

POW ENSEMBLE PLAYS

# STEIN

YOU KNOW GERTRUDE STEIN,  
THE GREAT AMERICAN WRITER, DON'T YOU?



website:  
[tenderbuttons.nl](http://tenderbuttons.nl)



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# STEIN

A show, based on Gertrude Stein's book *Tender Buttons*



GERTRUDE STEIN IN 1935

## GERTRUDE STEIN (1874 – 1946)

Was an American writer of novels, poetry and plays. Born in West Allegheny, Pennsylvania and raised in Oakland, California, Stein moved to Paris in 1903, and lived there with her lover Alice B. Toklas for the rest of her life. A literary innovator and pioneer of Modernist literature, Stein's work broke with the narrative, linear, and temporal conventions of 19th-century.

Not only did Gertrude Stein write the famous  
“Rose is a rose is a rose is a rose”  
but many more beautiful, poetic lines.  
What about this, written 100 years ago:

***Elephant beaten with candy and little pops and  
chews all bolts and reckless reckless rats, this is this.***

and:

***A little monkey goes like a donkey that means to  
say that means to say that more sighs last goes.  
Leave with it. A little monkey goes like a donkey.***

These texts may sound a little cryptic, and yes, they are! Those texts are meant to have no meaning. They concentrate on the beauty of the poem itself and its construction, similar to a cubist or an abstract painting.

Stein composes with words.

To us, the POW Ensemble, these texts demand to be sung, to be put to music.

**AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT  
WE ARE GOING TO DO**

## THE SHOW

Composer Luc Houtkamp has written a show based on Gertrude Stein's poems, comprising beautiful songs, instrumental intermezzi and improvisations. The songs are closely following the texts and rhythms, and have a humorous and playful character. Some songs are ultra-short and cryptic, others are lengthy, confusing, just like Stein's texts themselves. The POW Ensemble musicians make them into a light, accessible and extremely varied show that will be enjoyed by music and literature lovers alike.



## POW ENSEMBLE

We are the POW Ensemble, an experimental music group from The Netherlands. We have an open-minded view towards contemporary music.

In our 13 years of existence we have been influenced by collaboration with performers from very different backgrounds: jazz and rock musicians, tap dancers, writers, DJ's, classical virtuosos, and experimental electronic composers.

## TENDER BUTTONS (1914)

Tender Buttons is Gertrude Stein's second published book and the first one in which she composes with words and grammar, a way of relating with text, which became so characteristic for her. Stein's poetry-prose, 100 years old, is alive and kicking, powerful, innovatory and full of humorous language games, enigmatic, and sometimes confusing as well.

STEPHANIE PAN - VOCALS, KEYBOARDS   PETER KUIT - TAP DANCE  
AXEL SCHAPPERT - TUBA   LUC HOUTKAMP - SAXOPHONES, COMPUTER



## Roastbeef the video clip

In the summer of 2014, we made the first recording for the production STEIN, the song Roastbeef.

Video artist Tessa Joose produced the video clip that we released on a limited edition DVD.

You can watch the clip on Youtube:

[youtu.be/qN8ITTzVwDw](https://youtu.be/qN8ITTzVwDw)



GABRIEL KOUSBROEK'S IMPRESSION OF ROASTBEEF, ONE OF THE SONGS FROM STEIN



Available for performances, starting September 2015

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