



### **Trio Brouwer-Akihary-Bhattacharya**

Boi Akih plays people music, colourful, organic and always passionate. Niels and Monica has been working intensively with Sandip Bhattacharya since 2004. In the intervening period their music has undergone an extraordinary development. They have evolved their own musical language whereby sound and elements from various traditions take on a new meaning. Monica's warmth and charisma is such that even though she is singing in Haruku (a Moluccan language), the listener is immediately drawn into the music. The trio plays acoustically. However no two compositions sound the same, thanks to the free treatment of composed material, Niels' inventive guitar playing, sometimes prepared, the wealth of Monica's vocal sound and the great diversity of colours from Sandips' range of instruments.

***'Boi Aikhy is a very convincing live act. Tabla player Sandip Bhattacharya, vocalist Monica Akihary and guitarist Niels Brouwer bring to life the intimacy of the songs. It was the gripping and fresh musical interaction, with Akihary singing partly in Haruku, the acoustic sounds, melodies and rhythm that Niels Brouwer created and the tabla's that enraptured us.'*** (Jazzthetik 10 D)

***'this is a trio in total control of its musical environment and its strength lies in the musical empathy between the three musicians.'*** (All About Jazz 09)

***' full of lyrical angles and a richness of diverse nuances, a musical experience of exceptional art.'*** (Jazzeit 04)

***'Brouwer is a virtuoso guitarist, and the moving tunes he writes...beautiful.'*** (Business Day 03)

***'Boi Akih relentlessly enthralled the crowd of hundreds, creating a colorful, emotionally diverse universe. The barefoot Akihary immediately beguiled the audience. She used her voice as an instrument, smoothly traveling from husky tones to notes of dazzling clarity. Despite the power of Akihary's vocals, she never overpowered her band mates. Her voice wrapped around the instruments, flowing some notes and elevating others.'*** (Jakarta Post 09 RI)

Niels Brouwer: guitar & prepared guitar  
Monica Akihary: voice  
Sandip Bhattacharya: tabla & percussion