

## **Dirk Van Esbroeck**

Paul Rans and Wiet Van de Leest worked for a while as *Duo Rum* in the early seventies, but after Dirk Van Esbroeck joined them they really got going as a trio and produced their first recorded album.

Dirk grew up in Argentina which meant he added a touch of Latin to the band. He also sang Argentinian songs with guitarist Juan Masondo who later also joined *Rum*. Separately from *Rum*, Dirk started his quartet *Tango Al Sur* which included bandoneon player Alfredo Marcucci.

Paul left *Rum* for good in 1978/79 and Wiet a year or two later, but Dirk continued with a totally new version of *Rum*. He also started setting Dutch and Flemish poetry to music and thus developed a brand new repertoire which became very popular.

In 2005 the old *Rum* trio reformed and toured successfully with the girl band *Laïs*.

Sadly, however, Dirk Van Esbroeck died of cancer on 23 May 2007, one week before his 61st birthday.

His musical friends - and there were many - gave a number of concerts as a moving tribute to Dirk. The full houses and the immense public interest made it clear how popular and how loved he was. His music, his songs and all the good memories make sure his spirit will live on.