

Singing teacher Vinozita Vinni Simonovic is proud of her pupil Bouke Scholten

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I will never forget his very first singing lesson! His voice touched me immediately.”

A great natural talent with exceptionally high potential. He is a born artist.” That is what singing teacher Vinni Simonovic from Emmen says about the winner of The Tribute - Battle of the Bands, Bouke Scholten. As an Elvis impersonator, Bouke made a big impression on experts and the public during the TV program in recent months. Singing teacher Vinni Simonovic - graduated from the Prince Claus Conservatory in Groningen - has more than 20 years of experience in coaching huge numbers of singing students worldwide. She immediately recognized the talent of the singer: During his very first singing lesson I was so impressed that it made me emotional.”



About that very first lesson: There I was, a very young singing teacher, with moist eyes from emotion. With all my might I tried to prevent tears from flowing freely. How beautiful it sounded! His voice really hit me right away. I could hardly believe that such a pupil came to my singing school. And he was one of my first singing students!”

Determined mindset

The year is 2002. As a beginning singer, Bouke first came to singing lessons with Vinni Simonovic in Emmen. He continued to attend classes regularly for several years. From the first moment, his calm and respectful demeanor, as well as his very goal-oriented and determined mindset, stood out,” says the singing teacher. He was eager to learn and he really did something with the tips. He was a good student. I always try to build something with my students from a love of music.” He had already expressed the wish to give a concert himself. That wish has certainly come true. So

far, all his concerts are almost sold out, including four Ziggo Dome concerts and the Royal Park concert at Soestdijk Palace.

Successes

Other students of Vinni Simonovic have also achieved considerable success in recent years, such as Astrid Kunst (winner of Rock Nation, top 10 hit with the band Stereo, title song of the film *Terug Naar De Kust*), Christel Peters (title song of the Hollywood film *jump!* with Patrick Swayze) , Isa Black a.k.a. ISZA (winner of the Culture Prize 2017, winner of the Suns Europe audience award in Italy), Melissa Scherpen (two top 5 hits with the girl group Triple) and many others.

I have been very proud of Bouke for many years. I tell him that every time we meet in Emmen and the surrounding area. And now I am indescribably happy, because he really more than deserved this great success... not only as a phenomenal singing talent with great perseverance, but also as a sincere, pure and sweet person! That is also why I wholeheartedly wish him this success.”

Elusive balance

Vinni Simonovic points to a very specific characteristic of Bouke and that is the elusive balance between self-confidence and genuine modesty. He has also managed to maintain that, which is extremely rare in the entertainment business. He was aware of his fantastic talent and potential from the start, but also knew his (then) weaker points. This self-knowledge, in combination with the deep-rooted love for singing, are in my view the foundations of true self-confidence.” According to the singing teacher, only someone with that real self-confidence is able to be and remain genuinely modest. Such a person does not look for confirmation outside himself, but remains in his own inner strength. In this way he is a natural inspiration for everyone,

to be able to stand in their lives as well. Bouke's level-headedness from Drenthe naturally also contributes to that.”

Nowadays, vocal coach Vinni Simonovic gives online singing lessons (wellbeing-coaching.com/singing) for everyone in the Netherlands and abroad - also because she often travels, including to Crete. There she often works together with the Convention Center Mikis Theodorakis: one of the largest event halls in all of Greece. At the moment we are in talks with Viking Entertainment, the management of Bouke, to organize one or a series of concerts in Crete later on. That would be wonderful...”

Inspiration for us all

Bouke's success is proof that perseverance really does win. It is also an affirmation that having love, and experiencing joy in whatever you do - coupled with genuine gratitude for all that is already there in your life - can be one of the greatest personal victories. And achievable for each of us. Bouke has proven that”, concludes the passionate singing teacher.