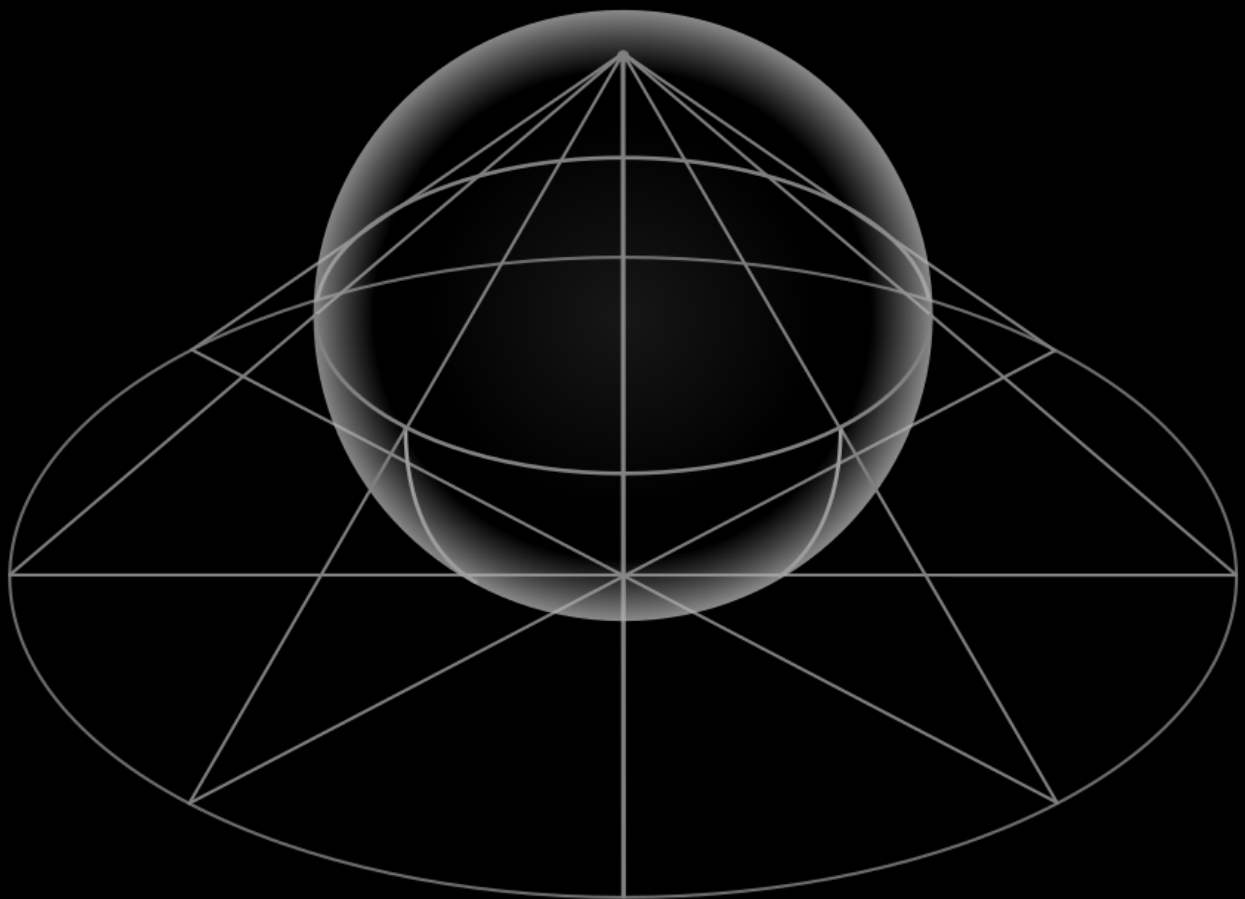


Attraverso: $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$



Petra Cini

Cryptic spaces, metamorphosis, relations.

An exploration of mathematical structures that morph into each other, the piece presents itself as a journey through ("attraverso") spaces that we can only try to imagine, of spaces that transcend our limited perception.

The listener moves within the structures as on a strange voyage, experiencing them through music.

The constant metamorphic process through mathematical spaces focuses on the essence of a central object, the mathematical Lie group $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$. The work follows a structuralist approach, describing $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ by investigating the webs of relations between other objects it hosts, and others it is connected to, in a labyrinth of contrasting sensations.

Petra Cini is a composer and pianist focusing on the creation of musical representations (metaphors) of mathematical groups analysed through the lenses of violence and purity. Her works address questions of musical rendering of abstract meaning. Alongside her main artistic objective, she engages with an exploration of the intersection of early and contemporary music and of irrational imagery and ideas. She is also concerned with the development of a rhythmic and contrapuntal sensitivity as reflected in her repertoire choices as a pianist. Her artistic output ranges from large ensemble compositions to solo performances, working both acoustically and with electronics.

Violence and Purity

26 April 2026

16:00-17:00

<https://www.muziekgebouw.nl/en/agenda/violence-and-purity-qk5s>

THE VISION

Structures, geometries, cartographies of imperceivable spaces.

The vision, the desire is to render those spaces, and the abstract objects that describe them, perceptible. I create musical metaphors of mathematical groups by revealing the sensations that can be found in them. I aim to create a musical representation theory, where the sensorial concreteness of music meets the abstraction of mathematics.

Spaces to get lost in, to meander in to live in, for a while.

Through the reformulation of concepts, through the creation of metaphors, I nourish the flexible mind.

By nourishing the flexible mind, I grasp the different ways of life, the different lenses through which reality can be perceived.

To provide new perspectives, to make the familiar or the distant known in a new way through the poetic power of the act of reformulation. This is what moves me.

THE PROCESS

To develop the vision: understand the structures.



To understand the structures: ask the mathematical questions.



To have good answers: ask great mathematicians.

The meta-mathematical framework was developed with mathematicians Eric Opdam and Raf Bocklandt from the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

THE PERFORMERS

The piece is dedicated to Nieuw Amsterdams Peil, who commissioned the piece. Thank you Gerard Bouwhuis and Heleen Hulst.

Fanny Alofs - alto

Rosina Fabius - alto

Sean Bell - countertenor

Gerard Bouwhuis - piano

Petra Cini - piano

Heleen Hulst - viola

Doris Hochscheid - cello

Mick Stirling - cello

Niels Meliefste - percussion

with electronics

MORE

Petra

Website: <https://www.petracini.it/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/petra_cini/

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@PetraCini>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/petra-cini>

Seminars:

- [2025 Special Theory x Music Seminar, Nikhef \(Amsterdam, NL\)](#)
- [2024 MaMuPhi seminar, IRCAM \(Paris, FR\)](#)
- [2023 A Meta-Musica Evening, Splendor Amsterdam \(Amsterdam, NL\)](#)

NAP

Website: <https://nieuwamsterdamspeil.com/>

Premiere at

Violence and Purity

26 April 2026

16:00-17:00

**Muziekgebouw aan 't
IJ (Amsterdam, NL)**