

# ANNE-MARIE VAN EEDEN

Singer - Songwriter - Inspirational Speaker

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## "IN 2003 HER CAREER TOOK A NEW TURN "

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Kyk Op

South African singer, songwriter and inspirational speaker, Anne-Marie van Eeden, has been living in Switzerland for over a decade. She currently resides in the town of Montreux on the shoreline of Lake Geneva. Here, in the Northern Hemisphere, she came to know the joys and challenges of putting down her roots in a new country in a Swiss-French community.

Anne-Marie studied music, with piano as her main instrument, at the University of Pretoria. After she completed her B. Mus. (Honours) Degree, she contributed widely to many cabarets and music productions as pianist and musical producer.

In 2003 her career took a new turn with the launch of her first solo album *Kyk Op*. The 13 songs on this album were initially written as a personal outlet after the tragic death of her 3-year-old son, Frederick, reflecting honest snapshots of the pain but also of the redemption and healing found in Jesus Christ. The release of this album together with her powerful testimony, led to numerous invitations and performances in South Africa and further abroad.

Her follow-up album, *Altyd Daar* in 2007, received two ATKV Lier awards: one for the best Gospel album and the other one for best new composition in Afrikaans.

Since living in Switzerland, she released a third album, aptly titled *Winter* in 2014, penning songs about her impressions of magical white winters and incorporating distinctive French-European sounds. *Winter* was nominated for a *Ghoema Award*.



Her latest album, *Verhaal* in 2020, has seen the light during the challenging time of the global Covid pandemic and was recorded and produced in Montreux by Helmut Meijer.

On all her albums, Anne-Marie, on vocals and piano, is accompanied by the cream of South African instrumentalists and since she has been living in Switzerland, also by well-known European solo artists like chromatic harmonica player, Olivier Ker-Ourio from France, and flügelhorn player, Matthieu Michel, from Switzerland.

Currently a brand new album is in the making, titled *Optelwoorde*. It largely consists of poems by Koos van der Merwe which was set to music. Koos van der Merwe (apart from being a poet) is also known for translating and recording Leonard Cohen's songs in Afrikaans. A highlight will certainly be a duet of Koos van der Merwe and Anne-Marie van Eeden, called *Ek is Hier*. Featuring cross-over classical, jazz and world music styles, her songs blend language and music to restate identity beyond barriers of origin and destiny. Anne-Marie continues to sing in her beloved mother tongue (Afrikaans) but also in English and French.



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