

# grande-duchesse

## biography



### GRANDE-DUCHESSSE

is the alias of singer-songwriter Frans van Hilten (1974). As Grande-Duchesse, he expresses his feelings performing on piano, vocals, and other instruments. After years of classical piano lessons and performing in several rock bands, Frans started his solo career in 2003 releasing his debut 'Old Love in a Strong Heart'.

### LESS IS MORE

In Grande-Duchesse, Frans is searching for the intensity and minimalism of a singer, alone with his piano. Due to his diverse musical background, Grande-Duchesse has roots in classical music, blues, jazz and rock. The pert and theatrical sound reminded listeners of Peter Hammill, Gavin Friday, An Pierlé and Lou Reed.

### ECLECTIC BOOGIE

During the 'Old Love' tour, Frans worked more and more often with guitarist Marcel Conté. With him and other musicians, Grande-Duchesse is working on the second album, 'Eclectic Boogie'. Containing songs in English, Dutch and Russian, the record touches on many different styles and subjects. The title refers to this variety, as well as to a general sense of threat hanging over the album. The single 'Wespennest' (Wasp's nest) is a preview.

### LA RENCONTRE

After a break due to personal circumstances and other projects, Grande-Duchesse started performing live again since 2010, mostly in his hometown, The Hague. In the new shows, a focus on the blues can be found as well as meeting (La Rencontre) with other art forms like film, poetry, classical music and dance.

### CONTACT

[www.grande-duchesse.nl](http://www.grande-duchesse.nl) | [g.duchesse@yahoo.com](mailto:g.duchesse@yahoo.com) | [facebook.com/eclecticboogie](https://facebook.com/eclecticboogie)