



LEONARD COHEN EVENT
AMSTERDAM 2016
August 12 13 14



**10th Leonard Cohen Event
Amsterdam**

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Stichting Simple Solutions

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Booklet Design by Wim Schuurman - Event logo by Klaas Lageveen

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This is a fan based project the booklet is not for sale.



just one little
guy, with an
old tweed cap,
against the
whole
stinking
universe



Dear Friends,





I hope this finds you in good health, and good spirits.

I want to thank you for your kind attention to my work over these many years.

Through good times and bad times, whether I was being applauded or ignored, you found something worthwhile in my songs and poems. I deeply appreciate your loyalty.

Love and blessings,

all good things
Leonard

2016	10 TH LC EVENT – PROGRAM		Amsterdam
Date	Time	Activity	Location
 Thursday 11 AUG 2016	Thursday		deBalie
	16:00	Registration Early Birds	Foyer deBalie
	17:30	The New Partisans	
	20:00	No program -socializing in Amsterdam	
 Friday 12-AUG-2016	Friday morning	Explore Amsterdam by yourself	Amsterdam
	Friday afternoon / evening		
	16:30	Registration.	deBalie
	17:00	An exploration of Cohen through jazz - Mallory Chipman Quartet	deBalie
	18:00	Pause or Walking Diner	
	20:00	Official Opening - by Mr. Patrick Leonard ?	deBalie
	21:00	Sharon will be performing a preview teaser set (20 min) before she embarks on her 16-date European tour that begins in Helsinki on 14 August.	deBalie
	22:15	Lord Mickey of One	
 Saturday 13-AUG-2016	Saturday morning / afternoon		
	11:00	City Walk 1, Or Explore Amsterdam by yourself	City
	12:00	Sound check open mic.	deBalie
	13:00	Video Film: Events 2002 – 2015	deBalie Filmzaal
	14:00	Open Mic - hosted by Henning Franz & Kees Boeijen	deBalie
	16:00	Pause	
	16:15	Video Film: Meet-ups 2002 – 2015	deBalie Filmzaal
	Saturday evening		deBalie
	20:00	The Demons of Leonard Cohen – Francis Mus with music of Sophia Ammann	
 Sunday 14 AUG 2016	22:00	Avalanche Quartet	
	00:30	Talk, Drinks and music by the participants	
	Sunday morning /afternoon		
	10:00	ZEN experience I	Zen Centrum Amsterdam.
	11:00	City Walk 2, Or Explore Amsterdam by yourself	City
	13:00	ZEN experience II	Zen Centrum Amsterdam.
	16:00	Famous Blue Boat Tour	Canals of Amsterdam
	Sunday evening		
	20:00	"The Prayers of Leonard Cohen: If It Be Your Will" - Doron Cohen	deBalie
	20:30	Live Music and dancing Back to the sixties Huib Henk Harrie & Herman	
	23:30	Closing time	
	00:00	Live Music and dancing Back to the sixties Huib Henk Harrie & Herman	

Program July 14th

program may be subject to change



WELCOME TO THE 10th LEONARD COHEN EVENT

AMSTERDAM 2016

Many times we've been asked by other forum members to organize a Leonard Cohen Event in Amsterdam. In the summer of 2014, during a holiday on Hydra, Wijbe decided to do the organization for 2016. Willy and Liesbeth agreed to help, although they had some concerns about it all. But we also know that it is important not to wait too long, other wise it may never happen. So we have invited all the Cohenites to join us at the 10th Leonard Cohen Event in Amsterdam and we are happy that many of you are here. We did our best to bring you a program with various artists all with a link to Leonard Cohen and other interesting things to do and to see in Amsterdam.

Amsterdam is a wonderful city and is a very good place for a Leonard Cohen event. The connection with Leonard is that he likes to perform there. In his introduction of the Chelsea Hotel #2, he said: " I use to live in this old Hotel, it was even there before there were Tulips in Amsterdam." There is also a small film from Leonard in a Hotel Americain in Amsterdam, close to our venue, made by Seppo from Finland, we hope to show it during the event.



If you are a little longer in Amsterdam, it is one of the greatest small cities in the world. From its canals to world-famous museums and historical sights, and is one of the most romantic and beautiful cities in Europe. Amsterdam is also a city of tolerance and diversity. It has all the advantages of a big city: culture, nightlife, international restaurants, good transport.

We hope you all will enjoy the Leonard Cohen Event and the rest of your time in The Netherlands!

Wijbe, Willy and Liesbeth

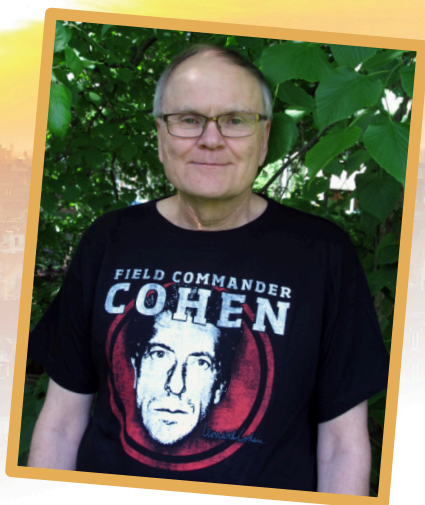


Dear Friends,

Welcome to Amsterdam!

Leonard Cohen's music and poetry have brought us from all over the world to the Netherlands and its lively capital of Amsterdam. In the next few days we are going to spend some memorable moments together. A special welcome to those who now join us for the first time!

This is the 10th International Leonard Cohen Event, our biennial get-together. Since the first one in Lincoln, UK in 1998, we have enjoyed the hospitality of Montreal, Hydra, New York, Berlin, Edmonton, Krakow, Madison (WI), and Dublin.



For me Amsterdam brings back fond memories: twenty years ago, 1996, I first met foreign Cohenites at the Intensity get-together in Hoofddorp - and had no idea how many exciting moments were to follow in the next decades!

From Dublin to Amsterdam

A lot has happened since our Dublin Event! At that time we had already launched our fund raising campaign to commemorate Leonard's 80th birthday in September 2014. Several hundred fans from all over the world participated in the project: our fans and admirers donated money and we secured the permission of the Island of Hydra to commission a stone bench dedicated to Our Man. The bench has been designed and will be custom made by Greek artisans, respecting the local traditions of this important historical site. Thanks to our successful campaign, we have some extra funds that will be used to meet social and cultural needs of the people of Hydra as soon as the bench has been completed.

In June 2015 about 150 of our members gathered on Hydra for our 6th meet up since the big 2002 Event. We hoped to have the opening ceremony of the dedication of our bench but unfortunately the project was delayed. A local house owner had filed a complaint; he wanted the bench to be moved bit further from his estate. A new location has been found (60 meters towards the town), and plans were adjusted accordingly. Now (I am writing this in May 2016) we are awaiting the final permission from

the Historical Office in Athens. The Municipality of Hydra is an active supporter of our project and the bench will be constructed as soon as they get the green light from Athens.

While we didn't have our bench last June, the Municipality of Hydra organized a fabulous Tribute Night to celebrate Leonard and his heritage on the island of Hydra. Several members of our group performed along with Greek artists at this happening in the harbor area.

We will go back to Hydra in Summer 2017 and are looking forward to sitting on our bench under the trees, enjoying the beautiful views of the Aegean. We are also going to walk along the Leonard Cohen Street which the Municipality has designated to honor Leonard's time on the island.

Last fall about 50 of us traveled to Viladrau in Catalonia to attend the 4th Walking Weekend. Beatriz Salles arranged a very special happening for our group. The next Walking Weekend will take us to the lake district of Hungary; Szilvia Szanto will be our host in 2017.

The 11th Leonard Cohen Event (2018) will also be in Hungary; Eva Martonyi and her team will invite us to Budapest.

From Leonard with love

Leonard sends his love to all of us in Amsterdam (as seen elsewhere in this booklet), and has kindly given us permission to print the lyrics to two of his new songs. We also want to thank Mr. Robert Kory, Leonard's manager, for his help in the Event process. After the end of the brilliant World Tours 2008-2013, Leonard has concentrated on creating new songs and poetry. The next studio album, *You Want It Darker*, has already been announced. It will be released before his 82nd birthday in September. The title track made a brief appearance in a June episode of *Peaky Blinders*, a popular cable show out of the UK, and it can be streamed online before the official release. The lyrics to *Steer Your Way* were first printed in *The New Yorker* in its June 20 issue. The new album is produced by Adam Cohen, and several songs were co-written by Patrick Leonard. We all are excited to hear the brand new songs!

On behalf of The Leonard Cohen Files and The Leonard Cohen Forum and all participants now gathered here in Amsterdam, I'd like to thank Willy and Wijbe Lageveen, Liesbeth van Ruth and all their team members for their magnificent and very hard work to make this Event a reality. Let's spend a memorable weekend together, surrounded by the magic of Leonard Cohen's music and poetry!

Jarkko



debalie

let's meet!



Fotograaf: Jan Boeve/De Balie



De Balie is a well-known platform and center for the freedom of speech, contemporary art, politics, culture, cinema and media, situated near the Leidseplein in the heart of Amsterdam. Our (daily) programs consistently bear the mark of a sharp and deeply analytical character. Through talkshows, cinema, art, debates and theatre, De Balie mixes several points of view in a wayward and creative fashion.

Our Grand Café is a place to eat, drink, chat and work (feel free to use our open Wi-Fi!). De Balie was founded in 1982 and is situated in the previous District Court.

The Master of all rhyme

a 22 song tribute

How lucky that we share our time
With the master of all rhyme
I speak of holy doves and things
A waltz from burning violins
I speak of lady midnight too
Democracy just passing through
I could go on the list is long
Chelsea hotel a tower of song
And if my secret life comes true
The future now is coming back to you
Here once more on boogie street
Where a bunch of lonesome heroes meet
Tonight will be fine as the guests arrive
We will be for real in the smokey life
For love itself is our only crime
As night comes on until closing time
And whither thou goest from this day
Everybody knows what the letters say
Dear Amsterdam you heard our cry



Philip Liptrot



OPEN MIC AFTERNOON

Claudia Rücker
(Germany)

Hey thats no way to say
good bye
Ballad of a runaway horse
I came so far for beauty

Rita Garland
(Ireland)

3 songs

Lydia Mentink
(Holland)

Anthem
Story of Isaac
Suzanne

Peter Danielsen
(Denmark)

Chelsea Hotel 2
If it be your will
Famous blue raincoat

Jürgen Lohse
(Germany)

There is a war
I'm your man

Henning Franz
(Germany)

Samson in New Orleans
Almost like the blues
My Oh My

Alan Jones (UK)

Dance me to the end of love
First we take Manhattan
You know who I am

Eddy Massa
(Belgium)

The Window

Greg Ross
(Australia)

Thousand Kisses Deep
The Faithless Wife
The Traitor

Sue Farebrother
(UK)

So long, Marianne
Surprise Song

AMSTERDAM

in numbers



1 7 6 2 0 0 0 0

visitors
a year

over
7 0 0 0

monumental
buildings

inside the
canal area

over
1 5 0

visitors Leonard Cohen Event

1 8 0
nationalities

23
paintings

REMBRANDT

212
paintings

VAN GOGH





Meeting Leonard in Pula (photo made by Sharon Robinson)



*"Hydra
became a life
long love of ours"*

I CAN'T FORGET

how Leonard Cohen changed our lives

Wybe Lageveen

It started more than 40 years ago when I met a girl who some years later became my wife. She introduced me to the music of Leonard Cohen. Ever since, Leonard Cohen has been part of our lives.

All through our marriage, whenever we are home together, we play Leonard Cohen music. It seems strange, but we have never gotten bored by it. For a long time we thought that we were the only ones who liked his music, since most of the people we knew did not appreciate it. In fact, many had not even heard of Leonard.

All that changed in 2001 when our son, Klaas, discovered on the Internet that there was a Finnish guy collecting all the covers of Leonard Cohen songs. Our children, Klaas and Marijke, already knew every Cohen song of course including many of the cover renditions. When Klaas came across a Cohen cover by a Punk group, he sent it to Finland for the collection of "the Finnish guy."

After that, we began exploring the LeonardCohenFiles and became acquainted with the activities of the "guy" in Finland, Jarkko. We learned, for example, that he was one of the organizers of a Leonard Cohen event coming up in 2002 on a small Greek

island, Hydra. We decided to go. It was amazing: not only did we find a beautiful island but we made connections there with the other participants, all of whom not only had heard of Leonard Cohen but loved his music as we did. Over 200 people from nearly 30 countries worldwide including Australia, the USA and Japan. Even a few besides ourselves from Holland. Choosing to go to that event was one of the best decisions we ever made.

Our adventure on Hydra was a story on its own. According to plan, we first stayed for two days in Athens; unplanned our luggage's failure to arrive in Athens with us. Two days later, when we headed for Hydra, it still had not. We had to buy all the things we needed as tourists on a Greek island. By the time, eight days later, the luggage reached Hydra, it was no longer needed and just a lot of things to bring back home. By then we had switched to wearing exclusively the T-shirts made for the event, a positive thing. When the event ended and all the other participants were leaving one by one, we decided to remain another week on Hydra, we had come to, love the island so. In fact, stemming from that week in 2002, Hydra became a lifelong love of ours.



One day before we were to go back home in 2002, there was a ferry strike. Although the Hydriots reassured us, "Don't worry; it's only for one day," they were wrong. Stranded, we made a deal with one of the local taxi-boat drivers to bring us to the Peloponnese, where his some kind of relative awaited us with a land taxi, to deliver us to the Athens airport. Even including the cafe stop we made to do a little side sightseeing from around the canal in Corinth, the whole trip from Hydra to the airport took only 4 hours. In spite of all the traveling trouble we had on our first Grecian trip, we had a wonderful time, especially on Hydra, which we loved and love so much

that we have returned there every year since 2002.

The next Leonard Cohen event was in New York, in 2004, and we went--our first time in the USA. We enjoyed New York, the event, and the Chelsea Hotel very much. See our video on www.icantforget.nl "Chelsea Hotel #3". Afterwards we made a tour in California. Following the 2002 and 2004 trips, we have gone every two years to the Leonard Cohen events, each at a different place in the world. In 2006, thanks to Jarkko, we met Leonard Cohen in a little pub in London, the Green Note. Willy hugged him and we all had a chance to talk to him for a while.



At the airport in Las Vegas



"I wonder from time to time if he ever viewed it..."

He was 72 years old then and not looking as if he had wild dreams anymore. I talked with him about Hydra end gave him a DVD with a video I made there in 2006. He slipped it quickly in his jacket; I wonder from time to time if he ever viewed it.

Next, to our big surprise, word came that he was starting to go on tour in 2008. After 16 years a new tour, WOW! That was the impetus for us to do a lot of traveling. In the beginning we went to all the European concerts 2008, figuring that one never knew how long his touring would last. We went to so many places to see his concerts and, a more and more important part, to meet up with the other fans, some of whom became our very good friends over these years. We even went to the Zagreb concert, knowing it had been cancelled. Traveling there with eight friends, from Finland, Italy, Germany, Liverpool and Amsterdam, it turned out to a unforgettable weekend with the help of Tom Sakic. The most crazy thing we did during that period was to go to what we thought would be his last concert ever, in Las Vegas. You all know that a few months later he started touring again, and continued until the end of 2013. For those post-2008 concerts, we decided to go only to the concerts in

our area or to places or venues that held special interest for us. For example, the Pula concert led us to plan a two-week vacation in Croatia., starting at a holiday resort in Pula a few days before the concert date. The first evening, at dinner in one of the resort restaurants, we met some band members, who told us that they and the crew were staying at the same resort until the concert.

As it goes on holidays you always need money, which led us to the hotel lobby, the location of the only ATM at the resort and our second meeting in person with Leonard Cohen. He took the time to talk with us and I brought up my moderator tasks for the LeonardCohenForum. He had just said, with his typical dark voice, "Thank you for all your hard work," when Sharon Robinson approached and asked if she could take a picture of the three of us, no problem :) .

Now I have given you a little impression of things we would never have done if we had not gone to the 2002 LC event. I haven't even written about all the places we otherwise never would have been, nor the walking weekends, the in between meetings, the network of new friends, and the contacts all over the world and in Holland we never would have experience but for Hydra 2002.



Judith Fitzgerald

1952 - 2015

by Doron B. Cohen

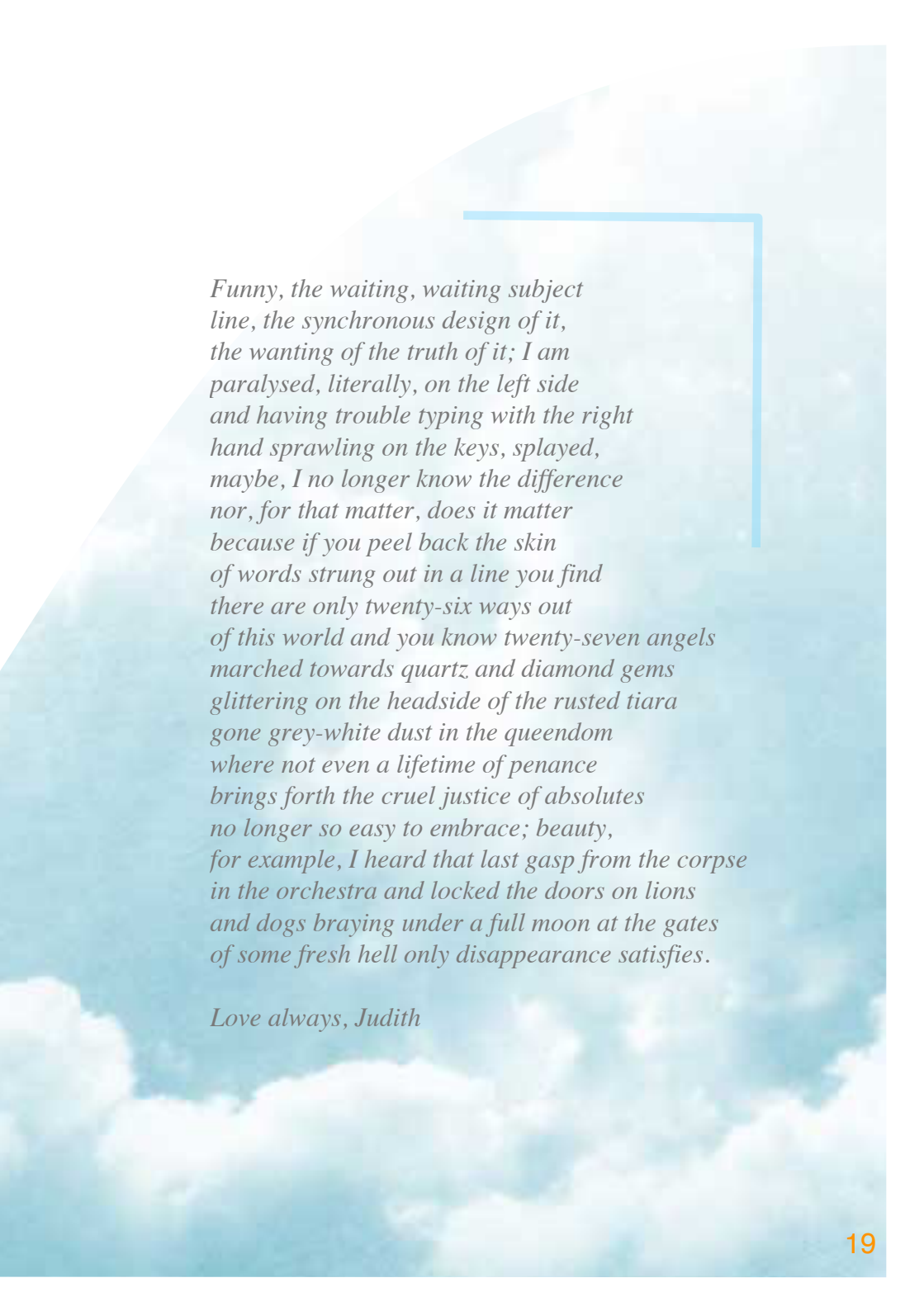


A poet, a critic and a wizard of words, Judith Fitzgerald was all that and more. Overcoming a Dickensian childhood and incapacitating diseases, she remained prolifically creative, publishing more than two dozen books and countless articles and reviews. Hers was considered an outstanding voice in contemporary Canadian poetry. Although she was never physically present in our gatherings and events, she was an exceptional member of the Cohenite community.

I got to know Judith (BoHo on the Forum) through the Book of Mercy discussion, and was intrigued by her unique point of view and inimitable use of language, always feeling delighted and honored by her

participation. Was it fortunate or unfortunate that she was also so sensitive? Her sensitivity must have been an important asset for her creativity, but it also had its difficult side; she was easily offended, and others sometimes felt offended by her remarks. But there was no doubting her deep commitment and love for the work of Leonard Cohen; she left behind an unpublished manuscript which I truly hope will be published, as it is sure to contain a unique contribution to our understanding of his work.

Although we never met, for a while we exchanged emails in which she talked candidly about herself and the Forum. I saved our correspondence, and going through it after her death I was struck once again by her linguistic wizardry, by her ability to turn a phrase and coin her own unique creations. In fact, she once honored me with a poem she wrote spontaneously in response to one of my emails; it is quoted here in her memory:



*Funny, the waiting, waiting subject
line, the synchronous design of it,
the wanting of the truth of it; I am
paralysed, literally, on the left side
and having trouble typing with the right
hand sprawling on the keys, splayed,
maybe, I no longer know the difference
nor, for that matter, does it matter
because if you peel back the skin
of words strung out in a line you find
there are only twenty-six ways out
of this world and you know twenty-seven angels
marched towards quartz and diamond gems
glittering on the headside of the rusted tiara
gone grey-white dust in the queendom
where not even a lifetime of penance
brings forth the cruel justice of absolutes
no longer so easy to embrace; beauty,
for example, I heard that last gasp from the corpse
in the orchestra and locked the doors on lions
and dogs braying under a full moon at the gates
of some fresh hell only disappearance satisfies.*

Love always, Judith

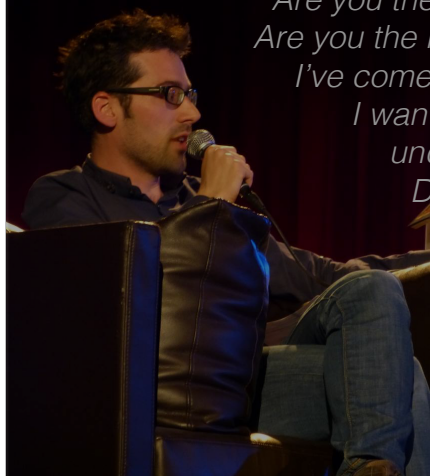
De demonen van
**LEONARD
COHEN**

Francis Mus

LANNOO



*Leonard Cohen, who are you?
Are you (1934-...)? Is that enough?
Are you the man with the golden voice?
Are you the little Jew who wrote the Bible?
I've come after you, Leonard Cohen.
I want to know what goes on
under that grey fedora.
Do I have any right?*



For you, dear fan of Leonard Cohen, these questions may seem familiar because you read Beautiful Losers, or maybe you, too, have asked yourself these same questions. Although many biographies of the man have been written, the result has not been entirely satisfying: I never get the impression that I have understood, or even just met, Leonard Cohen through these biographies. Instead, the opposite is true. In a letter to his sister written shortly after the publication of his novel *The Favourite Game*, Cohen complained that any biography would prevent an understanding of his works: "For my friends and relatives, I will always stand between them and my work" (Hydra, 17.09.1963).

How then, can we get a glimpse of who Leonard Cohen is, of what is at stake in his inner life? Let us, for once, not try to explain his works through his biographical details, but adopt the opposite stance: Why not try to understand this inner life through what we read and hear in his works? It is there that Cohen carves out an appropriate space in which to express himself genuinely, unhindered by social or other conventions. Hence, we can read his work as a series of letters in which he succeeds in formulating his most intimate feelings.

What is this song? It is striking to see that from the very beginning of his career, Cohen struggled with several questions that would haunt him for the rest of his life. In my book *De*

demonen van Leonard Cohen [The demons of Leonard Cohen], I have tried to make these questions more explicit and have identified major themes that became real obsessions, or 'demons', for Cohen: his 'public image' (the merciless battle with the other), 'craftsmanship' (the artist trying to find his own identity), 'alienation' (the fundamental solitude of the artist), 'religion' (Cohen as a priest and as a believer), 'power' (power and powerlessness in Cohen), 'loss and desire' (Cohen as a broken man) and, ultimately, 'encounter' (the ultimate desire of the artist to encounter beings – himself as a human being, his reader or listener, God, a woman – in a genuine way). Together, these seven chapters provide an accurate portrait of who Leonard Cohen is and what is at stake in his oeuvre.

This song is not monotonous. Cohen does not really take steps forward in his work so much as dig deeper into his obsessions. When I spoke to Javier Mas in 2013, he told me, 'That's the way he works: repetition. It's like Arabian art, where one meaning is repeated 200,000 times. Every time he repeats the song he puts a little thing on the lyric, he adds a little change in the singing.' Everyone who reads or listens to Leonard Cohen is confronted with this lifelong struggle. The only thing I wanted to do in my book was to foreground a little bit more of this struggle, this voice, these words – the only, unique, song he ever had.





VAGUE MEMORIES

a cautionary tale

Memories, one of Leonard Cohen's songs from *Death of a Ladies man* and *Vague Memories*, the reason for this tale about a friend's visit to Amsterdam for the LC concerts in August 2012.

My friend had travelled the world in the late 60s, early 70s, working on ships that journeyed between England and New Zealand and when on leave, hitchhiking around Europe and North Africa, meeting many of the beautiful and not so beautiful people who floated into view throughout those seemingly, society changing, years.

It was an exciting and eye opening time for many, and as he got more adventurous, my friend embraced the temptations and sampled the pleasures that were not then available to a young man whose home was in Norris Green, Liverpool. Everywhere he went, people talked about new places to visit, new music to listen to and the days he could spend in distant places where searching minds congregated and made love not war. Holland, Amsterdam and especially the clubs, Paridiso and Fantasio, kept getting mentioned. Tales of music, strange people, mind bending mushrooms and legal, exotic pleasures !! Holland was a magnet for many, but my friend never made it. Nearly but not quite. The story of his life. So the years passed. My friend was a little

like Hermann Hesse's Harry Haller (Steppenwolf). He lived mostly a normal life, loving his music (but unlike Harry Haller, the music of singer/songwriters, not classical) and only occasionally visiting the Magic Theatre. He aged okish, hardworking, hard travelling, still listening to Leonard and like so many others, overjoyed and surprised when he heard that in 2008, a new LC tour was planned. He managed to go to many of the concerts. Each concert was special. Each one memorable for different reasons, and there were always new cities, companionship and friendship with older, yet still beautiful people. A few years later, the 2012 concerts of Leonard's world tour were announced. Amsterdam, the place my friend had heard so much about all those years ago was included in the schedule. Two concerts and he realised he could kill 2 birds (on the wire), you expected that, with one stone! Tickets for the two shows were quickly booked, and my friend was excited, looking forward to hearing Leonard and his band again, meeting fellow Cohenites and spending time in an often dreamed about city.





He booked a guest house near the Central station and the days passed slowly until August 2012 arrived. Off to Amsterdam he journeyed, finding his accommodation and happy to find the rooms of the guest house named after various themes. He was shown to the 'Amazon' room which was decorated with abundant and luxuriant foliage and many pictures and ornaments of the Amazon jungle. He was surprised and enthralled with his room, but LC friends and the concert beckoned and a special evening followed. Good food, lively conversation (sharing Memories), an interesting venue (the old Olympic stadium) and enjoying a spirit lifting performance from a person whose poetry, lyrics and music had created a soundtrack to 44 years of my friend's life. It was a late night and after the third or fourth final drink and a long walk, he was able to return to his lodgings and slept like a log, albeit a log

floating down the Amazon. Such a perfect day! Up, as usual, early next day, he wandered around Amsterdam, saw the sights, enjoyed the 'window dressing' and just about avoided the millions of bicycles that sped around the beautiful city that you are now in. He walked, day dreamed, canal tripped and closely studied as much he could (not just the windows!) about beguiling Amsterdam. He thought about and relived the previous night's performance, eagerly anticipating the 2nd concert later that day. Leg weary and thirsty he drifted into the coffee shop area, reading the 'speciality menus', smiling shyly at people who smiled confidently back, and chose a place that seemed to draw him in. Coffee and a 'special cake' why not. 40 years had passed since he had first heard of the treats in Amsterdam andwhy not? He reasoned that the evening's show was a few hours

away and would be enhanced by a little sensory lubricant. A pleasant break in the coffee shop, good music, newspapers, then out into the open air.

Everywhere seemed brighter, buildings were more defined, sounds were more vivid. He knew and understood the sensations, felt relaxed, happy and a little more dreamy. He walked further. He thought he had wandered for miles but realised it was only yards, then he became aware that the sensations were becoming stronger, more intense and a little difficult to handle. He needed to get "home", to calm down and relax.

Somehow he managed it, don't ask him how, and he ended up lying on his bed in the 'Amazon room' surrounded by fast growing trees and animals glaring at him out of the ornate picture frames..... Fortunately the guest house's cat did not appear. Many other awake dreams and eventually my friend hoped the 'high' had been reached and a gentle come down would follow. If only!!! The phone started ringing; friends were wondering where he was and when he explained he was a little tired and not going to the concert, they seemed to become a little concerned. The phone rang again, and then again and.....

Choices (with difficulty) were made, and he decided that going to the concert would cause less problems for others than him not going, and he somehow arrived into the company of his previous night's companions, feeling very, very, very strange. He has Vague Memories of boring his friends whilst explaining to them what

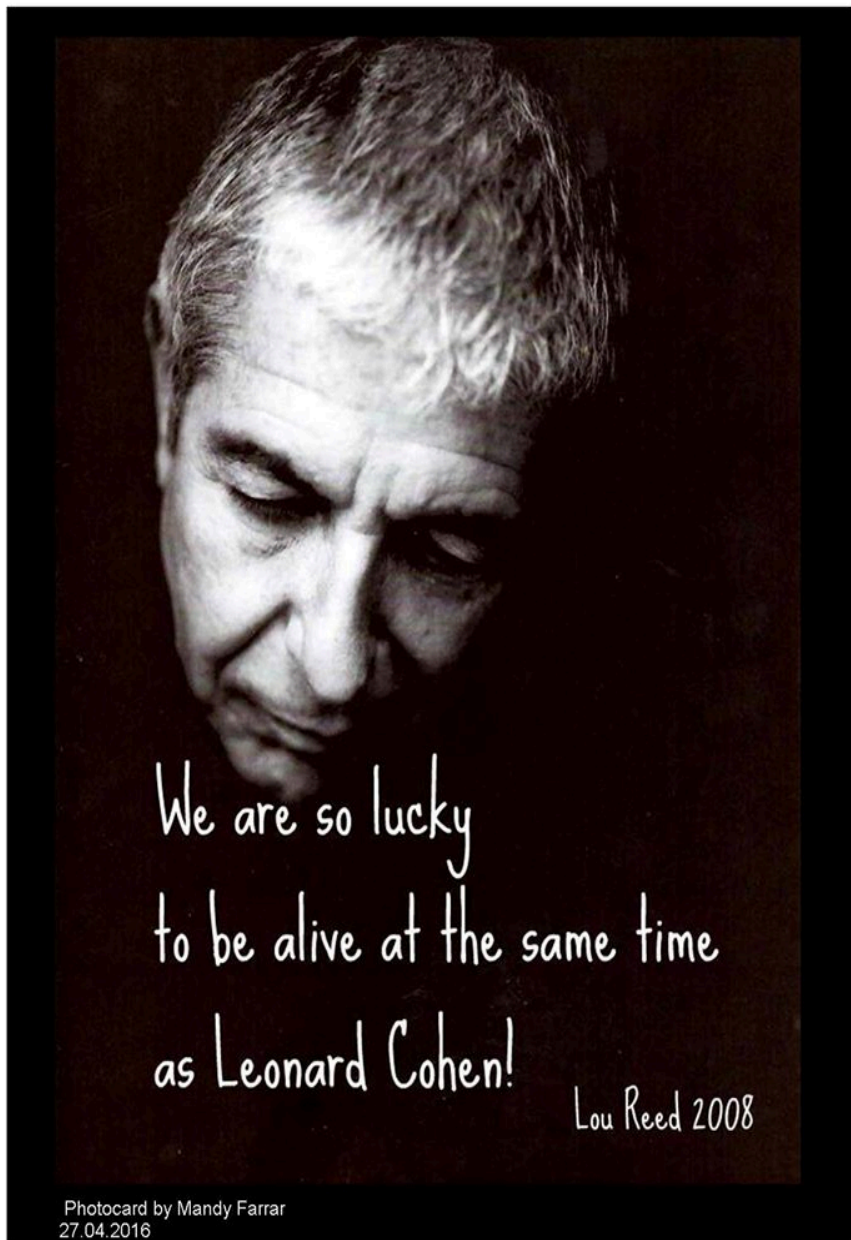
was happening to him, Vague Memories of the concert, Vague Memories of many other things, but Very Strong Memories of Leonard staring at him from the stage and looking at him very disapprovingly !!!!! He survived..... expecting each coming hour to become easier and at the end of every hour finding it necessary to substitute the word 'easier' with the words 'more difficult'. For once he did not appreciate the length of a Leonard Cohen concert. At last, the evening finished and somehow my friend managed to get back to the 'Amazon' guest house (don't ask him how) and he even managed to get his keys into the front door and bedroom locks.

Drinking orange juice, lying on the bed in the spinning room he was shattered but scared to fall asleep in case he missed his early morning flight. It seemed a never ending wait (probably only one hour) and then he left for the airport 3 hours earlier than was necessary, still thinking he was On the Amazon. 18 hours since he first sampled the 'cake' he arrived back in England feeling not very lively, tired, relieved and wondering when will he grow up and act his age. It was another 18 hours before he became as 'normal' as he usually was.....

So remember as you read this, make the Amsterdam Cohen event an event with many special Memories and not a time and place of Vague Memories Enjoy yourselves, but BEWARE OF CAKE!!! Sincerely a friend

(about)





The Joys of Amsterdam

Good people of the forum
We hope you all are well
Everything is going to plan
As far as we can tell
But as you pack your suitcase
For your stay in Amsterdam
You need to know a thing or two
To avoid arrest or scam
Do not take any photographs
Of the ladies of the night
Just pay the fee they ask from you
To experience sheer delight
And hey guys here's a warning
Blue lights are not red
You will know just what
This means When "she" takes you to her bed
For she will not be all she seems
In fact I think you'll find
Her gender will be different
Front the one you had in mind
Do not confuse a Starbaucks
With the local coffee shop
Starbucks sell their muffins
Without cannabis on top
The tobacco in these cafes
Is deemed against the law
But smoking "weed" is seen as cool
If it's only "grass" they grow
Last and most important
If it's freedom you admire
Please don't piss in the canals
It makes the cops perspire
Follow all these simple rules
For total peace of mind
And when your party's at an end
You won't be left behind

Philip Liptrot



Mallory Chipman quartet

an exploration of Cohen through jazz



Mallory Chipman is an innovative jazz vocalist, arranger, and composer based in Edmonton, Alberta. She gigs frequently in Edmonton and surrounding area leading her own project, the Mallory Chipman Quartet, in which she explores the boundaries of jazz through thoughtful interpretation, fearless

improvisation and unique arrangements of jazz standards and her own original compositions. Mallory is also a part of numerous ensembles including the Blue Chair Cafe House Band, The Jivin' Belles, Emily Nancy Guthrie and the Wildflowers, and The Esquires Dance and Jazz Band. Mallory graduated with the Dean's Medal of Academic Excellence from MacEwan University with a Bachelor of Music in Jazz and Contemporary Music. She has also studied privately with Cyrille Aimee and Sienna Dahlen. Some highlights from Mallory's career include performing in both the 2014 and 2015 TD Edmonton International Jazz Festival, singing back-up vocals for the legendary rock group, Heart, on their 2014 Rockin' Heavin tour, performing in the 2015 Yardbird Festival of Canadian Jazz, and travelling all the way to Dublin, Ireland to make her overseas debut at the 2014 International Leonard Cohen Event. Currently, Mallory is busy teaching music lessons, composing and performing regularly, and preparing for her debut album.

Brett Hansen is an Edmonton based guitar player and composer. He is a graduate of MacEwan University's Bachelor of Music program, where he majored in guitar performance and studied with Juno nominated Jim Head, amongst others. He has also studied with renowned guitar players including Rex Abbasi, Matthew Stevens, and Pete McCann. Brett is an active member in the Edmonton music scene where he teaches and performs regularly with a number of groups, spanning multiple genres of music. Bass player Murray Wood and Leonard Patterson on Drums completes the quartet.



Avalanche Quartet

"impressive performance with Cohen songs"

(folkforum.nl)



from left to right: Pim Kops (De Dijk), Marjolein van der Klauw (Powderblue), Henk Hofstede (Nits) and Arwen Linnemann (ex-Nits)

Henk Hofstede (Nits) meets Leonard Cohen in a TV-studio in Brussels in 1988. Henk has been a huge fan for many years and sums up his courage to talk to the man. They have dinner together at the cafeteria of the station. Cohen tells Henk about an upcoming world tour and how he doesn't have a band. And he asks whether the Nits would be willing to go out on tour as his band....

Unfortunately the Nits are on their own extended tour after the success of their album *In The Dutch Mountains*, a tour which leads through Europe and on to Canada, New York and even Moscow. Henk has to refuse the golden offer. Years later he still wakes up at night as he was dreaming of that world tour they didn't play. A couple of years later, Henk put on a pilgrimage with movie-director Seppo Pietikainen, his friend from Finland. They make a short film about their voyage to Hydra, the island where Cohen wrote his first songs. Henk and Seppo were also participants of the Event on Hydra in 2002. Starting in 2007 the Avalanche Quartet has done concerts in Holland, Switzerland and France, some times with guests musicians. In the years that follow they perform for a growing audience that loves their exquisite versions of these beautiful songs. The second album *Rainy Night House* has been released in September 2013. It contains a mix of new studio-tracks.



Huub, Henk, Harrie & Herman

boulevard of Golden Oldies



These four experienced musicians playing the best Golden Oldies from the pophistory. That means swinging and singing along to hits from the sixties and seventies, but you will also be treated to blockbusters soul, blues and rock. From Elvis to Clapton, Gloria to Born To Be Wild.

Requests are always welcome! But only if it is for GOLDEN OLDIES !

The New Partisans

an acoustic tribute



An acoustic tribute to Leonard Cohen from Belgium, especially songs from his early records.

Members:

Joeri Dobbeleir: vocals, guitar

Veva Van Overveld: vocals, violin

Koen De Gendt: double bass

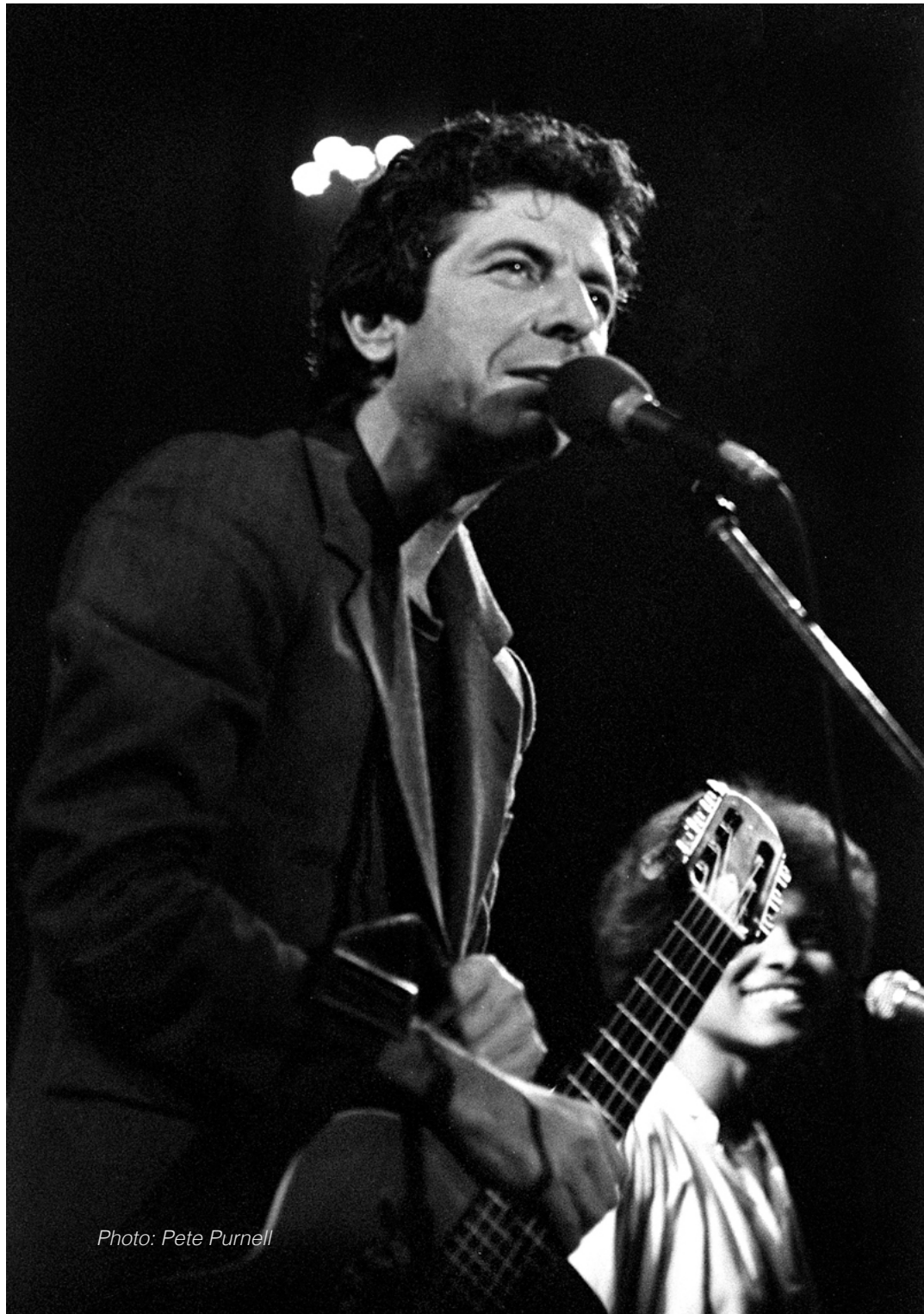


Photo: Pete Purnell

Sharon Robinson

Sharon will be performing a preview teaser set (20 min) before she embarks on her 16-date European tour that begins in Helsinki on 14 August.

"As some of you may know, I had to cancel my European tour scheduled late last year. After taking some much-needed time, I plan to resume touring this August and September. I am very much looking forward to it. Thank you all for your patience and continued support."

-Sharon Robinson



Grammy-winning songwriter Sharon Robinson's solo career officially began in 2008 with her stunning debut *Everybody Knows*. Her solo bow garnered critical acclaim and Sharon mesmerized audiences with her smoldering solo performances. After six years on the road with Leonard Cohen, Sharon has hit the ground running, writing and producing her second solo album, *Caffeine*, a collection of new compositions encompassing soul, rhythm and blues, folk and jazz, a new book and successful European Tour.

For thirty years, Sharon has been associated with Leonard Cohen as a co-writer, producer, and vocalist. She co-wrote and produced Cohen's 2001 album, *Ten New Songs*, (one of Rolling Stone's "Top 100 Albums of the Decade"), and co-authored the Cohen classics, *Everybody Knows* and *Waiting for the Miracle*. A Grammy-winning songwriter, Sharon's work has been covered by artists as diverse as Patti LaBelle, Don Henley, Aaron Neville, and Roberta Flack to name a few. This past December she released an intimate musical journey photo collection, *On Tour with Leonard Cohen* (powerHouse books), spanning six years on the road with Cohen.




Patrick Leonard



Patrick Raymond Leonard is an American songwriter, keyboardist and music producer of Canadian descent. Patrick Leonard, who co-wrote three songs on Cohen's album *Old Ideas* and co-wrote eight of the nine songs on *Popular Problems*. He is best known for his longtime collaboration with Madonna on many different projects including her albums *True Blue* (1986), *Who's That Girl* (1987), *Like a Prayer* (1989), *I'm Breathless* (1990) and *Ray of Light* (1998). He also music scored her 2008 documentary *I Am Because We Are* and was musical director on her tours, *The Virgin Tour* (1985) and *Who's That Girl World Tour* (1987).

Leonard has worked with a wide variety of artists, including Leonard Cohen and late-period Pink Floyd and solo Roger Waters and David Gilmour, as well as Boz Scaggs, Ilse DeLange, Deborah Blando, Peter Cetera, Bryan Ferry, Michael W. Smith, Julian Lennon, Elton John, Anna Vissi, Jody Watley, Rod Stewart, Leonard Cohen, Bryan Adams, Jewel, Blue October, and Robbie Robertson. He also was half of the art-pop group Toy Matinee with Kevin Gilbert and Third Matinee with Richard Page. In 1997, Leonard released the new-age album *Rivers* on his own record label, Unitone.





You want it darker

If you are the dealer
I'm out of the game
If you are the healer
I'm broken and lam
If thine is the glory
Then mine must be the shame
You want it darker
We kill the flame

Magnified and sanctified
Be Thy Holy Name
Vilified and crucified
In the human frame
A million candles burning
For the help that never came
You want it darker
We kill the flame

Hineni Hineni
I'm with you, my Lord

There's a lover in the story
But the story's still the same
There's an lullaby for suffering
And a paradox to blame
But it's written in the scriptures
And it's not some idle claim
You want it darker
We kill the flame

They're lining up the prisoners now
The guards are taking aim
I struggled with some demons
They were middle-class and tame
Didn't know I had permission
To murder and to maim
You want it darker
We kill the flame

Hineni Hineni
I'm with you, my Lord

Magnified and sanctified
Be Thy Holy Name
Vilified and crucified
In the human frame
A million candles burning
For the help that never came
You want it darker
We kill the flame

If you are the dealer
I'm out of the game
If you are the healer
I'm broken and lame
If thine is the glory
Then mine must be the shame
You want it darker
We kill the flame

Hineni Hineni
I'm with you, my Lord

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May 14, 2016



(1) 'caught' on Dam Square (1974). Photo by Ton Schuetz



AMSTERDAM

places of interest for Cohenites

by Liesbeth van Ruth

Of course Amsterdam has many, many places of interest for its visitors, to name some: the canals, museums, parks, historical monuments, for some people the red light District. But for Cohenites there are some other special places, places where Leonard performed through the years.

Dam Square

Dam Square is the historical heart of Amsterdam. The Dam derives its name from its original function: a dam on the Amstel river, hence also the old name of the city: Aemstelredamme.

At the west side of the square is the neoclassical Royal Palace (open to the public), which served as the city hall from 1655 until its conversion to royal residence in 1808.

Over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries Dam Square became a “national” square well know to everyone in the Netherlands. It has frequently been the location of demonstrations and events of all kinds. Every year at May 4th the National Memorial Day (Nationale Dodenherdenking) is celebrated here. Leonard was spotted on Dam Square by a photographer in 1974.

The Royal Concertgebouw

The Royal Concertgebouw is the main concert hall for classical music in Amsterdam. Because of its highly regarded acoustics, the Concertgebouw is considered one of the finest concert halls in the world. Although the acoustics of the main hall make it largely unsuited for amplified music, in the second half of last century there were also many jazz and pop concerts. Today, some 900 concerts and/or events per year take place at The Concertgebouw, for a public of over 700,000, making it one of the most-visited concert halls in the world.

The construction of The Concertgebouw began in 1883 in a pasture that was then outside the city. The hall opened on April 11th 1888 with an inaugural concert, in which an orchestra of 120 musicians and chorus of 500 singers participated, performing works by Wagner, Handel, Bach and Beethoven. The Main Hall of the Concertgebouw has a capacity of about 2000 persons. The surnames of 46 composers are displayed in gold on the balcony ledges and on the walls of the Main Hall (photo 2)

During his concert in October 1980, Leonard gave a free associating improvisation in which he also read aloud the names of a number of these composers:





(2) Main hall Royal Concertgebouw

Dance, dance, dance

Ah sweet sound reject me not

Where are you now, oh divine muse of antiquity

Where are you now gold paint that's written the names of all these composers on this venerable establishment

Stravinsky, Wagner, Bruckner, Mahler

Ah, flake down on us in your sweet gold paint, all over us in a great snowstorm of excellence

Dance, dance, dance

Concertgebouw goodnight

Where are you going Amsterdam

Why don't you become Rotterdam

Why don't you fall in the North Sea

Why don't you swim like a herring

Why don't you fall like a snowflake

why don't you wave like a curtain

Why don't you become Saudi Arabia

Why aren't you Arabs, why aren't you Jews

Why aren't you Negroids, why are you Caucasians

Why do you come to concerts

Why do you pay these fast prices to hear me

I don't know

Dance, dance, dance

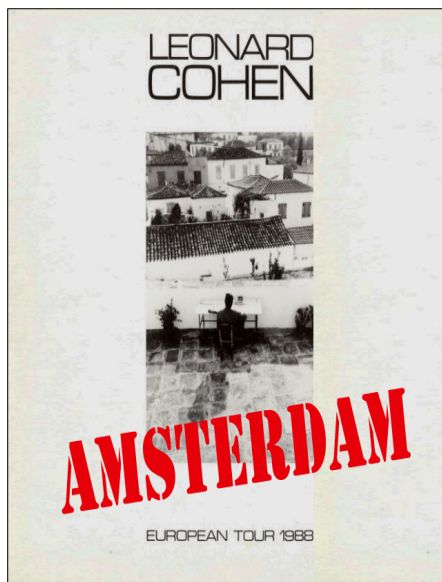


Leonard went on somewhat more in this vein until the musicians changed tune and he started singing "Diamonds in the Mine".

Besides the 1980 concert Leonard performed at the Concertgebouw in 1970, 1972 and 1976.

3 Stopera

The name Stopera is a contraction of Stadhuis (City Hall) and opera. It is housing both the City Hall of Amsterdam and the Dutch National Opera & Ballet. The part of the building housing the opera is also known as Het Muziekgebouw (The Music Hall). Its curved front is facing the city across the river Amstel. It was constructed in 1982 after lengthy considerations and heavy protests at the Waterlooplein, which up till then had been the major flea market in the large former Jewish part of town. Since opening in 1986 it has housed famous opera and ballet productions. Leonard had two concerts here in April 1988.



4 Jaap Edenhal

The Jaap Edenhal is an indoor ice-rink located in the Eastern part of Amsterdam.

The Hall is named after Dutch speed skater Jaap Eden. The Hall opened in 1973 and has since also been used as a concert venue. Abba, Bob Marley, The Police and many others had concerts at this hall. Leonard performed here in October 1974.

5 Westerpark

This is a public urban park in the western part of Amsterdam. Adjacent to the park is an industrial complex, Westergasfabriek (former Western Gasworks). Since the beginning of our century the Westergasfabriek became a place for cultural and avant-garde business and events. They organized open air concerts during the summer months in Westerpark since 2007. There were concerts by among others Radiohead, James Morrison, Lenny Kravitz. During the years 2011 and 2012 there were no concerts, but from 2013 on the tradition got restored. The audience has to buy tickets to attend, but people can also experience the music for free from the railway embankment at the back of the park, although without a view of the stage. In July 2008 Leonard performed here during his then just started World Tour.



Olympic Stadium



©deadline artworks

The Olympic Stadium was built as the main stadium for the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam. The 1928 Olympics introduced the idea of the Olympic Flame. The flame burned for the first time ever in a tall tower, known as the Marathon Tower, adjacent to the stadium. The bowl on top of this tower carried the Olympic Flame and was known to Amsterdam people as “the ashtray of KLM-pilots”. At the time planes were frequently flying at a rather low altitude over the stadium on their way to Schiphol Airport.

After the Olympics the stadium was mostly in use as a football stadium. It is also the place where the Marathon athletes have their start and finish every October. Through the years occasionally there were pop concerts here. Pink Floyd among others performed at the stadium.

Leonard had 2 consecutive concerts here in August 2012 (afb. 5). It was, as far as I know, at these concerts for the first time that while Leonard was performing “Closing time” the audience as a crowd started singing NO, NO, NO during the refrain.

Ziggo Dome

The Ziggo Dome is situated in South-Eastern part of Amsterdam, next door to The Arena stadium, home of Ajax, the famous football club.



The Ziggo Dome is rather recently designed to accommodate to the musical and theatrical needs of pop artists and their amplified music. It is famous for its acoustics. Acoustic material is incorporated in the walls, stands and ceiling which limits the reverberation time in the hall to a minimum and creates dry acoustics. The hall opened in 2012 and Pearl Jam was the first foreign band to play here. A lot of famous performers followed them, among them Madonna, Lady Gaga, Fleetwood Mac, U2. In September 2013 Leonard gave a concert here.

De Balie

- De Balie is a theatre and a centre for politics, culture and media. Lots of different activities of a political or cultural kind are going on at De Balie.
 - Some examples: * Pussy Riot, an interview with the members.
 - * Not in my backyard, an international current affairs show.
 - * Knowledge cafe, a program that puts science (and scientists) on the spot
- The building of De Balie also houses a Grand cafe.
Balie translates as Bar (legal term). In the past a District Court was situated in this building. Next to De Balie is constructed a portal, pompously accentuated by a classical looking façade. On the frieze, supported by columns is carved an inscription: *homo sapiens non urinatur in ventum*, meaning: a wise man does not piss into the wind.
At the other side of the portal is the famous pop music temple Paradiso (founded in 1968 in a former church building).
Leonard never had a concert at Paradiso, nor at De Balie.
Yet this summer the Cohenites are gathered here in merry reunion at the LEONARD COHEN EVENT AMSTERDAM 2016.





'Leonard, even though he's into his 80's now, he's still creating art, still making his way into his home studio, still writing, still working, and presumably still putting on a suit every morning.

He has a gentle lust for life that is infectious and as one writer noted, makes you look forward to your own old age.'

Chris Wade
The Music of Leonard Cohen
(2016)

*Photocard: Jül/Harsant
12th July 2016*



The Webb Sisters



Thank you for the items that you send me!



Steer your way

Steer your way through the ruins of the Altar and the Mall
Steer your way through the fables of Creation and the Fall
Steer your way past the Palaces that rise above the rot

Year by year

Month by month

Day by day

Thought by thought

Steer your heart past the Truth you believed in yesterday
Such as Fundamental Goodness and the Wisdom of the Way
Steer your heart, precious heart, past the women whom you bought

Year by year

Month by month

Day by day

Thought by thought

Steer your path through the pain that is far more real than you
That has smashed the Cosmic Model, that has blinded every View
And please don't make me go there, though there be a God or not

Year by year

Month by month

Day by day

Thought by thought

They whisper still, the injured stones, the blunted mountains weep
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make things cheap
And say the Mea Culpa, which you've gradually forgot

Year by year

Month by month

Day by day

Thought by thought

Steer your way, O my heart, though I have no right to ask
To the one who was never never equal to the task
Who knows he's been convicted, who knows he will be shot

Year by year

Month by month

Day by day

Thought by thought

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HOW I GOT MY PASSION

Maarten Massa

Like everyone attending this Event, I am hooked on Leonard Cohen... Science and personal experience tell us that cognitive maturation and personality development are such that one's musical taste typically forms in the late teens and early twenties. And indeed, I discovered most of my musical heroes from the time I was 16 until I was 25. There is, however, an exception: my most profound admiration of a musician – my passion for Leonard Cohen – took root during infancy... Or at least, that's how the story goes...

On the day Warner Brothers released Leonard Cohen's most eccentric album, somewhere in a hospital in Sint-Niklaas (Belgium) my mother gave birth to her own personal most eccentric little wonder: me! I was born on November 13 1977, the exact day Mr. Cohen decided to let the Ladies' Man die... Now, cosmic serendipity notwithstanding, I'm pretty sure being born on the same day that an album is released doesn't influence one's musical taste. And I am convinced that Leonard Cohen himself rather than the record label is responsible for my obsession.



Many people have asked me about my Leonard Cohen fandom and its origin. And for years, my explanation for my Cohen affinity has been that I “somehow got into Leonard Cohen by listening to his first three albums, which were part of my parents’ album collection.” Nonetheless, I understand the attraction of my parents’ story. Heck, I prefer it myself. So, to return to that narrative of how it all began...

During those exciting days and months after my birth, my parents were living in a small apartment in the city center of Sint-Niklaas, inhabited not only by me but also by my two older sisters, then one and two years old. As the youngest of three offspring in accommodations replete with affection but lacking in volume, my “room” comprised a corner of the tiny second floor living room. Since crawling (let alone walking or even running) was not yet an option, my sole entertainment option was lying in my crib, observing the world around me. More specifically, this meant I stared at the ceiling all day whilst listening to everything happening in the living room. And since a white ceiling is kind of boring (even for a one-year-old), I must have switched to listening more carefully to sounds and music around me...

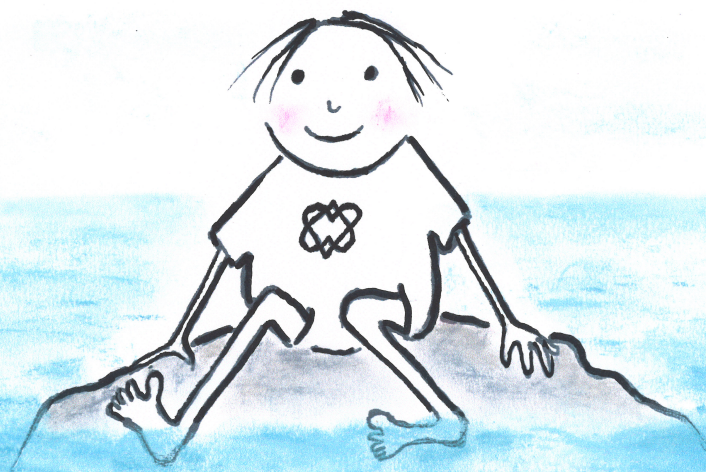
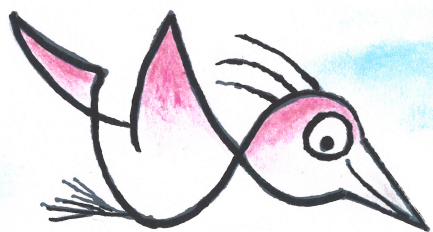
So there I was, -enjoying life from my crib, listening to music and smiling to the world- at least, when my older sisters weren’t dragging me around in their toy stroller, me being squashed in with their dolls and stuffed animals. Back in my crib, music relaxed me. Coincidence or not, since we had little space at home and my parents wanted to raise kids and listen to



music at the same time, they placed the speakers directly underneath my crib, guaranteeing I heard every album they played. And back in those days, I guess they must have enjoyed Leonard Cohen’s music –or at least the first three of his LPs they bought- quite a lot.

So from the start I was almost destined to listen to Leonard Cohen... But it was not until I was much older that I truly started listening to his music and lyrics. Once smitten by Cohen’s music, I started browsing the internet looking for more info and bumped into the Leonard Cohen Files website and the Leonard Cohen Forum. In 2006, I joined this group of friends during the Leonard Cohen Event in Berlin, bringing along my dad and by doing so completing the circle: he (and my mom) introduced me to Leonard Cohen when I was just a baby and now I re-introduced him to our man. Back home after spending a long weekend amongst fellow Cohen lovers and friends, we had so many great stories to tell that my mom decided she wasn’t going to miss out on any things Cohen from then on... That’s why whenever you see either of us somewhere in the Leonard Cohen world, you’re likely to see the others there too...





by
Jarmila Haze



The essence of Zen is caught in an ancient verse, attributed to the first Zen patriarch Bodhidharma:

*"A special transmission outside the scriptures;
No dependence upon words and letters;
Direct pointing to the human mind;
Seeing into one's own nature and attaining Buddhahood."*

So I should have known better. If there is anything harder than to talk about Zen than it's to write about it. The hardest thing is to read it; please, have mercy on me.

Solitude-silence-stillness

Everybody knows about Leonard and Zen. Leonard has spent nearly six years at the Mt. Baldy Zen Center. He said that "it was simply the most practical way he'd found of working through the confusion and terror that had long been his bedfellows" and the sitting still is "a way of falling in love with the world and everything in it" (Picco Iyer: The Art Of Stillness). He has left the monastery but he has never stopped with meditation.

*"And I know what I must do
Another mile of silence while I'm
Coming back to you"*

(LC: Coming Back To You)

It is not necessary to be desperate to start with meditation but it works. An overwhelming need for silence and stillness can appear in times of trouble - Leonard refers to Zen as "a hospital for the broken-hearted" - but fortunately there are more reasons to explore solitude, silence and stillness. It can help us to take a break from our over-scheduled life, dictate of the Internet, social media, phone calls. Many of us are constantly plugged in and tired from too much stimuli. And so we have been losing the ability to be present here and now, and enjoy our life.



Although silence and stillness are often used synonymously, there is a difference between them. Silence implies an absence of noise and is the prerequisite for inner stillness. Stillness adds tranquillity and concentration for achieving the undisturbed state of mind.

*"Dear Lady; Queen of Solitude
I thank you with my heart
for keeping me so close to thee
while so many, oh so many, stood apart"*

(LC: Our Lady Of Solitude)

In solitude we learn "to be completely true to ourselves" (Henri David Thoreau) and to be open to the mystery of being.

To this we can add the sublime words of St Gregory of Sinai: "Stillness gives birth to contemplation, contemplation to spiritual knowledge, and knowledge to the apprehension of the mysteries".

The practice of silence and solitude, including the cultivation of inner stillness turns up in all spiritual traditions, but nowhere is it as strong as in Zen-Buddhism.

Buddhism in two words

Many books deal with Buddhism, many words are used to describe and explain it; Zen-master Suzuki nailed it with two words, as reported by David Chadwick:

One night in February of 1968, I sat among fifty black-robed fellow students, mostly young Americans, at Zen Mountain Center, Tassajara Springs, ten miles inland from Big Sur, California, deep in the mountain wilderness. The kerosene lamplight illuminated our breath in the winter air of the unheated room.

Before us the founder of the first Zen Buddhist Monastery in the Western Hemisphere, Shunryu Suzuki, had concluded a lecture from his seat on the altar platform. "Thank you very much", he said softly, with a genuine feeling of gratitude. He took a sip of water, cleared his throat, and looked at his students. "Is there some question?" he asked, just loud enough to be heard above the sound of the creek gushing in the darkness outside.

I bowed, hands together, and caught his eye.

"Hai?" he said, meaning yes.

"Suzuki Roshi, I've been listening to your lectures for years ", I said, "and I really love them, and they're very inspiring, and I know that what you're talking about is actually very clear and simple. But I must admit I just don't understand. I love it, but I feel like I could listen to you for a thousand years and still not get it. Could you just please put it in a nutshell? Can you reduce Buddhism to one phrase?"



Everyone laughed. He laughed. What a ludicrous question. I don't think any of us expected him to answer it. He was not a man you could pin down, and he didn't like to give his students something definite to cling to. He had often said not to have "some idea" of what Buddhism was.

*But Suzuki did answer. He looked at me and said,
"Everything changes."*

Then he asked for another question.

(From the Introduction to Crooked Cucumber, The Life and Zen Teaching of Shunryu Suzuki by David Chadwick)

Zen-Buddhism and zazen

Zen-Buddhism ("Zen") has evolved within Buddhism outside the scriptures as an independent tradition in its own right. Zen can't be mastered intellectually and it can't be mastered without practising. Zen can be taught in the same way that violin playing or car driving can be taught. Nobody thinks it is possible to learn it by reading about it. It's the same with Zen.

To get some idea of it, here is my – quite arbitrary - selection of facts, snippets and sayings:

- Zen is not a religion or a philosophy. Zen means to live one's everyday life naturally and spontaneously.
- Zen is a way of being and the state of mind.
- Enlightenment (awakening, realization of true self) can be found inside by a cultivation of your self-knowledge.
- Zen can help you to drop illusions and see things as they are – without distortion caused by our thoughts.
- Don't be misled by thoughts, logic or language, Zen refers to something before thinking.
- Zen is concerned with things as they are, without trying to interpret them
- Zen is exposing the paradox of reality.
- Zen brings disruption and order and discipline.
- The enlightenment (awakening, realization of true self...) can be obtained through meditation and intuition rather than through blind faith and devotion.



ZAZEN

"Meditation is becoming a white sheet of paper, again and again and again" (Yasutani Roshi).

The meditation, called zazen, takes the central place in Zen-Buddhism. Zazen is not trying to get in trance, it's not daydreaming either. It isn't stop thinking and it's not an analyse of your thoughts and experiences. Zazen is just sitting and letting everything pass by. It is a calm observation of the upcoming thoughts and feelings, without following them.

*"I know that I'm forgiven,
But I don't know how I know
I don't trust my inner feelings –
Inner feelings come and go".*

(LC: That Don't Make It Junk)

It's easier to attain still mind if the body is still too, therefore stillness at a physical level is required in zazen, too – sitting in upright yet relaxed position and not moving. An old Buddhist parable illustrates how the meditation works:

When Buddha and his disciples, tired and thirsty, saw a lake, they wanted to get some water to drink. Unfortunately a herd of buffalo's was just crossing the lake, the water became very muddy and unsuitable to drink. Buddha just sat down and patiently waited until the mud had settled down and water above was clean and clear, ready to drink. Buddha said to disciples: "See, what made the water clean.... The mind is also like that. When it is disturbed, just let it be, give it time. It will settle down on his own, it happens effortless".

Zen practice, on a more personal note

*"I needed so much
To have nothing to touch
I've always been greedy that way"*

(LC: The Night Comes On)

Zen is a logical, but not only option for the one who follows the line of stillness. Step by step I was eventually drawn near to Zen; I've been practising for about ten years now. I don't know why others choose Zen, I can talk about my experience only and still it's not easy to find out what makes Zen so suitable and precious to me.

To begin with – I'd never stayed with Zen if I were not encouraged to doubt. Zen acknowledges an immense power of doubting.

"Great doubt, great enlightenment; small doubt, small enlightenment" is a well-known Zen aphorism.



It was relieving to know that Leonard was also struggling with the idea of "enlightenment beyond good and evil":

*True Self, True Self
Has no will –
It's free from "Kill"
Or "Do not kill"
But while I am
A novice still
I do embrace
With all my will
The First Commitment
"Do not kill"*

(LC: True Self)

Maybe I've expected some ecstasy or excitement on the spiritual path but it is the complete absence of excitement in Zen that does the work. No dazzling images but calm, free and sensitive universe makes an appearance.

"The Buddha's teaching guides people to the place where there is nothing special... People often misunderstand faith as kind of ecstasy of intoxication... true faith is sobering up from such intoxication".

(Quotation of Zen master Kodo Sawaki from: The Zen Teaching of "Homeless" Kodo)

I am very slow Zen-disciple. I used to search for explanation of everything. Zen offered me "nothingness" and "not-knowing". It took me ages to "understand". The years have passed before Zen has revealed a new dimension for me, which offers a change of perspective, a new look at old problems. I learn to change my life by changing the way I look at it. If something bad happens to me I still don't feel cool at all but I realize that I can do a little about bad luck or the fact that nothing lasts.

There is much more in Zen that makes me feel at home - the paradoxes, bright humour, simple beauty of rituals, perfect way of being alone in company, kindness and discipline...

ZEN experience in Amsterdam

For the ones, who always wanted to try Zen but also for the ones who can't imagine themselves cross-legged on a cushion is there a great possibility to give it a try in Amsterdam.

One has to start somewhere. Zen Centrum Amsterdam, part of the International Kanzeon Sangha, provides a fitting environment. The beautiful zendo is situated in an old building at the canal in the centre of Amsterdam.

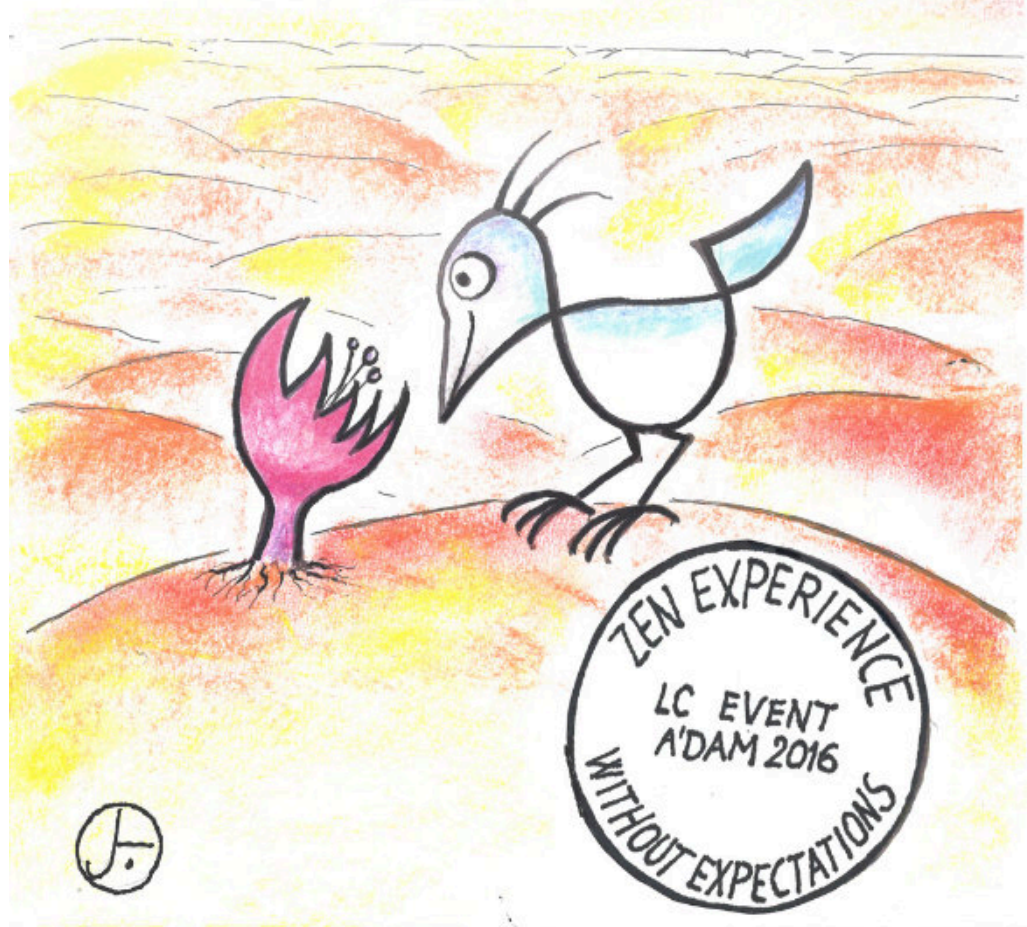


The introduction in Zen will be given by Meindert van den Heuvel, Mu Sho Sensei. From my own experience I can declare that his kindness and patience are measureless, even with the most retarded Zen-students.

This famous opening line of Shunryu Suzuki's classic "Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind" can help them who are hesitating:

"If your mind is empty, it is always ready for anything, it is open to everything. In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert's mind there are few."

Come, friends, come with your heart open, come without expectations. All what we have to do is to sit still for a while.



A GOODY BAG

contribution by
ANN AND EDDY MASSA





You know who I am

by Michael

June in England, the rain falls down on the lawyer man, you know who I am. I just broke out of the prison, I don't claim to be guilty. It was a 20

minute walk to the train. I approach a lady as her Cadillac goes creeping by in the street. The door it opens slowly and I ask for a lift. I reassure her I don't wanna burn your car. It's 4 in the afternoon. Another 8 hours travelling Lady midnight it would then be. You can't park here, there's a law, and the punishment tonight it will be fine, it will be fine, and we're running for the money. I shared the back seats with Placido Domingo on one side and Luciano Pavarotti on the other, I am so small between the stars.

OK, quite enough! I have promised Wijbe for many weeks I would write a short piece for this booklet and, by popular demand, I had done nothing at all until this deadline day.

The real mini-incident that did happen last week was funnier than my words above. I did ask another lawyer for a lift from Peterborough prison to Peterborough station. I didn't know her. As she started the car Suzanne played. I began to sing along. I knew it would impress her. My lyrics recollection was superb. How excited she must have been to find a soulmate to accompany her CD collection. Yet she didn't react, not even add to the chorus. I knew we were getting close to the station so I felt it was time to play my card which was so high and wild I would never need to deal another. I told her I had a photo which she would really like. On my iphone I displayed my prize exhibit from Leonard's drop in at Green Note in 2007. I asked her what she thought, did she realise who those 2 men were? Silence. Well, of course I calculated that I had become even more handsome in the 9 years since the night LC saw me perform so I could understand she didn't recognise me. But the other chap, the Old Boy himself? No, I don't know him. It's Leonard. Leonard who? Leonard Cohen of course. Who?

It hadn't been her music playing, just a track on Radio 2, just a station on her way. In desperation to prove I was not a complete fantasist about the great artist I had to resort to Shrek, and she said oh, he wrote that?". A connection at last. Hallelujah!

Good to see you all again. I am delighted to be here and I look forward to leading the Amsterdam Mountain Climbing Expedition.

Lord Mickey of One



INVITATION



Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to take this waltz and spend a few days and nights in a dream of Hungarian lanterns with us. I'm happy to tell you that the 2018 International Leonard Cohen Event will be organized in Budapest.

While our city has few direct links to Leonard except these words and his only visit in 2009 during The Great Long Tour, we hope Budapest has a lot to offer to all of you. Budapest is located on the two sides of the Danube, spanned by 8 bridges. The hill of the ancient Castle District provides a breathtaking view of the city and the river banks day and night.

Built on more than 100 hot springs, Budapest is a city of thermal baths. Some of them are centuries old. You can take a dip in an oriental Turkish bath, visit the Art Nouveau marvel of Gellert Spa or the castle-like Szechenyi Spa.

The Jewish quarter has magnificent synagogues, and a unique maze of old streets with many so called „ruin pubs“. Hungarian food is delicious, you can try our real goulash or many tasty sweets. Be ready for gaining some weight though ;-)

Beside all of these delights, we have something more important: we have the music. You can enjoy classical music from Liszt to Bartók, Jewish klezmer, Hungarian folk music or Gipsy music.

There aren't too many Hungarian forum members, but with the help of our Leonard Cohen Club, we will do our best to give you an unforgettable experience. We hope many of you will be here with us, listening to great concerts and presentations, singing along, and chatting (and drinking) with old and new friends. See you in two years!

Eva Martonyi



City centre





Highlights

> = Stop

■ K5 = map coordinate

Museums & Attractions

- 1 **Allard Pierson museum (archaeology)** ■ K7
Tram 4-9-14-16-24 > Spui
- 2 **The Amsterdam Dungeon** ■ K6
Tram 1-2-4-5-9-13-14-16-17-24 > Dam
- 3 **Amsterdam Museum** ■ J7
Tram 1-2-4-5-9-14-16-24 > Spui
- 4 **Amsterdam Tulip Museum** ■ I6
Tram 13-14-17 > Westermarkt
- 5 **Anne Frank Huis** ■ I5
Tram 13-14-17 > Westermarkt
- 6 **Artis Royal Zoo - Micropia** ■ O8
Tram 9-14 > Artis
- 7 **Bijbels Museum (biblical)** ■ J7
Tram 1-2-5 > Spui
- 8 **Diamant museum** ■ I10
Tram 2-3-5-12 > Van Baerlestraat
Tram 16-24 > Museumplein
- 9 **Eye Filmmuseum (movie)** ■ L2
Bus 38 > Buiksloterwegveer
- 10 **Hash, Marihuana & Hemp Museum** ■ K6
Oudezijds Achterburgwal 148
- 11 **Heineken Experience** ■ K10
Tram 16-24 > Stadhouderskade
- 12 **Hortus Botanicus** ■ M8
Tram 9-14 > Artis
- 13 **De Hermitage Amsterdam** ■ L8
Metro 51-53-54 > Waterlooplein
Tram 9-14 > Mr. Visserplein
- 14 **Joods Historisch museum** ■ M8
Metro 51-53-54 > Waterlooplein
Tram 9-14 > Mr. Visserplein
- 15 **Madame Tussauds Amsterdam** ■ K6
Tram 1-2-4-5-9-13-14-16-17-24 > Dam
- 16 **Het Scheepvaartmuseum (maritime)**
VOC Ship 'Amsterdam' ■ O6
Bus 22 > Kattenburgerplein
Bus 48 > Kattenburgerstraat
- 17 **NEMO (science centre)** ■ N5
Bus 22-48 > Kadijksplein

- 18 **Rijksmuseum** ■ I10
Tram 2-5 > Rijksmuseum
Tram 7-10 > Spiegelgracht
Tram 3-12-16-24 > Museumplein
- 19 **Het Rembrandthuis** ■ L7
Metro 51-53-54 > Waterlooplein
Tram 9-14 > Mr. Visserplein
- 20 **Stedelijk museum** ■ H10
Tram 2-3-5-12 > Van Baerlestraat
Tram 16-24 > Museumplein
- 21 **Tassenmuseum Hendrikje**
(bags/purses) ■ K8
Tram 4-9-14 > Rembrandtplein
- 22 **Tropenmuseum (tropical museum)** ■ P9
Tram 9-10-14 > Alexanderplein
Tram 3-7 > Wijtenbachstraat
- 23 **Van Gogh Museum** ■ I10
Tram 2-3-5-12 > Van Baerlestraat
Tram 16-24 > Museumplein
- 24 **Verzetsmuseum (Dutch resistance)** ■ N7
Tram 9-14 > Artis
- 25 **Woonbootmuseum (Houseboat)** ■ I6
Tram 10-17 > Elandsgracht
Tram 13-14 > Westermarkt

Monuments

- 26 **Begijnhof (beguine courtyard)** ■ J7
Tram 1-2-4-5-9-14-16-24 > Spui
- 27 **De Nieuwe Kerk (church)** ■ K5
Tram 1-2-4-5-9-13-14-16-17-24 > Dam
- 28 **De Oude Kerk (church)** ■ L5
Tram 4-9-16-24 > Dam
- 29 **Koninklijk Paleis (Royal Palace)** ■ J6
Tram 1-2-4-5-9-13-14-16-17-24 > Dam

Theatres

- 30 **Koninklijk Theater Carré** ■ M9
Metro 51-53-54 > Weesperplein
Tram 7-10 > Weesperplein
Tram 9-14 > Waterlooplein
Night bus 355 > Wibautstraat
- 31 **Concertgebouw (concert hall)** ■ H10/11
Tram 3-5-12-16-24 > Museumplein
Night bus 358 > Museumplein
- 32 **DeLaMar Theater** ■ H8
Tram 1-2-5-7-10 > Leidseplein
Night bus 348-352-353-354-358
> Leidseplein

- 33 Heineken Music Hall** ■ see map below
Metro **50-54** > Station Bijlmer ArenA
Night bus **355-357** > Station Bijlmer ArenA
- 34 Paradiso** ■ I9
Tram **1-2-5-7-10** > Leidseplein
Night bus **348-352-353-354-358**
> Leidseplein
- 35 Melkweg** ■ H8
Tram **1-2-5-7-10** > Leidseplein
Night bus **348-352-353-354-358**
> Leidseplein
- 36 Muziektheater** ■ L8
Metro **51-53-54** > Waterlooplein
Tram **9-14** > Waterlooplein
Night bus **355-357-359-361-363**
> Waterlooplein
- 37 Stadsschouwburg (municipal theatre)** ■ I8
Tram **1-2-5-7-10** > Leidseplein
Night bus **348-352-353-354-358**
> Leidseplein
- 38 Muziekgebouw - Bimhuis** ■ O4
Tram **26** > Muziekgebouw Bimhuis
Night bus **359** > Jan Schaeferbrug

- 39 Ziggo Dome** ■ see map below
Metro **50-54** > Station Bijlmer ArenA
Night bus **355-357** > Station Bijlmer ArenA
- 40 Theater Amsterdam** ■ see map below
Bus **22** > Koivistokade
- Entertainment areas**
- 41 Leidseplein** ■ I9
Tram **1-2-5-7-10** > Leidseplein
Night bus **348-352-353-354-358**
> Leidseplein
- 42 Max Euweplein / Holland Casino** ■ I9
Tram **1-2-5-7-10** > Leidseplein
Night bus **348-352-353-354-358**
> Leidseplein
- 43 Rembrandtplein** ■ K8
Tram **4-9-14** > Rembrandtplein
Night bus **355-357-359-361-363**
> Rembrandtplein
- 44 ArenA Boulevard** ■ see map below
Metro **50-54** > Station Bijlmer ArenA
Night bus **355-357** > Station Bijlmer ArenA



Trendy City Beaches

- 45 Blijburg** ■ see small map
Tram **26** > IJburg
Bus **66** > Pieter Oosterhuisstraat
Night bus **359** > Pieter Oosterhuisstraat
- 46 Strand West** ■ see small map
Bus **22-48** > Spaarndammerstraat
- 47 Strand Zuid** ■ I14
Metro **50-51** > Station RAI
Tram **4** > Europaplein
Bus **62** > Europaplein
Bus **65** > Dintelstraat

Camping sites

- 48 Gaasper Camping Amsterdam**
■ see map page 19
Metro **53** > Station Gaasperplas
Bus **41-47-49** > Station Gaasperplas
Night bus **355-357** > Station Gaasperplas
- 49 Camping Vliegenbos** ■ see small map
Bus **32-33-38** > Merelstraat
Night bus **361** > Meeuwenlaan
- 50 Camping Zeeburg** ■ W9
Tram **7-14** > Flevopark
Tram **26** > Zuiderzeeweg
Bus **37** > Zuiderzeeweg
Night bus **359** > Insulindeweg or Zuiderzeeweg
- 51 Camping De Badhoeve** ■ see small map
Bus **30** > Uitdammerdijk
(only Mon-Fri from 06.00-19.00 hrs)

Markets

- 52 Albert Cuyp (general goods)** ■ L11
Tram **4** > Stadhouderskade
Tram **16-24** > Albert Cuypstraat
Tram **3** > 2e van der Helststraat
- 53 Bloemenmarkt (flowers)** ■ J8
Tram **1-2-5** > Koningsplein
Tram **4-9-14-16-24** > Muntplein
- 54 Dappermarkt (general goods)** ■ Q8
Tram **3-7** > Dapperstraat
Tram **9** > 1e van Swindenstraat
Tram **14** > Pontanusstraat
- 55 Waterlooplein (fleamarket)** ■ M7
Metro **51-53-54** > Waterlooplein
Tram **9-14** > Waterlooplein

Various

- 56 Amsterdam Arena / Ajax museum**
■ see small map
Metro **50-54** > Station Bijlmer Arena
- 57 Passenger Terminal Amsterdam** ■ P4
Tram **26** > Muziekgeb. Bimhuis
- 58 RAI (congress center)** ■ J14
Metro **50-51** > Station RAI
Tram **4** > Station RAI
Bus **62** > Europaplein
Bus **65** > Dintelstraat
- 59 World Trade Center** ■ F/G15
Metro **50-51** > Station Zuid
Tram **5** > Station Zuid
Bus **15-62-65** > Station Zuid

Shopping areas

- **Amsterdamse Poort / Arena Boulevard**
■ see map page 19
Metro **50-54** > Station Bijlmer Arena
- **Damrak** ■ J/K5
Tram **4-9-14-16-24** > Dam
- **De 9 Straatjes** ■ I/J6/7/8
Tram **1-2-5** > Spui
Tram **13-14-17** > Westermarkt
- **Jordaan** ■ I3/4/5
Tram **13-14-17** > Westermarkt
- **Kalverstraat** ■ J6/7
Tram **1-2-4-5-9-13-14-16-17-24** > Dam
- **Leidsestraat** ■ I/J8
Tram **1-2-5** > Koningsplein or Leidseplein
- **Magna Plaza (Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal)**
■ J5
Tram **1-2-5-13-14-17** > Dam
- **Nieuwendijk** ■ K4/5
Tram **1-2-4-5-9-13-14-16-17-24** > Dam
- **Nieuwe Spiegelstraat (Art & Antiques)** ■ J9
Tram **7-10** > Spiegelgracht
- **PC Hoofstraat** ■ H9
Tram **2-5** > Rijksmuseum
- **Rokin** ■ K7
Tram **4-9-14-16-24** > Rokin
- **Utrechtsestraat** ■ L8/9
Tram **4-9-14** > Rembrandtplein
- **Van Baerlestraat** ■ H10/11
Tram **2-3-5-12** > Van Baerlestraat



PARTICIPANTS

10th LEONARD COHEN EVENT, AMSTERDAM 2016

registered until July 15th

Aaftink, Mary - Canada
Aebi, Christoph - Switzerland
Akerboom, Fenna - The Netherlands
Arjatsalo, Eija & Jarkko - Finland
Aschenbrenner, Ross & Ann, Kristin & Greg - Germany/Australia
Aschenbrenner, Brigitte - Germany
Bailey, Susan - UK
Barclay, Lyn - Canada
Bartels, Anne - Scotland / Germany
Bartsch, Regina & Weinrauch, Harald - Germany
Beldock, Rachel & Tyd Robert - USA
Berg, Christine - The Netherlands
Blangé, Babet & Ooievaar, Oscar - The Netherlands
Boeijen, Kees & Meijer, Miriam - The Netherlands
Bohan, Thomas & Berg Rhonda - USA
van den Bos, Anja - The Netherlands
Bowerman, Jack R. - Canada
Brophy, Brid - Ireland
Buczkowski, Mary & George - USA
Chipman, Mallory - Canada
Christelle - France
Cohen, Doron B. - Japan
O'Connor, Caroline & Brian - Ireland
Coosemans, Bea - Belgium
Coque, Montse - Spain
Creasey, Mary - Ireland
Dahart, Diana - USA
Danielsen, Peter - Denmark
Daykin, Janet - UK
Devlin, Jim - UK
Dolfinio, Marco & Schwarzwälder, Andrea - Italy
Dullemont, Hugo en Hélène - The Netherlands
van Duyn, Lynette - South Africa
Egle, Ute - Germany
Everatt, David - UK
Ezekiel, Joy & Mark - USA
Falkowski, Artur - Poland
Farebrother, Sue - UK
Fleuren, Joan - Thailand
Forsyth, Ken - UK
Franz, Christoph - Germany
Franz, Elke & Henning - Germany
Frauke - Germany
Galloway, Rachael K - UK
Garland, Rita - Ireland
De Geyter, Linda & Anka - Belgium
van Gorkum, Ine - The Netherlands
de Graaff, Aad & Bogaard, Gery - The Netherlands
Granofsky, Lorne & Lederman, Gloria - Canada
de Groot, Marianne - The Netherlands
Hallmans, Gonnje - The Netherlands
Hammond, Jill & John - UK
Hansen, Brett - Canada
Harrington, Fiona & Penniford, John - UK
Harrington, Julie - USA
Heikkilä Kaisa & Pirkko - Finland
Hiljanen Sinikka - Finland
Humphries, Margaret - UK
Huillet, Elisabeth & Henri - France
Hulsbergen, Rola - The Netherlands
Haze, Jarmila - The Netherlands
Janssen, Nele & Massa, Maarten - Belgium
Jenkins, Paula - UK
Jones, Alan - UK
Kearney, Martina - Ireland
Kelber, Gertrud & Notker - Germany
Kloss, Hans - Germany
Krasuski, Krzysztof & Ciok, Krzysztof - Poland
Lageveen, Willy & Wijbe - The Netherlands
Lageveen, Klaas & Stegeman, Marjolein - The Netherlands
Liprot, Jean & Philip - UK
Loughrey, Angel - Ireland
Louis, Francine - The Netherlands
Lord Mickey of One & Lady Justyna de Galant - UK
Lohse, Gesine and Jürgen - Germany
Lundqvist, Caisa & Janerik - Sweden
MacMillan, Helen & Scott - UK
Madder, Lizzie & Dawson Peter - UK
O'Mahony, Sheila - Ireland
van der Mark, Gerda - The Netherlands
Marshall, Wendy & Tony - UK
Massa, Eddy & Mechels, Ann - Belgium
Martonyi, Eva - Hungary
McSweeney, Helen & Hutchinson Marian - Ireland
Mentink, Lydia - The Netherlands
Morris, Linda & John - UK
Nolan, Marie & Noonan, Albert - Ireland
Norris, Frances - Ireland
Nick B - UK
Nicolaescu, Laura - Romania
de Nijis, Petra - The Netherlands
Parthey, Karin - Germany
Peters, Steve - UK
Podebradska, Vlasta - Czech Republic
Price Jones, Dafydd - UK-Wales
Purnell, Pete - The Netherlands
Remy, Judy - France
Roeleveld, Corrie - The Netherlands
Rohr, Gabriele & Reinhard - Germany
Rucker, Claudia - Germany
van Ruth, Liesbeth - The Netherlands
Sallés Mingels, Beatriz - Spain
Schaank-Lageveen, Hugo and Marijke - The Netherlands
Schnabel, Lea - Israël
Schumacher, Lidia & Hartmut - Germany
Skill, Bridget & Steve - UK
Solez, Kim - Canada
Storms, Claire & Willy - Belgium
Strik, Anneke - The Netherlands
Sunday Suzanne & Kurzweil, Ken - USA
棚橋 善夫 (Tanahashi, Yoshio) - Japan
Vainio, Maire & Pentti - Finland
Volk, Conny - Germany
Way, Anne & Joe - USA
Wener, Leslie PY - USA
White, Marsha - USA
Yergin, April - USA
You, Julie - Canada
van Zwietering, Lia - The Netherlands



thanks!



The Organising Committee of
Willy & Wijbe Lageveen and Liesbeth van Ruth
as board members of the Stichting Simple Solutions,
wish to thank the many people who have helped to
make this event happen:

Leonard Cohen
Eija & Jarkko Arjatsalo
Bart van Ruth
Robert Kory
Organizing Committee of the Dublin Event
Wim Schuurman
Andrew Darbyshire
Henning Franz
Kees Boeijen
Klaas Lageveen (www.werp.nl)
Hugo & Marijke Schaank-Lageveen
Thomas Bohan
Doron Cohen
Ann & Eddy Massa
Lia van Zwietering
Ine van Gorkum
Jarmila Haze & Meindert van den Heuvel
The Webb Sisters
Michael Wolkind
Miriam Meijer
deBalie & Staff

Our artists:

Patrick Leonard
Avelanche Quartet
Sharon Robinson
The New Partisans
Mallory Chipman Quartet
Francis Mus & Sophia Ammann
Huub, Henk, Harrie & Herman

and everyone else
who has supported us in somekind of way!

May you be surrounded
by family and friends
all your life,
but if this is not your lot,
may the blessing find you
in your solitude.

Leonard Cohen

(Amsterdam concert 2012)

