

Pieterskerk Leiden - Organ Masterclasses 2022-2023

Search for a junior organist-in-residence

The Pieterskerk Leiden is looking for young talented organists for the position of junior organist-in-residence. To this end, the Pieterskerk Leiden is organizing an organ masterclass in two parts: part 1 (November 2022) & part 2 (March 2023). There is room for a maximum of four candidates, who must be available in both periods. The junior organist-in-residence will be appointed for a maximum period of two years.

Admission to Organ Masterclasses 2022-2023

You can register for the masterclasses from Monday 1 August 2022 via the website of the Pieterskerk Leiden. The closing date for registration is Monday 19 September 2022. The selection of participants will take place before October 1st 2022.

The selection criteria for the masterclasses 2022-2023 for the junior organist-in-residence are:

- In possession of an organ bachelor;
- The age limit is 30 years in 2023;
- Submit a complete CV including address and telephone number;
- Submit a vision paper on the possible position of a junior organist-in-residence (max. 1 A4);
- Submit MP3-files with recordings of your own, playing the following works:
 - Sweelinck – Fantasia of your choice
 - Buxtehude – a Praeludium or Toccata pedal of your choice
 - Scheidemann – of your choice
 - A Toccate of your choice from: Frescobaldi, Rossi or Merulo
- Language during the masterclasses is English;
- Attendance at both masterclass periods:
 - Masterclass part 1 - Friday 11 to Monday 14 November 2022
 - Masterclass part 2 - Friday 03 to Monday 06 March 2023
- The search for and the costs of accommodation in Leiden are the responsibility of the candidates. Lunch and dinner are provided by the Pieterskerk Leiden.

The organs of the Pieterskerk Leiden

The Pieterskerk Leiden has two unique organs. The Van Hagerbeer organ on the west facade and the Thomas Hill organ in the south ambulatory. These organs, each with their own character and specific possibilities, contribute in a special way to the unique organ map of Leiden: an authentic Dutch city organ from the 17th century and a large English organ, together in one monument. During the masterclasses most of the attention will be on playing the Van Hagerbeer organ. However, it is important to involve both organs in the vision paper.

Van Hagerbeer organ

Around 1446 an organ was built against the west facade of the Pieterskerk Leiden, by the organ builder Jacob van Bilsteyn. About 100 of the current pipes come from that organ and are among the oldest sounding organ pipes in the world. In 1639 a renovation of the organ was started by father and son Van Hagerbeer. Between 1994-1998 a restoration and reconstruction took place, carried out by Verschueren Orgelbouw. The Van Hagerbeer organ is the only surviving large Dutch city organ from the 17th century, with meantone tuning.

Thomas Hill organ

This organ was built in 1883 by the famous English organ builder Thomas Hill and is largely still in its original condition. The organ is placed in the south ambulatory with the main front with the console on the side of the transept and crossing. This location was chosen with care. It is not only the most suitable place from a technical sound point of view, there are also historical reasons: the choir organ, which moved to the Marekerk in 1733, used to be located in the same spot. This English organ from London was purchased in 1990 and thoroughly restored in 2011 by Elbertse Orgelmakers from Soest.

The selection committee

Leon Berben (1970)

In both weeks, Léon Berben will guide the candidates artistically during the masterclasses. As a harpsichordist and organist, Berben can be considered a master of his art. His extensive knowledge of musical history and historical performance practices make him one of the leading figures among musicians of his generation. At the beginning of 2022 Léon Berben has made a CD recording on the Van Hagerbeer organ with the work of Anthonie van Noordt. This new organ CD will be presented at the end of 2022.

Jan Verschuren (1962)

In addition to his electrical engineering studies at Eindhoven University of Technology, Verschuren studied organ at the Lemmens Institute in Leuven and the Utrecht Conservatory. Jan Verschuren is titular organist of Leiden University and of the Hartebrugkerk in Leiden. In the Pieterskerk Leiden, Verschuren provides regular performances on both organs, together with the university organists.

Frieke Hurkmans (1959)

Since 2010, Frieke Hurkmans is the managing director of the Pieterskerk Leiden Foundation. With her extensive experience in cultural management, she knows how to balance the three pillars of the monument: the maintenance and management of the monument, the historic and the museum content and lastly, optimizing the earning capacity.