

Somersault | Artist Biography

[Pre-listen to 'Hypersomnia' here.](#)

July 2020 version [English - Dutch version available on request].

Born out of a love for string instruments, ambient band **Somersault** creates an orchestral sound that moves between post-classical compositions and atypical explorations. The project around composer, musician and vocalist **Pim ten Have**, based in The Netherlands, goes beyond traditional genre boundaries. It utilises composition and carefully arranged instrumentation, as well as occasional but laden vocal performances. Speaking on the driving force behind the project, ten Have explains how being a young adult, as well as working with children, gave rise to his philosophical outlook, which he has tried to convey in the music: *'It's an internal juxtaposition of a contemporary lack of structure and security I see in people from my generation, and making sense of the rich world around us. Two things formed important input for the album: Firstly, the grandeur and majesty I find in orchestral sound - composition-wise reflecting this existential experience - a sensing of what some thinkers have called the Sublime. Secondly, working with children reminded me of their open-heartedness, their lack of prejudice and hopefulness. These attitudes stand in stark contrast with the generational vertigo I experience and see around me. I strive to convey a sense of recognition and hope through my music.'*

Interestingly, the compositional process itself serves as a metaphor for this process of searching - an interplay between finding structure, wanting control over it, and letting go of fear by surrendering to creativity and practicing trust in the process. Through Somersault, ten Have searches for *new* forms of structure, truth and beauty. The journey as such is translated into his own musical universe. The mini orchestra designed by him captures the grandeur of the issues addressed, simultaneously perfecting the ability to touch the soul with surgical precision.

Following the 2018 release of a self-titled debut EP, the formation brought ten Have's compositions to life in Dutch live settings such as **Grasnapolsky**, **Dutch Design Week** and **Pieces of Tomorrow**, as well as receiving support from platforms such as the 'Dutch Classic FM' **NPO Radio 4**. In 2019, the group went back into the studio with acclaimed producer **Maarten Vos**, known for his work with Joep Beving, amongst others. The result is the 5 track album **'Hypersomnia'**, a collection of carefully composed, stretched out musical pieces that offer an immersive experience to the listener. When it comes to influences, names such as Arvo Pärt and Henryk Górecki come to mind, although fans of alternative dreampop/rock and shoegaze bands such as Slowdive are also likely to find points of recognition. Like so many musical projects, the release was delayed and complicated by the worldwide Covid-19 crisis. However, **'The Closer to Death/the More Alive'** ([watch here](#)), due for release on **24 July**, will be the first of two singles (both accompanied by a short-film music video) that will come out in the run up to the full album release.

- Words by Marieke McKenna

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