



SoundLAB Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ Amsterdam

Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ

Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ is the Netherlands' leading venue for contemporary music, sound art, and adventurous performance. Located on the Amsterdam waterfront, the building opened in 2005 and celebrates 20 years of pioneering artistic activity in 2025.

Known for its exceptional acoustics, innovative architecture, and forward-looking artistic vision, the Muziekgebouw presents leading international ensembles, composers, sound artists, and interdisciplinary makers.

The institution stands at the crossroads of performance, experimentation, and education, serving as a cultural hub where artists, audiences, and learners of all ages encounter new ideas, sounds, and technologies. SoundLAB forms the participatory counterpart to the Muziekgebouw's artistic mission — translating innovation on stage into hands-on creative discovery.

SoundLAB

Founded in 2017, SoundLAB is a unique sound laboratory within the Muziekgebouw, filled with more than one hundred original electronic instruments created by sound artists, composers, and instrument builders. Here, children, young people, and adults discover that everyone can make music — no prior knowledge required. Participants explore sound, design their own sonic ideas, and learn through play about music, technology, and creativity. The education department of the Muziekgebouw develops programs that let people engage with contemporary music and sound art not only as listeners, but as active creators. SoundLAB is the most tangible expression of this vision: a space where audiences literally touch, investigate, and co-create sound. SoundLAB reflects the venue's core values: accessibility, connection, collaboration, and artistic innovation.

By linking music with technology, science, and imagination, SoundLAB embodies a future-oriented vision of music education, where *listening, making, and understanding* are inseparable.

SoundLAB and Education

SoundLAB offers workshops for all levels of education, including special education and programs for children and young people with disabilities. Thanks to the intuitive design of the instruments, no musical background is needed: sound emerges through touch, movement, listening, and experimentation.

Music becomes a physical, playful, and shared experience, supporting 21st century skills such as creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving.



Through SoundLAB on Tour, the experience travels nationwide, bringing workshops to schools and cultural institutions across the Netherlands — reaching children who cannot easily visit Amsterdam.

SoundLAB has appeared at November Music Festival, Oranjewoud Festival, Future Village Festival, and at various refugee centres in collaboration with Stichting De Vrolijkheid.

In December 2025, SoundLAB travels to Seoul at the invitation of the Korean Arts & Culture Education Service (KACES) to share its approach through workshops and lectures. The visit is part of the preparations for the new Children's Art Village, where children can experience art and music in an open and inclusive way.

SoundLAB Statements

1. Everyone can make music – Fully inclusive and accessible: no musical training required. The experience is intuitive, playful, and collaborative.
2. Unique electronic instruments – Over 100 custom-built instruments designed by artists and instrument makers; found nowhere else in the world.
3. Art + technology + science – SoundLAB connects creativity with inquiry-based and design-based learning, developing key 21st century skills.
4. Mobile and accessible – *SoundLAB on Tour* brings the program to schools and institutions throughout the Netherlands.
5. Making music together – Collective creation fosters connection, listening, and communication.
6. Part of a leading international venue – Embedded within the Muziekgebouw's 20-year legacy of artistic innovation and cross-disciplinary collaboration.

Impact in Numbers

- 16,000 young people reached annually through Muziekgebouw's education programs
- 450+ SoundLAB workshops per year, inside and outside the Muziekgebouw
- 10,000 students (primary, secondary, special education, vocational and higher education) create new music together each year

More information

Learn more about SoundLAB: www.muziekgebouw.nl/soundlab

Learn more about the Korean Arts & Culture Education Service (KACES) and its educational programs: www.kaces.or.kr

Presskit

<https://www.muziekgebouw.nl/nl/pers>



Contact Muziekgebouw SoundLAB

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