

## [LONG VERSION]

**Calefax** is a close-knit ensemble of five reed players united by a shared passion. For over thirty-five years they have been acclaimed in the Netherlands and abroad for their virtuosic playing, brilliant arrangements and innovative stage presentation. They are the inventors of a completely new genre: the reed quintet. They provide inspiration to young wind players from all over the world who follow in their footsteps.

*'Calefax - five extremely gifted Dutch gents who almost made the reed quintet seem the best musical format on the planet.'*

- The Times -

### Repertoire

Calefax takes an adventurous approach to presenting its programmes and has an astonishingly varied repertoire ranging from 1100 to the present day. They perform their own arrangements and newly commissioned compositions for the combination of oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bass clarinet and bassoon. Calefax is open to the influence of world music, jazz and improvisation as a result of countless international tours and collaborations with all kinds of musicians.

### Pioneers

Calefax reinforces its pioneering role by publishing sheet music of their own arrangements under the name *Calefax Edition*. This has been one of the catalysts for the creation of many reed quintets inspired by the Calefax model, from Argentina to New Zealand and from the United States to Europe. Calefax passes on its unique manner of working and musical experience to new generations through master classes and workshops at conservatoires and universities.

Calefax has also created an inspirational laboratory with its annual PAN-festival: a colourful potpourri of musical exploits (with the musicians of Calefax alternating between the role of host and performer), including some surprising excursions into other artistic disciplines, and a composers' competition.

### Collaborations

Calefax often joins forces with other musicians and artists from other disciplines. A hallmark of these collaborations is the continual quest to present striking, new repertoire and an adventurous approach to stage presentation.

They have collaborated with the pianists Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Ivo Janssen, Louis van Dijk and Michiel Braam, violinists Liza Ferschtman and Claude Chalhoub, cellist Matthew Barley, harpist Remy van Kesteren, singers Lenneke Ruiten, Christianne Stotijn, Helena Rasker, Nora Fischer, Cora Burggraaf and Denise Jannah, singer Mohammad Motamedi, trombonist Christian Lindberg, the Tony Overwater Trio, Cappella Amsterdam, Danel

Quartet, the Nederlands Kamerkoor, trumpeter Eric Vloeimans, clarinettist Kinan Azmeh, choreographers Boukje Schweigman and Sanne van der Put and visual artists Jaap Drupsteen and Wouter van Reek. Calefax also performed for the soundtrack of the 2013 Dutch film *De nieuwe wildernis*.

## CDs

Calefax has released 21 CDs under the renowned label PENTATONE, the German MDG label and its own RIOJA Records label. All the recordings have earned critical acclaim from the international press.

*An American Rhapsody* (2023) captures several iconic American composers from different periods and backgrounds. *BBC Music Magazine* awarded Calefax five stars and *Textura* heaped praise on this album:

*'This is one musical road trip across the United States you'll definitely want to take.'*  
- Textura -

In 2020 Calefax celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the album *Bach's Musical Offerings*, a collection of musical offerings by Johann Sebastian Bach, arranged by the ensemble's saxophonist Raaf Hekkema. Arthur Klaassens joined the ensemble on a euphone and english horn.

*'Triumphant [...] This music can seem really dry and academic, and it can look austere, but they play it with such joy.'*  
- BBC Radio 3, Iain Burnside -

*Dido & Aeneazz* (2019) is a swinging new take on Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas* for reed quintet and trumpet (Eric Vloeimans), bass (Gulli Gudmundsson) and drums (Jasper van Hulten). The album *Hidden Gems* (2018) received five stars from the Dutch newspaper *De Volkskrant*:

*'The incredible interaction between the five musicians is what holds them together, a flawless ear for the most wonderful combinations of sounds - and a flair for uncovering hidden treasures.'*  
- De Volkskrant, Frits van der Waa -

Calefax's cd *Romantic Kaleidoscope*, was released in October 2015, packaged within the anniversary book *Calefax en de Kaleidoscoop*, written by the radio presenter Lex Bohlmeijer and published by Cossee. The mezzo-soprano Cora Burggraaf can be heard on the CD entitled *The Roaring Twenties*, while the *On the Spot* CD features the trumpeter Eric Vloeimans, who transports Calefax into the world of jazz and improvisation.

*'The wind quintet and Vloeimans create a sensational CD as if there are no borders between early and new music, no discographic categories separating jazz and classical genres; they embrace ethnic musical influences as if these have simply and at long last been given their fitting place within the whole.'*  
- Luister music magazine, Paul Janssen -

The Dutch newspapers *De Telegraaf* and *De Volkskrant* awarded Calefax five stars for their celebrated 2013 recording of the *Goldberg Variations*.

*‘Incredible [...] almost everything Calefax touches turns to gold.’*

- De Telegraaf, Thiemo Wind -

### **Awards**

Calefax has won many major Dutch music prizes, including the 1997 Philip Morris Arts Prize, the 2001 Kersjes van de Groenekan Prize and the 2005 VSCD Classical Music Award. In 2012 Calefax received the German Junge Ohren Prize for the family musical show *De Muziekfabriek*, a co-production with the Dutch theatre company Oorkaan.

### **On tour**

Calefax regularly tours abroad. The group has given concerts in virtually every country in Europe, as well as touring Russia, China, India, Turkey, Japan, South Africa, Brazil and the United States, performing at major venues including Wigmore Hall (London), the Oriental Arts Centre (Shanghai) and Lincoln Center (NYC). In January 2013 Calefax had the honour of accompanying the former Dutch Queen Beatrix on her final two state visits, to Brunei and Singapore.

## [MEDIUM VERSION]

**Calefax** is a close-knit ensemble of five reed players united by a shared passion. For over thirty-five years they have been acclaimed in the Netherlands and abroad for their virtuosic playing, brilliant arrangements and innovative stage presentation. They are the inventors of a completely new genre: the reed quintet. They provide inspiration to young wind players from all over the world who follow in their footsteps.

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### Pioneers

Reed quintets have been formed throughout the world, following Calefax's example. The group reinforces its pioneering role by publishing sheet music of their own arrangements under the name *Calefax Edition*. Calefax pushes the boundaries, creating an inspirational laboratory with its annual PAN-festival: a colourful potpourri of musical exploits, with surprising excursions into other artistic disciplines and a composers' competition.

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- *De Telegraaf*, Thiemo Wind -

October 2015 saw the publication of the anniversary book about the ensemble’s thirty-year history entitled *Calefax en de Kaleidoscoop* (Calefax and the Kaleidoscope), written by the radio presenter Lex Bohlmeijer.

## Awards

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## [SHORT VERSION]

**Calefax** is a close-knit ensemble of five reed players united by a shared passion. For over thirty-five years they have been acclaimed in the Netherlands and abroad for their virtuosic playing, brilliant arrangements and innovative stage presentation. They are the inventors of a completely new genre: the reed quintet. They provide inspiration to young wind players from all over the world who follow in their footsteps.

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