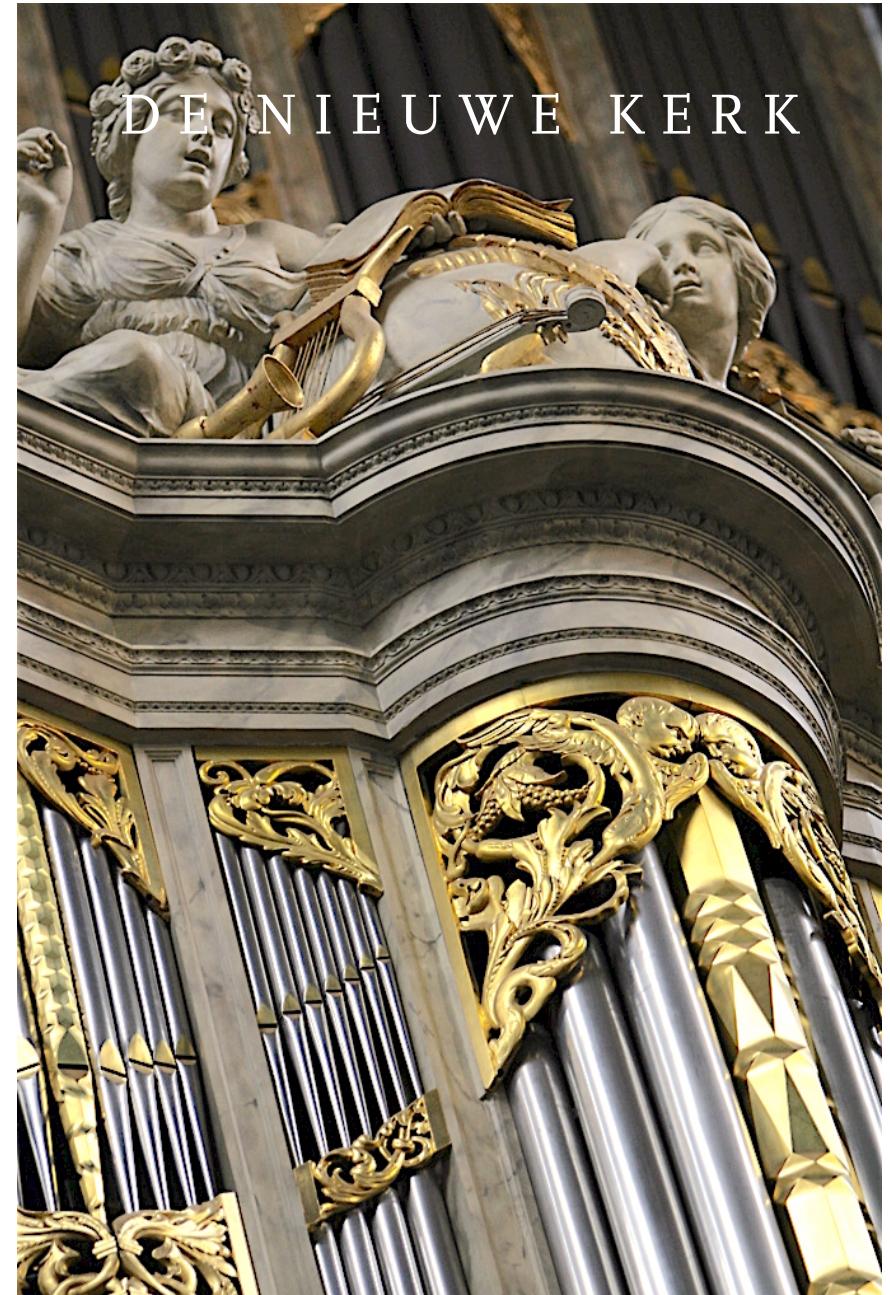


The Nieuwe Kerk ('New Church') was begun around 1400, for the newly founded parish on the west bank of the river Amstel. Subordinated first to the Oude Kerk ('Old Church'), the Nieuwe Kerk grew in importance and after 1578, when the city took the side of the Reformation, it became Amsterdam's main religious building. Ever since the seventeenth century the church was used not only for services, but also for official events, such as, since 1813, royal weddings and inaugurations. The church lost its religious function in 1957, at the start of the great restoration that was finished in 1980.

In 1645 the interior of the church was largely destroyed by fire. At the time Amsterdam was at the summit of its power, and the city magistrates were able to hire the best artists to renew the church's furniture. A new main organ was built by Hans Wolff Schonat, in a case designed by Jacob van Campen, the architect of the Town Hall (now Royal Palace). The shutters are the masterpiece of Jan Gerritsz. van Bronckhorst. The organ was finished in 1655, and in 1668-1673 the organ builders Hagerbeer and Duyschot added a 'bovenwerk' and six stops to the 'rugpositief'. The organ was restored in 1840 by Bätz and in 1976-1981 by Marcussen.

Today the organ has 48 stops on three manuals and pedal. It has 5005 pipes, mostly from the seventeenth century, among them five complete 'reeds', such as the famous Vox Humana stop. The original 'spring' chests are still functioning, as do large parts of the mechanical action. The case with the painted shutters is a monument in itself. The whole may be regarded as the most important seventeenth-century organ in existence, one of the finest instruments in the world.



REITZE SMITS studeerde orgel, clavecimbel, improvisatie, compositie en muzikwetenschap. Hij won prijzen bij verscheidene concoursen, en geeft concerten in binnen- en buitenland Hij is hoofdvakdocent orgel aan de conservatoria van Utrecht en Leuven. Hij was organist in Breukelen en Zaltbommel, en momenteel in de Grote Kerk van Vianen. Reitze Smits maakte enkele cd-opnamen waarin hij de raakvlakken tussen het repertoire voor verschillende toets- instrumenten verkende; hij speelde onder andere de klavier- toccata's van Bach, en piano- werken van Schubert en Mendels- sohn op het orgel. In 2010 ontving hij de Sweelinckprijs voor zijn verdiensten voor de orgelcultuur.

Reitze Smits studied organ, harpsichord, improvisation, composition and musicology. He won prizes at various contests, and gives concerts in the Netherlands and abroad. He teaches at the conservatories of Utrecht and Louvain. He was organist in Breukelen and Zaltbommel, and at the moment in the Grote Kerk of Vianen. Reitze Smits recorded a number of cd's, in which he explored meeting-points in the repertoire for various keyboard instruments; in that context he played Bach's harpsichord toccata's and piano works of Schubert and Mendelssohn on the organ. In 2010 he was awarded the Sweelinck-prize for his contributions to the Dutch organ culture.

The next concerts in De Nieuwe Kerk:

organ recital – Fri 8 Sept, 12.30-13.00 h., Bernard Winsemius

organ concert – Tue 12 Sept, 19.30-20.30 h., Bernard Winsemius

ORGELCONCERT
dinsdag 5 september 2023, 19.30 uur

REITZE SMITS

VINCENT LÜBECK, 1656–1740

Preludium in d

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ (koraalfantasie)

REITZE SMITS, *1956

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