

## Pieterskerk Leiden - Organ Masterclasses 2024-2025

*Search for the second junior-organist-in-residence (up to 35 years old)*

The Pieterskerk Leiden is seeking young organ talent for the position of *junior-organist-in-residence* from spring 2025 to spring 2027.

To make a selection the Pieterskerk Leiden will organize an **Organ Masterclass Audition** consisting of two parts: part 1 will take place from **Friday 22 November to Monday 25 November 2024** and part 2 from **Friday 4 April to Monday 7 April 2025**.

There is space for a maximum of three candidates, who must be available during both periods. The Masterclass Audition, (primarily) conducted on the van Hagerbeer organ, is under the artistic direction of *senior-organist-in-residence* Léon Berben.

### Admission to Organ Masterclass Audition 2024-2025

Registering for the masterclass audition for the search for a *junior-organist-in-residence* is possible starting Monday 5 August 2024, via the Pieterskerk Leiden website via [this link](#).

The deadline for registration is Sunday 22 September 2024. A selection of participants will be made before 10 October 2024.

The selection criteria for the Masterclass Audition 2024-2025 for the *junior-organist-in-residence* are:

- In possession of a bachelor degree in organ music;
- The age limit is a maximum of 35 years old in 2025;
- Submission of a complete CV, including address and telephone number;
- Submission of a vision statement with a proposal for the residency (max. 1 A4);
- Digital submission of recordings of own performance, including:
  - Sweelinck – Fantasia of choice
  - Buxtehude – a Praeludium or Toccata pedaliter of choice
  - Scheidemann – a work of choice
  - A Toccata of choice from: Frescobaldi, Rossi or Merulo
  - A work of choice
- Giving a concert with an audience on **Sunday 6 April 2025** is part of the audition;
- Presence during both masterclass periods:
  - Masterclass Audition part 1 - Friday 22 to Monday 25 November 2024
  - Masterclass Audition part 2 - Friday 4 to Monday 7 April 2025
- The Pieterskerk Leiden supports the **Diversity & Inclusion Code**. We are interested in you, your personal motivation, and your contribution to our team;
- English will be the spoken language during the masterclasses;
- Candidates are responsible for arranging and covering the costs of accommodation. Lunch and dinner will be 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 southern 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 attention will be on playing the Van Hagerbeer organ. However, it is important to devote attention to both organs in the vision statement.

### *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 a 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 southern 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 perspective, 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 and guidance committee

### **Léon Berben (1970)**

During both weekends 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 make him one of the leading figures among musicians of his generation. At the beginning of 2022 Léon Berben made a CD recording on the Van Hagerbeer organ with works by Anthonie van Noordt. The CD received very favorable reviews in the (international) press. During the entire period of appointment of the *junior-organist-in-residence*, Berben will also provide artistic guidance.

### **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.

### **Nicole Theeuwes (1966)**

Since 2023 Nicole Theeuwes works at the Pieterskerk Leiden Foundation as head of culture and exploitation. With her broad experience in the museum sector she knows how to balance the three foremost pillars of the monument: the maintenance and restoration of the monument, sharing knowledge of its history and art collection and, lastly, the optimization of earning potential.