

Programm Stadtkirche Besigheim
Sunday 1 august 2021 om 15.00h

Véronique van den Engh

Véronique van den Engh was born in 's-Hertogenbosch. After a few years of piano lessons her uncle Aat Broersen started giving her organ lessons in Haarlem when she was just 14 years old. After having finished Grammar school she studied at Brabants Conservatorium in Tilburg. As a student of Maurice Pirenne's she graduated in June 1989 and a year later she graduated as Performing Musician on organ. She also studied as a choirmaster under Cees Rotteveel for which she graduated in 1988. Since August 1989 she has been teaching at Schola Cantorum, the St John's Cathedral Choir, where she has also been assistant choirmaster for more than 20 years. She was assistant-organist in the Cathedral for twenty-five years. On 1 February 2008 she succeeded Maurice Pirenne as organist of St John's Cathedral in 's-Hertogenbosch. In October 2009, together with Schola Cantorum, she played in the four patriarchal basilica in Rome. She is a committee member of organ society "Hendrik Niehoff" and The *Maurice Pirenne* Foundation. In June 2014 'Imposant', her first CD was released. Her second CD 'Allure' followed in July 2015 and in May 2017 the third CD 'Illuster'. The CDs contain various organ works played on the great Cathedral organ and earned great critical acclaim. She initiated and cooperated with the book: "The great organ of St John's Cathedral, the Night Watch of 's-Hertogenbosch", which was published in November 2016. Compositions of her appeared in the magazine 'Muziek en Liturgie' (april 2018) and 'Nieuwe voorspelen & begeleidingen bij het Liedboek' (2021). For more information please visit website: www.veroniquevandenengh.nl

1 Introduction und Passacaglia in d-moll	Max Reger	1873-1916
2 Echofantasia	Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck	1562-1621
3 Fantasia in c-moll, BWV 562	Johann Sebastian Bach	1685-1750
4 Toccata in e-mineur, opus 29	Joseph Callaerts	1830-1901
5 Meditation	Mons Leidvin Takle	Geb. 1942
6 Pièce heroïque	César Franck	1822-1890
7 Ballo del Granduca	Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck	1562-1621
8 Premier Choral	Hendrik Andriessen	1892-1981

Reger: After a powerful Introduction Reger starts his Passacaglia very softly, almost intimately and through thirteen interesting variations, in which we hear an increase of rhythmic and harmonious tension, he works his way to a grand finale with the theme in major as its crowning glory.

Sweelinck: This year it is 400 years ago this great Dutch composer died. That's why I play two pieces of this early master. Before the euro his portrait was on the 25 gulden of the Netherlands. At first a fantastic fantasia with playful echos in different ways: hard-soft, low-high or in different voices.

Bach: A fantasia is a free musical form, without a set structure. It can make use of a recurring theme. The dominant motif with which this majestic fantasia starts, can be heard continuously in one of the five contrapuntal voices.

Callaerts: As a boy Callaerts started singing in the Antwerp cathedral choir and much later became organist-titulaire there. He composed a lot of music, also pieces for organ. This toccata is bright and festive.

Takle: This jazzy Meditation from the Norwegian composer really invites the listener to 'meditate'. Despite the many runs all with different stops, it breathes serenity.

Franck: This piece was composed for the opening of Trocadero at the world exposition in Paris in 1878. For the huge concert hall there Cavaillé-Coll built a great new organ. Franck himself played the premiere of his piece at that organ. Pièce Heroïque is based on two themes: the first in minor is competitive, accompanied by a drumbeat motive, the second in major is comforting. Both return triumphant at the end, the second as the final choral. Gloom, awe, fear, hope, beauty, joy, greatness, splendor and ecstasy Franck masterly brought together in Pièce heroïque.

Sweelinck: Ballo del Granduca is one of Sweelinck's best-known works. It consists of variations on Emilio Cavalleri's dancing-song, Ballo, for the marriage of Grand Duke Ferdinand of Tuscany to Christine of Lorraine in 1589. It became a popular song throughout Europe and thus found its way to Sweelinck. Before the 4 variations we hear the original dancing song.

Andriessen: A beautiful composition of this Haarlem-born composer. The chorale melody is modestly introduced right at the beginning. Although we only hear this melody five times in its entirety (even when we seem to hear it more often, due to recurring fragments), Andriessen succeeds in building it up to a majestic finale with the chorale melody in double pedal.

The pieces nr 1, 3, 5, 7, 8 you can find on one of my cd's, played on the beautiful famous historic organ of Sint-Janskathedraal, 's-Hertogenbosch.