

Every few weeks the boys behind Dutch record label Samling Recordings get together to discuss upcoming releases. Their expanding catalogue is characterized not so much by genre but rather by an indefinable atmosphere. We joined the four friends – who are also active in Herrek, Mike Koldin and Luik – at their headquarters in Rotterdam and tried to find out more about the Samling sound

Interview by Brenda Bosma. Photos by Xiao Xiao Xu. The photo of Lukas Dikker was made by Merel Visser

What were the reasons for starting a label together?

Lukas: 'A few years ago we organised so called "Kats" evenings in Leeuwarden, the city where we all studied, and later continued in a living room in Utrecht. We played there ourselves, asked friends to perform, recorded the show and burned CD copies which we sold afterwards. In June 2010 as a result of that, Samling was born. It coincided with the release of the *LUIK* EP.'

Gerrit: 'There was so much going on in our circle of friends; side projects, interesting collaborations. We realised we all had the same taste in

music and wanted to give that a place.'

Keimpe: 'In Frisian "Samling" means collective. That exactly describes what we are.'

Lucas: 'There's also this scene from a movie where someone shouts "Samling!" In the subtitles it reads "truth". I looked it up, unfortunately it was translated wrong.'

Wouter: 'That's from *Offret* by Tarkovski.'

Would you consider yourselves as guardians of a certain sound?

Wouter: 'I consider Samling more as a snapshot of a certain period of time.'



'I guess what it all boils down to is that you share a certain feeling'



Clockwise from top left: Gerrit van der Scheer, Keimpe Koldijk, Lukas Dikker and Wouter Venema,