

## DVD

### Film 'Martinikerk Rondeau'

Director / Editor: Will Fraser

Lighting / Camera: Simon Still

With

Cor Edskes

Bernhardt Edskes

Jürgen Ahrend

Jan Jongepier

Reint Wobbes

Sietze de Vries

## Sietze de Vries bespeelt historische orgels van de provincie Groningen

### CD I

#### Het orgel van de Martinikerk te Groningen

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750):*

[01] Fantasia G-dur BWV 572 (Pièce d'Orgue)\*

[02] Geïmproviseerde zetting 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland'

[03] 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland' a 2 Clav. Et Pedale BWV 659

[04] 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland' a due Bassi et Canto fermo BWV 660

[05] 'Nun komm der Heiden Heiland' in Organo pleno Canto fermo in Pedale BWV 661

[06-08] Toccata, Adagio und Fuge C-dur BWV564

[09-20] Partite diverse sopra 'Sei begrüßet, Jesu gütig' BWV 768

*Sietze de Vries (\*1973):*

[21-26] Improvisatie: 'Jesus, meine Zuversicht' (6 versus)

*\* gespeeld door Wim van Beek*

## CD II

### De orgels van Krewerd, Zeerijp, Midwolde, Kantens, Noordwolde en de Pelstergasthuiskerk te Groningen

*Susanne van Soldt Manuscript (anonymus, 16<sup>e</sup> eeuw):*

[01] Almande de La nonette

*Sietze de Vries:*

[02-07] Geïmproviseerde variaties op 'Almande de La nonette' ('Von Gott will ich nicht lassen')

*Sietze de Vries:*

[08] Geïmproviseerde zetting 'Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott'

*Heinrich Scheidemann (±1595-1663):*

[09-10] 'Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott' (2 versus)

*Sietze de Vries:*

[11-15] Improvisatie Psalm 84 (5 versus)

*Antonio de Cabezon (1510-1566):*

[16] Diferencias sobre la gallarda milanese

*Sietze de Vries:*

[17-22] Improvisatie: variaties op 'Komt vrienden in het ronden'

*Jan Pietersz. Sweelinck (1562-1621):*

[23] Est-ce mars

*Sietze de Vries:*

[24-27] Improvisatie Psalm 31 (4 versus)

*Franz Tunder (1614-1667):*

[28] Praeludium in g

*Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707):*

[29-30] 'Ach Gott und Herr' (2 versus) BuxWV 177

*Sietze de Vries:*

[31-35] Improvisatie Psalm 100 (5 versus)

*Matthias Weckmann (±1616 – 1674):*

[36-38] Ach wir armen Sünder (3 versus)

*Sietze de Vries:*

[39-45] Improvisatie Psalm 136 (7 versus)

## CD III

### De orgels van Noordbroek, Nieuw-Scheemda, Uithuizen en Appingedam

*Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707):*

[01] Praeludium g-moll BuxWV 148

*Sietze de Vries (\*1973):*

[02-08] Improvisatie Psalm 47 (7 versus)

*Johann Adam Reincken (1643-1722)*

[09] Fuga g-moll

*Sietze de Vries:*

[10-14] Improvisatie over het Magnificat (5 versus)

*Dietrich Buxtehude:*

[15] Praeludium C-dur BuxWV 137

*Sietze de Vries:*

[16-21] Improvisatie: Psalm 42 ('Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele') (6 versus)

*Heinrich Scheidemann (ca.1595-1663):*

[22] Praelambulum d-moll

[23] 'Jesu, wollst uns weisen'

*Sietze de Vries:*

[24-30] Improvisatie: 'Lob Gott getrost mit Singen' (7 versus)

## CD IV

### De orgels van Leens, Zandeweer, Loppersum en Nieuwolda

*Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697):*

[01] Praeludium e-moll

*Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750):*

[02] 'Wir glauben all' an einen Gott' (a 2 Claviers con Pedale doppio) BWV 765

*Sietze de Vries (\*1973):*

[03-07] Improvisatie 'Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten' (5 versus)

*Sietze de Vries:*

[08] geïmproviseerde zetting Psalm 23

*Jan Pietersz. Sweelinck (1562-1621):*

[09-11] Psalm 23 'Mein hütter undt mein hirt' (3 versus)

*Sietze de Vries:*

[12-15] Improvisatie Psalm 123 (4 versus)

*Johann Ludwig Krebs (1717-1780):*

[16-17] Jesu, meine Freude (2 versus)

*Sietze de Vries:*

[18-21] Improvisatie 'Jesu, meine Freude' (4 versus)

*Johann Peter Kellner (1705-1772):*

[22] 'Was Gott thut das ist wohlgethan' a 2 Clavier et Pedal

*Sietze de Vries:*

[23-27] Improvisatie 'Was Gott thut das ist wohlgethan' (5 versus)

## CD V

### De orgels van Zuidbroek, Huizinge, Farmsum en Middelstum

*Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714-1788):*

[01] Allegro assai uit de Sonata per il Organo solo in a-moll Wq.70

*Sietze de Vries (\*1973):*

[02-05] Improvisatie: Psalm 86 (4 versus)

*Thomas Sanders Dupuis (1733-1796):*

[06] Trumpet Voluntary

*William Hine (1687-1730):*

[07] Flute Piece

*Sietze de Vries:*

[08] Improvisatie 'Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan' (met tussenspelen)

*Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847):*

[09-10] Präludium und Fuge c-moll op.37 nr.1

*Sietze de Vries:*

[11-14] Improvisatie Psalm 92 (4 versus)

*Robert Schumann (1810 – 1856):*

[15] Kanon As-dur op. 56 nr.4

*Johannes Brahms (1833-1897):*

[16] 'Herzlich tut mich verlangen' op.122 nr.9

*Sietze de Vries:*

[17] Improvisatie: 'Herzlich tut mich verlangen'

## **Film 'Martinikerk Rondeau'**

The feature-length documentary that accompanies the CDs and book in this boxed set provides yet another vista on the fascinating family of organs that are found in and around the Dutch city of Groningen, centered on the famous organ of the Martinikerk. The point of view of the film is provided by Cornelius H. Edskes, the great living authority on the historical organs of Northern Europe. A sprightly 85 year old, Edskes brings undimmed energy and enthusiasm and a natural on-camera manner. Interviewed a number of times in several of the churches, he draws freely from his wide historical and factual knowledge to give a history of these organs, a history that stretches from 1450 to the present.

Edskes had an unusually wide education, studying music and art history in Groningen before studying the organ with Flor Peeters and Helmut Walcha. From the time of the Second World War he traveled round Europe, often by bicycle, studying the historic organs of the cities and villages of the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark. Gifted with a photographic memory, the minutiae of scaling became a natural area of expertise, and his knowledge of the secrets of old organ building comes at least in part from measuring the dimensions of thousands of antique pipes and collating the information.

First employed by the Dutch government and later self-employed as a consultant working with organ builders such as Jürgen Ahrend and Marcussen, Edskes' understanding and knowledge was the basis of the restoration of many of Europe's most magnificent organs, such as the Nieuwe kerk in Amsterdam, the Domkirke in Roskilde, the Jacobikirche in Hamburg and the Martinikerk in Groningen.

It is this final restoration that is at the heart of the film. The unique quality of the Martini organ is that it includes sections from all the main styles of organ building over five hundred years, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Rococo, even some Romantic stops, and obviously the wonderful restoration work from the 1970s and 80s. Yet these disparate elements form a wonderful and cohesive whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Each age of the Martini organ is looked at, and then illustrated by trips to the surrounding towns and villages to find organs that date wholly from whichever period. The Gothic is illustrated by the organ at Krewerd, the Renaissance by the casework at Loppersum, the Groningen school by Zeerijp, Schnitger's style by Uithuizen, Noordbroek and Nieuw Scheemda, the later Schnitger school of Hinsz and Freytag by Leens and Zuidbroek. The Romantic interventions that saw the sound of the Martini organ drastically changed by builders such as Lohman and van Oeckelen are made apparent by seeing and hearing the organs at Farmsum and Middelstum. Therefore, the baker's dozen of organs round the city and state of Groningen are grouped in a way that makes sense and tells a story about the development of organ building from 1450 to the present day.

Cor Edskes is joined in the film by his brother Bernhardt Edskes, the highly respected organ builder who restored the three of the organs around Groningen, at Zeerijp, Nieuw

Scheemda and Uithuizen. Bernhardt uses his drafting skills to demonstrate the proportions of a Schnitger façade, and explains how Schnitger arranged pipes on a soundboard. Cor is also joined by his old colleague Jürgen Ahrend, who with Cor restored the organs at Kantens and in the Martinikerk. Particularly noteworthy is the footage of Ahrend standing inside the famous 24' pedal towers of the Martini organ, discussing how these massive pipes were built and then restored.

Jan Jongepier, the highly respected Dutch organist and organ consultant, also shares his vast knowledge with us in a special section of the DVD. He tells us about the changes in taste in the 18th century and how these are apparent in the newly restored organ at Zuidbroek.

The film contains hundreds of shots of the organs and the buildings, towns and countryside that they exist in. Also hitherto unseen photographs of the restoration of the Martini organ and treats such as Schnitger's drawing of the original Aa-kerk organ. A master pipe-maker in the Ahrend workshop goes through the whole process of making a pipe from casting the metal on sand to shaping and soldering the various elements. And the whole is held together by a series of wonderful performances by Sietze de Vries on all the organs, running the gamut of the organ repertoire from Scheidemann to Schumann and also treating the viewer to a range of magnificent improvisations.

The final result is both a history of the organs of the province of Groningen, but also a moving testament to the passion of the remarkable men featured in this film. Their craft, dedication and knowledge will stay with the viewer, and offer the most pleasing and germane introduction to a collection of historic organs that is probably the most varied and interesting of any geographical region in the world.

Will Fraser, film director