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Calefax Reed Quintet

Having played over 600 concerts in 20 countries, Dutch reed quintet, Calefax, is well known for its virtuoso performances, innovative programming and engaging concerts. The quintet performs standing up, and always introduces itself and the programme to the audience. Most importantly, the five musicians arrange, recompose and interpret music from eight centuries to suit their unique line-up: from early music, renaissance, baroque, and romantic works to jazz, or world premières.

So forget what you know about a traditional "wind" quintet, Calefax are a "reed" quintet and totally unique!

Calefax is recognized internationally for the quality of its ensemble playing, and has appeared widely throughout Europe, both in new music forums and in early music festivals. Calefax has been awarded the Philip Morris Art Prize (1997) and the Kersjes van de Groenekan Prize (2001), and the VSCD Classical Music Award 2005, for the best chamber music performance on Dutch venues in the 2004-2005 season. In recent years Calefax also collaborated with artists such as the Zapp String Quartet and soloists such as pianist Ivo Janssen and Cora Burggraaf (mezzo-soprano) as well as jazz singers.

The German recording label MDG issues Calefax's ever-growing discography, with consistently enthusiastic reactions from the international music press. Their latest CD to be released in late 2008, is their arrangements of Nancarrow's Studies for Player Piano. Calefax has recently explored many new territories outside their native Netherlands: Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Italy, Russia, many festivals in the UK, and even has travelled as far as China and the USA.

In addition to concerts, Calefax offer master classes and workshops for (young) amateur musicians and conservatory students. In cooperation with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Calefax developed two new shows: a musical gameshow for three or four classes of school children (presentation by Jeannie Charlene) and a family concert staged by Jetse Batelaan.

In 2004 Calefax started publishing its best arrangements in the CalefaxEDITION.

Calefax consists of:
Oliver Boekhoorn oboe
Ivar Berix clarinet
Raaf Hekkema saxophone
Jelte Althuis bass clarinet
Alban Wesly bassoon