

Nicolas van Poucke was born in 1992 in Baarn, The Netherlands, into a family of professional musicians. The piano, which he took up at age six, quickly became the faithful companion for expressing a love of music that, until today, thrives as much on opera, orchestra, and chamber music as on the piano repertoire. After an highly acclaimed recital in a sold-out Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Dutch music magazine De Nieuwe Muze dubbed Nicolas *"the young freethinker among Dutch pianists"*.

Nicolas has performed at such venues as Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Philharmonie Berlin and Philharmonie Essen. In addition, other tours have taken him to Cuba (Havana Mozart Festival), Korea (Changwon and Tongyeong), Italy and France. He has performed with various orchestras in The Netherlands under conductors including Jurjen Hempel, Conrad van Alphen and Roberto Beltran-Zavala.

In 2013 Nicolas released his debut album with works by Bach, Beethoven and Brahms which was favourably reviewed. 2019 saw the release of Nicolas' second album, Chopin Sonatas No. 2 & 3, released on vinyl and digital platforms. *"Van Poucke brings out Chopin's strong - sometimes even demonic - side, in a both virtuoso and sensitive manner"* wrote NRC. Trouw; *"He plays these works with great dedication. and with powerful playing, he brings out the grandeur of the works. This is aristocratic music, even in lyrical passages, which Van Poucke makes convincing. He gives space to poetry, without falling into weakness or inappropriate rubato."*

Further highlights of his 19/20 season include recitals at the Oosterpoort Groningen, De Zeeuwse Concertzaal Middelburg, his debut at the prestigious NTR Zaterdagmatinee series in The Concertgebouw, as well as several orchestral engagements and piano duo performances with Thomas Beijer in Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam and in the Muziekcentrum van de Omroep Hilversum.

An accomplished chamber musician, he has worked with such artists as Colin Carr, Christiaan Bor, Claudio Bohorquez, Marie-Elisabeth Hecker, Godfried Hoogeveen, Gil Sharon, Andreas Reiner, Igor Roma and Pavel Vernikov. Together with violist Daniel Palmizio he has recorded Bach's complete Gamba sonatas and Brahms' Opus 120 which will be released on Zefir Records. Nicolas has a long-standing duo with his sister, cellist Ella van Poucke, with whom he has recently performed Beethoven's complete music for piano & cello in Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam and in Berlin. In 2020 they had planned to record this repertoire as well as performing it in Italy, Germany and The Netherlands.

Nicolas studied with David Kuyken and Jan Wijn (Conservatory of Amsterdam). Furthermore, he has been mentored by Murray Perahia, Alfred Brendel and Martha Argerich. Nicolas lives in Amsterdam with his partner and their two children.