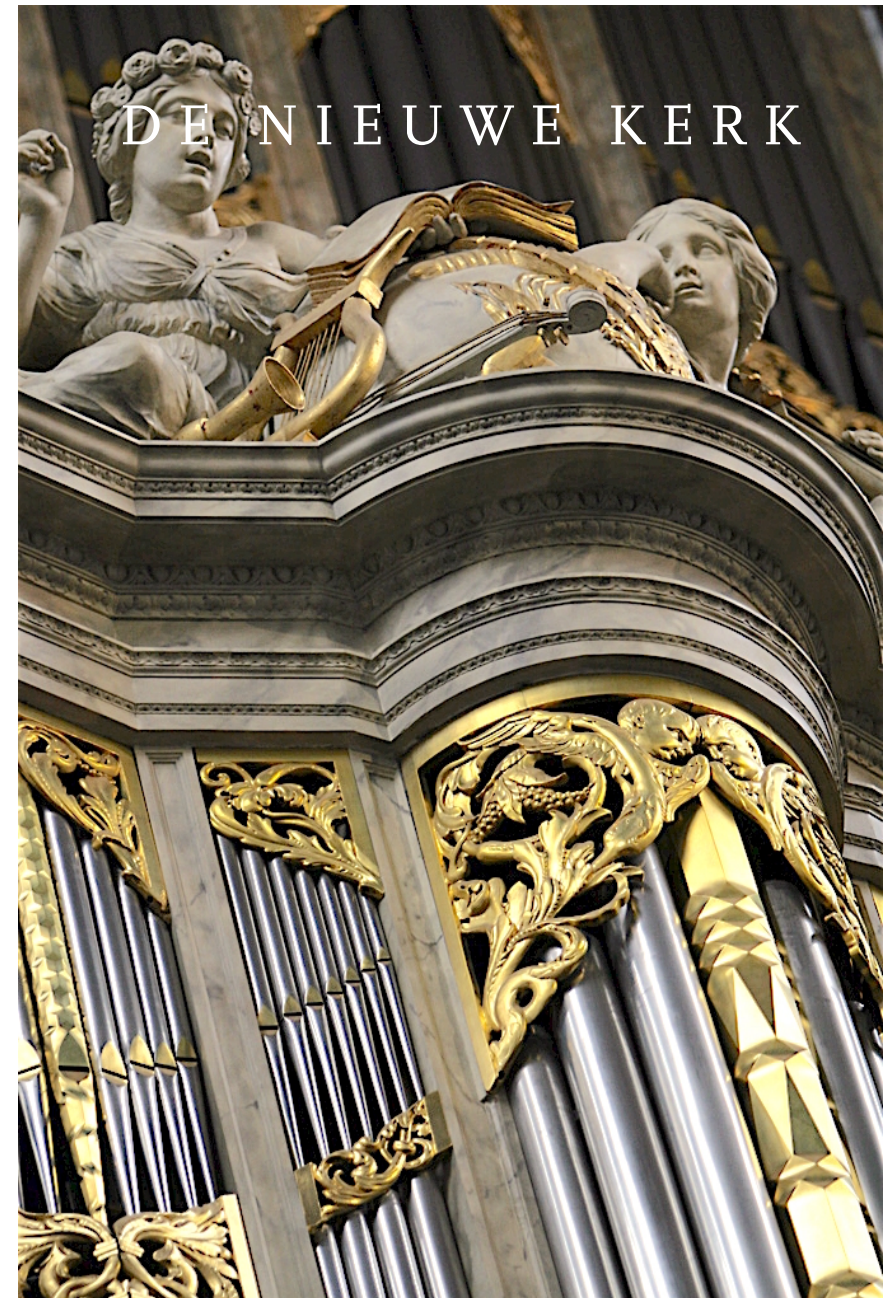


The Nieuwe Kerk was begun around 1400, for the newly founded parish on the west bank of the river Amstel, and dedicated to Saint Catherine. Subordinated at first to the Oude Kerk, the Nieuwe Kerk grew in importance and after 1578, when the city took the side of the Reformation, it became Amsterdam's 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 which 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', the famous *Vox Humana* being one of them. 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.



HENK VERHOEF studeerde in Amsterdam en Parijs. Hij werd prijswinnaar bij verscheidene concoursen, en geeft vele concerten in en buiten Nederland. Hij is organist en beiaardier van de Vrije Universiteit en beiaardier van Woerden, Ootmarsum en Monnickendam. Voor zijn werk in de laatste stad ontving hij in 2023 de prestigieuze prijs 'De Monnick'. Voor de Stichting Nederlandse Orgelmonografieën redigeerde hij monografieën over de Nieuwe Kerk, het Garrels-orgel van Purmerend en het oude orgel van de Utrechtse Nicolaikerk. Als adviseur is hij betrokken bij de restauratie van historische orgels, beiaarden en luidklokken, momenteel onder andere bij het gelui van de Antwerpse Onze Lieve Vrouwekathedraal. Hij is organist van de Nieuwe Kerk.

Henk Verhoef studied in Amsterdam and Paris. He won prizes at several competitions, and plays many concerts in the Netherlands and abroad. He is organist and carillonneur of the Vrije Universiteit, and carillonneur of Woerden, Ootmarsum and Monnickendam, which town awarded him the prestigious prize 'De Monnick' in 2023. He edited monographs on the Nieuwe Kerk, on Purmerend and on the medieval organ of Utrecht. He also acts as consultant in building and restoration of organs, bells and carillons. In that capacity he currently works at the restoration of the bells in Antwerp Cathedral. He is organist of the Nieuwe Kerk.

Komende orgelconcerten in de Nieuwe Kerk (di 19:30 u.):
Upcoming concerts in the Nieuwe Kerk (Tue 19:30 h.):
18 juni - Peter van der Zwaag
25 juni - Bernard Winsemius

ORGELCONCERT
dinsdag 11 juni 2024, 19.30 uur

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