

In The Pipeline



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St. Laurenskerk Rotterdam

Grote of Sint-Laurenskerk (St. Lawrence Church) is a Protestant church in Rotterdam. It is the only remnant of the medieval city of Rotterdam.

The church was built between 1449 and 1525 and this basilica was the first all stone building in Rotterdam. Many important events in

Dutch history took place here and, in the Middle Ages, citizenship of Rotterdam could be purchased by contributing 3000 stones to the construction of the church tower. The Reformation occurred in



with only the tower and walls surviving. At first there were calls to demolish the church, but that was stopped by Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.



1572 and the Laurenskerk became a Protestant church. Benches, a gallery, and a huge organ appeared in the nave. The church is still used for worship of the Protestant Church.

In the Rotterdam Blitz on May 14, 1940 the Laurenskerk was heavily damaged,

The provisional National Monuments Commission had both supporters and opponents of restoration. One committee member and architect J.J.P. Oud opposed rebuilding in 1950 and presented an alternative plan which would preserve only the tower. In his plan, next to the memorial a new, smaller church would be built. This alternative plan was rejected, particularly because restoration of the Laurenskerk was viewed as a symbol of the resilience of Rotterdam's community.

In 1952, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands laid the foundation stone for the restoration, which was completed in 1968.

During the restoration, a stained glass

window by the artist Gunhild Kristensen was created, depicting the Outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In the early 2000's the original designs of the left and right windows were rediscovered. These have been crafted, and were unveiled in March 2017. The right window shows the Bright Morning Star, and the left window represents the Sun of Righteousness.

In 1971 the Laurensparochie community was established (as part of the Reformed Church of Rotterdam) in order to resume church services. The community received a Cross of Nails replica from Coventry Cathedral in order to become a local centre for peace and reconciliation. In 1981 the liberal Maaskant/Open Grenzen community joined the church and since then the two communities alternate their services.

For several years now, the church has had a semi-permanent exhibition in the chapels and ambulatory. Theme is: the Laurenskerk tells stories. It is an educational program for young and old.

The 65 meter high tower is open to the public on Saturdays from April to September and the church can be visited from Tuesday morning to Saturday afternoon. In the church there is a coffee corner with catering. The Laurens

reception provides a listening ear for those who are looking for it.

The Laurenskerk is managed by the Stichting De Laurenskerk (Laurenskerk Foundation).

Maintaining the National Monument and stage programming are the Laurenskerk Foundation's most important tasks. The Foundation receives a maintenance subsidy from the government, and is included in Rotterdam municipality's cultural plan, however it mainly depends on income from ticket sales and venue hire.

A busy programme of church services take place every Sunday, there are week-day services, and special services are held on Christian holidays.



The Laurenskerk has several recent organs—the organs from before World War II were destroyed in the 1940 bombing. You can hardly miss the immense main organ, but the smaller organs often go unnoticed.

Two of the organs have monumental case work. In 1959, the organ building company Marcussen & Søn, Aabenraa, Denmark, built a new organ with 31 stops on three manuals and a pedal into the organ case of the instrument from Bartolomeus Church in Schoonhoven which dates from 1657. The playing and stop actions are mechanical. This organ was the first to be entrusted to the rebuilt Laurenskerk, and it has a North German characteristic.

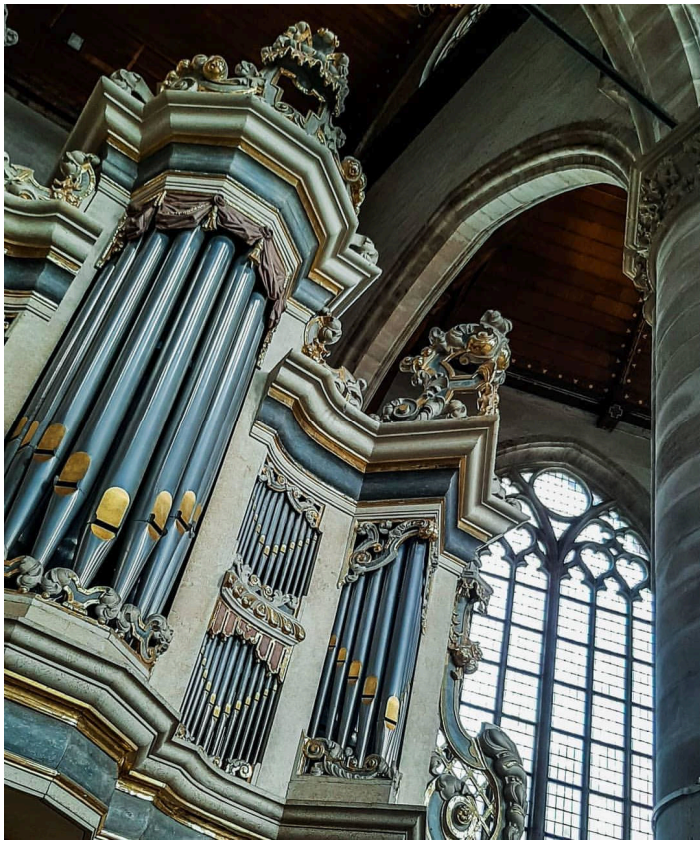
The main organ is the largest in the Netherlands and was completed in 1973, also by the firm Marcussen & Søn. The magnificent 32-foot instrument, consisting of Hoofdwerk, Rugwerk, Bovenwerk (in swell box), Brustwerk, Chamadewerk and Pedal, is placed in a new organ case designed by architect JWC Besemer. The case is a replica of the organ that stood here before the war. The organ has 85 stops and a purely mechanical keyboard and register action.

In the choir is a small organ whose 1725 case dates from the Old Catholic Schuilkerk, Amsterdam, housing a new organ by Marcussen & Søn. The instrument has eight registers on one manual with attached pedal. The actions are mechanical. This organ is used during services conducted in the choir.



The Transept Organ

In the chapel of Peace and Reconciliation there is a small one-manual organ, this comes from Het Trefpunt church (the meeting point) on Oostplein, which was demolished in the 1990s. This organ is played during the services on Friday afternoon.



The Choir Organ

A fifth organ is brought out at special services, celebrations or concerts in which church music plays a leading role, it is a portative.

Marcussens write: "A high point among not only "the large organs [we have built]" but also in connection with the collective organ project in St.

Laurenskerk in Rotterdam was the completion in 1973 of the church's large, 18-meter high main organ of 85 stops – with purely mechanical playing and stop action. The internationally acclaimed result came about not only as a consequence of study tours to France and Spain, but also to a great extent through experience gained in among

Stoplist of the 1973 Marcussen & Søn organ in St Laurenskerk, Rotterdam

I Rückpositiv	II Hauptwerk		III Oberwerk		IV Brustwerk		Pedalværk		
Quintatön	16'	Prinzipal	16'	Gedackct	16'	Holzgedackt	8'	Praestant	32'
Prinzipal	8'	Oktave	8'	Prinzipal	8'	Prinzipal	4'	Octav	16'
Gedackt	8'	Spitzflöte	8'	Flöte	8'	Blockflöte	4'	Offener Subbass	16'
Quintatön	8'	Quinte	5 1/3'	Rohrflöte	8'	Nasat	2 2/3'	Gedeckte Quint	10 2/3'
Oktave	4'	Oktave	4'	Viola di Gamba (B)	8'	Oktave	2'	Octav	8'
Rohrflöte	4'	Spitzflöte	4'	Viola di Gamba (D)	8'	Gedacktflöte	2'	Gemshorn	8'
Quinte	2 2/3'	Oktave	2'	Oktave	4'	Oktave	1'	Rohrquinte	5 1/3'
Oktave	2'	Cornett	V	Hohlflöte	4'	Terzian	II	Octav	4'
Waldflöte	2'	Rauschquinte	III-IV	Terz	3 1/5'	Scharf	IV-V	Koppelflöte	4'
Sifflöte	1 1/3'	Mixtur	VIII-X	Rohrquinte	2 2/3'	Regal	16'	Nachthorn	2'
Sesquialtera	II-IV	Scharf	VI-VIII	Nachthorn	2'	Krummhorn	8'	Querflöte	1'
Mixtur	VI-VIII	Trompete	16'	Terz	1 3/5'	Vox humana-Regal	8'	Rauschpfeife	V
Scharf	IV-VI	Trompete	8'	Mixtur	V-VII			Mixtuur	X
Dulzian	16'			Zimbel	III.	Tremulant		Cornet	III
Trompete	8'			Bombarde	16'			Posaune	32'
Cromorne	8'			Trompette	8'			Posaune	16'
				Voix humaine	8'			Fagott	16'
Tremulant				Clairon	4'			Trompete	8'
				Trompeta magna	16'			Trompete	4'
				Trompeta brillante	8'			Zink	2'
				Trompeta de batalla	8'				
				Clarin fuerte	4'				
				Clarin	2'				
				Orlos	8'				
				Tremulant					
Four manuals, Key & stop action: Mechanical									
All manuals C-g''', Pedal C-f'									
85 registers, 7,486 pipes									
Height: 18.1 m Width: 10.5 m Depth: 7.2 m									
Couplers: I/II, III/II, IV/II, I/P, II/P, III/P									
Manual couplers with barker lever (the barker can be cancelled by means of draw stop)									

other places Linz. The work lasted for over 3½ years, of which 22 months were spent on the erection and voicing in the church.”

The main organ has a purely mechanical action and stop action, making it one of the largest organs in Europe in this design. A pneumatic barker machine ensures smooth play. In terms of sound, the organ enables the reproduction of different styles: The work principle reflects the classic organ building of the Baroque period, the upper part is symphonic-romantic, the chamade part is based on typical Spanish registers. The organ has a total of 7,486 pipes. In 2013 the instrument was published as a virtual version for the organ simulation software Hauptwerk.

Bruce Duncan



The Main Organ

