



PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT 4 June 2014

**International Haarlem Organ Festival**  
**12-26 July 2014**  
**50 festivals and still pushing back frontiers**

The fiftieth Haarlem International Organ Festival will take place in July 2014. The festival programme includes world premières and has a particular accent on many types of improvisation. The theme for the finale of the renowned Improvisation Competition has been written by Louis Andriessen. Other competition assignments have been commissioned from Roderik de Man, Marcel Wierckx and Hans Haselböck. With its focus on modern, concert improvisation (the competition) and an organ repertoire of five centuries (the SummerAcademy and recitals), over the years 'Haarlem' has built up an adventurous reputation. More than 40 public events offer a broad public the opportunity to enjoy the organ in all its facets.

During the **Haarlem Organ Day** on **Saturday 12 July** – the upbeat to the festival – short recitals will be given at a number of locations in the historical centre of Haarlem. The Stadsorganists will take festival visitors to four organs (including the Müller organ in St Bavo's), climaxing in the afternoon recital by the French virtuoso Louis Robilliard in the R.C. Cathedral of St Bavo. Beyond the walls of the churches, ensemble Windstreken will perform its very own idiosyncratic repertoire of partly improvised music with medieval and Arabic roots, while Dirk Luijmes and the brothers Martijn and Stefan Blaak will perform Simeon ten Holt's *Canto Ostinato*.

On **Tuesday evening 15 July the festive anniversary recital** in St Bavo's will be given by Ton Koopman and Olivier Latry. Two world-famous but greatly different organists: Koopman the Baroque specialist and Latry the interpreter of Romantic and modern music. At the recital the anniversary volume *The Haarlem Essays* will be presented. The festival ends on 26 July with the world première of Hugues Dufourt's *These livid flames*. In between, the programmes of the many recitals embrace more than 500 years of organ repertoire.

A special anniversary guest is the celebrated Italian organist Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini. Now aged eighty-five, this pioneer of the rediscovery of Italian organ culture returns to Haarlem after an absence of many years to teach and to share a recital with the Viennese organist Michael Radulescu. This celebrity recital will take place on **Thursday evening 17 July** in the Nieuwe Kerk in Haarlem.

During the preliminary rounds of the International Improvisation Competition on 14 and 16 July eight organists from five countries will improvise fully fledged pieces of music on the world-famous eighteenth-century Müller organ in St Bavo's church and the Cavaillé-Coll organ in the Philharmonie concert hall. The **final round** will be held on **Friday evening 18 July** on the Müller organ. The competition will be judged by an international jury of five.

The complete programme and extensive information are available on [www.organfestival.nl](http://www.organfestival.nl).

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**Editorial note:** for more information, photos and interviews, please contact  
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