraging young string players to put down their sheet music and use their ears instead, the NSSQ will be drawing upon elements from jazz, funk, blues and folk music. Topics to be explored range from 'how to build a groove together', 'how do I improvise on a simple chord progression' and 'what is a bass line and how do I invent one' to 'question/answer sessions' and 'uncommon sounds and techniques on my violin or cello'.

The workshops are designed to let students experience a new sense of freedom and to offer them a fresh, lively and fun approach to music. There's no sheet music involved, so students learn to trust their ears and react to what's happening. This way the improvement of sound, rhythm and creativity is greatly facilitated. Because of the nature of our workshops, any student that has basic technical skills on their instrument can participate.

The North Sea String Quartet also performs classroom and family concerts to convey the excitement of live performance and improvisation to young audiences. electric guitar and string solos give rise to a strong creative and experimental spirit, interspersing beautiful melodies with powerful rhythmic passages.

## Academy of Improvising Strings

Together with world-renowned violinist Tim Kliphuis, the North Sea String Quartet founded the Academy of Improvising Strings, a workshop weekend where classical string players from all over the world can learn about improvisation and non-classical styles. The Academy takes place in The Netherlands every spring.

[www.improvisingstrings.com](http://www.improvisingstrings.com)  
[www.timkliphuis.com](http://www.timkliphuis.com)





At GrachtenFestival (Amsterdam)



NSSQ & Roland Satterwhite at International Music Meeting Festival



PERFORMANCE PHOTOS



At Concertgebouw Amsterdam with Lilian Vieira



NSSQ & Rebeca Mora at Festival FabricaFest