Eclectic Music man: Michiel Borstlap
a biographic interview published in Time Out

Michiel Borstlap was born in the Netherlands into a family that loved and constantly listened to music. That was my first conservatory.
"At the age of four I heard a piano and fell in love," he says.
"After that I always dreamed about making a career in music.

Michiel moved quickly from dreaming to reality, graduating with highest honours at Hilversum Conservatory in 1992 and earning Best Soloist honours at the European Contest the same year.
In 1996 came the prestigious Thelonious Monk Award and then a range of successful collaborations with jazz and poplegends like Herbie Hancock, Bill Bruford, Gino Vannelli, Pat Metheny, Wayne Shorter and more recently with Ludovico Einaudi.
Borstlap has released twenty-one albums under his own name and has written numerous compositions for other groups, most notably the duo Herbie Hancock & Wayne Shorter who, till this day, still perform Michiel Borstlap's composition 'Memory of Enchantment'.

In fact, Borstlap is a natural at both composing and performing. When I ask which of these two is more important to him, his answer is simple:
"To compose or to improvise is the same, except for the timeframe. Improvising happens in split seconds, composing lasts much longer. I could be happy with just a piano, but somehow I need a stage. On stage there is electricity.

I ask Michiel to define music and he says, "Music is freedom, a most beautiful thing. I love freedom. It's a unique feeling to go with your head full of music and improvise for an audience.
In 2008 Michiel Borstlap composed also his first soundtrack for the Dutch movie 'Tiramisu'. The score received a Golden Calf, the Grand Prize of Dutch Film Industry.
In 2009 he won an Edison.
The esteemed pianist played concerts around the world, 72 countries and counting, and his albums are available in Europe, North America and Japan, as well as digital platforms like iTunes and Spotify. In 2012 he signed an exclusive contract with BMG.