



Junior Organist-in-Residence 2027–2030



A Unique Opportunity for Young Organists

Do you dream of working for three years with two of the most remarkable historic organs in the Netherlands? Would you like to develop your artistic talents under the guidance of an internationally acclaimed organist while performing at one of Europe's most iconic heritage venues?

Pieterskerk Leiden is seeking its third Junior Organist-in-Residence for the period from September 2027 to September 2030. This exceptional residency offers a unique combination of artistic development, performance opportunities, coaching, and engagement with cultural heritage.

Organ Masterclass & Audition

The selection process consists of an exclusive two-part Organ Masterclass & Audition under the artistic direction of Senior Organist-in-Residence Léon Berben. The masterclasses will take place on the world-renowned Van Hagerbeer Organ of the Pieterskerk Leiden. A maximum of three candidates will be admitted, and participants must be available for both sessions in their entirety.

Part I: Friday 27 – Monday 30 November 2026

Part II: Friday 9 – Monday 12 April 2027

In addition to individual lessons, the programme includes workshops by Johan Zoutendijk (Director, Verschueren Orgelbouw) and Jan Verschuren (University Organist of Leiden), complemented by cultural excursions.

The Junior Organist in Residence will also be introduced to the core team of Pieterskerk Leiden. This team is responsible for the maintenance of the monument, planning, sales, marketing, communications, and historical research.



What the Residency Offers

- Three years of study and performance opportunities
- Intensive artistic coaching by Léon Berben
- Access to two exceptional historic organs
- Space to develop personal artistic projects
- An inspiring international working and learning environment
- Professional mentoring by the Managing Director of Pieterskerk Leiden

Performance fees are paid in accordance with current professional standards. Stichting Pieterskerk Leiden endorses the [Fair Practice Code](#) and is committed to a fair, sustainable, and transparent professional practice. Pieterskerk Leiden also subscribes to the [Dutch Code for Diversity & Inclusion](#) and warmly encourages candidates from all backgrounds to apply.



Orgels in de Pieterskerk Leiden

Van Hagerbeer Organ

Around 1446, Jacob van Bilsteyn built an organ against the west wall of Pieterskerk. Approximately one hundred pipes from this instrument still survive and rank among the oldest playable organ pipes in the world. In 1639, the organ was rebuilt by father and son Van Hagerbeer. Between 1994 and 1998 it was restored and reconstructed by Verschueren Orgelbouw. Today it is regarded as the only surviving large seventeenth-century Dutch city organ preserved in meantone temperament.

Thomas Hill Organ

Built in 1883 by the renowned English organ builder Thomas Hill, this instrument remains in an almost entirely original state and is an outstanding example of the English Romantic organ tradition.

It was acquired by Pieterskerk Leiden in 1990 and comprehensively restored by Elbertse Orgelmakers in 2011



Artistic Supervision

Léon Berben provides artistic guidance throughout both audition weekends and during the full residency. As an internationally acclaimed organist and harpsichordist, he is recognised as one of the foremost specialists in historical performance practice.

Jan Verschuren studied at the Lemmens Institute in Leuven and the Utrecht Conservatory. He is University Organist of Leiden University and titular organist of the Hartebrugkerk, playing a central role in Leiden's organ culture.

Sebastiaan Lagendaal serves as a member of the coaching and selection committee.



Application

Applications open on 15 July 2026 via the Pieterskerk Leiden website.

Application deadline: 1 September 2026.

Selected candidates will be announced before 1 October 2026.

Admission Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Organ Performance
- Currently studying at a conservatoire or recently graduated
- Previous applicants are welcome to apply again

Important Conditions

- Performing a public concert on Sunday, 11 April 2027 forms part of the audition
 - Attendance on all days of both masterclasses is mandatory
 - Working languages: Dutch and English
 - Accommodation costs are the responsibility of the candidate.
 - Lunch and dinner will be provided by Pieterskerk Leiden

Required Documents

PDF documents:

1. Full curriculum vitae, including address and telephone number
2. Statement of vision (maximum one A4 page) outlining how you intend to shape the residency, the projects you wish to develop, and your learning objectives.

Audio recording:

1. Sweelinck – Fantasia of your choice.
2. Buxtehude – Praeludium or Toccata pedaliter of your choice.
3. A Toccata by Frescobaldi, Rossi, or Merulo.
4. A work of your own choice.

Are you an ambitious young organist eager to deepen your expertise in historical performance practice, concert performance, and cultural heritage? We warmly invite you to apply for the position of Junior Organist-in-Residence at Pieterskerk Leiden for the 2027–2030 residency.

Do you have any questions? Visit pieterskerk.com/masterclass for more information and to apply.

