



Stichting De Rijckere-orgel 1776
Sint-Augustinuskerk, Zuidsingel 70, Middelburg
www.derijckereorgel.nl

Masterclass with Léon Berben organ & harpsichord

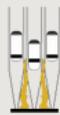
Louis Couperin and contemporaries

J.H. d'Anglebert, L. Couperin, H. Dumont, J.J. Froberger, F. Roberday



Charles Couperin and the
painter's daughter by Claude Lefèvre

Middelburg, 23-25 April 2026



Louis Couperin and contemporaries

Louis Couperin (c. 1626–1661) is regarded as a key figure in French Baroque music. Although he lived only to the age of 35, he ranks among the most innovative composers of his generation. He played a central role in the development of both the French organ and harpsichord repertoire and served as a bridge between the early Baroque style and the later French classical tradition, which was further developed by, among others, his nephew François Couperin.

In this masterclass, his work is placed alongside that of several contemporaries: Dumont, Froberger, and Roberday. Dumont and Louis Couperin worked within the Parisian context in which the Italian style (introduced by figures such as Froberger) and the French court style were in constant interaction. Froberger visited Paris around 1652, and his music had a direct impact on Couperin's style. Couperin adopted the introspective tone of Froberger's allemandes and the expressive toccata style in his own compositions.

During the three-day masterclass, lectures will be given on:

- Louis or Charles Couperin? by André Poortvliet
- Organ building in the time of Louis Couperin by Johan Zoutendijk



Repertoire

Louis Couperin: Pièces de Clavecin (Ms. Bauyn, Ms. Parville), Pièces d'Orgue (Ms. Oldham)

Jean-Henry d'Anglebert: Fugues

Henry Dumont: Allemanden, Pavanne (Ms. Bauyn)

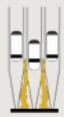
Johann Jakob Froberger: Toccata's, Fantasieën, Capricci, Ricercari, Canzonas, Suites
(Libro Secondo, Wenen 1649, Libro Quarto, Wenen, 1656, Libro 1658, Wenen)

François Roberday: Fugues et caprices (Parijs, 1660)

Recommended works by Louis Couperin to be covered during the masterclass:

- Prélude à l'imitation de Mr. Froberger (Pièces de Clavecin #6, Moroney)
- Passacaille in d (Pièces de Clavecin #55, Moroney)
- Passacaille in g (Pièces de Clavecin #98, Moroney)
- Duretez Fantaisie (Pièces d'Orgue #1, Moroney)

(these works are available upon request; please indicate this on the registration form)



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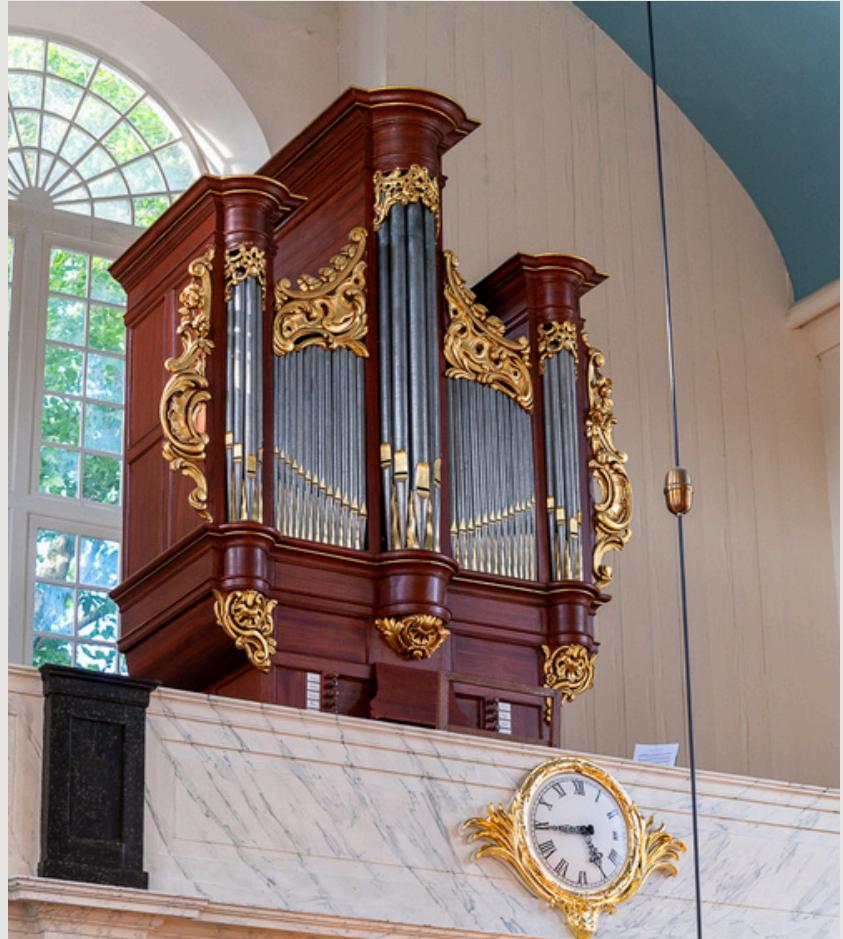
Instruments

De Rijckere-orgel (1776)

Stoplist:
Prestant
Cornet
Bourdon
Fluyte
Doublette
Nazard
Tierce
Sexquialter bas / sup
Fourniture
Cimbal
Trompet bas / sup
Claron bas
Cromhoren sup

Tramblant doux
Tramblant roïal
Nachtegael

Manual compass: CD-d3
Pedal compass: CD-g
A=403, 1/4 comma meantone



Harpsichord after Ioannes Couchet (Antwerp, 1652)

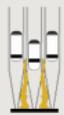
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GG/BB – c3
(with split sharps
for C# and D#)

8'8' with three stops and lute

A=415





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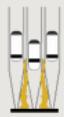
Léon Berben

As a harpsichordist and organist, Léon Berben may be regarded as a master of his craft. His extensive knowledge of music history and historical performance practices has made him one of the leading figures among the musicians of his generation specializing in early music. His repertoire focuses primarily on keyboard music composed between 1550 and 1790. He is co-author of articles for *Die Musik in Geschichte und Gegenwart* and also writes regularly for other professional journals. His interpretations are informed by intensive source study and other in-depth research.

Léon Berben studied organ and harpsichord at the conservatories of Amsterdam and The Hague with, among others, Rienk Jiskoot, Ton Koopman, and as the last student of Gustav Leonhardt. He obtained the Performing Musiciandiploma for both organ and harpsichord.

As titular organist, he is affiliated with the historic organ of St. Andreas Church in Ostönnen, which houses one of the oldest playable organs in the world in its original condition. In addition, he is Senior Organist-in-Residence at the Pieterskerk in Leiden, home to the 1643 Van Hagerbeer organ.





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Schedule

Thursday, 23 April 2026

10:30 – welcome & introduction
11:00–12:30 – masterclass
12:30–13:30 – lunch
13:30–14:00 – lecture by André Poortvliet: Louis or Charles Couperin?
14:00–17:00 – masterclass
20:00 – concert by Léon Berben (organ & harpsichord)

Friday, 24 April 2026

10:30–12:30 – masterclass
12:30–13:30 – lunch
13:30–14:00 – lecture by Johan Zoutendijk: French organ building in the time of Couperin
14:00–17:00 – masterclass
20:00 – concert by André Poortvliet (harpsichord)

Saturday, 25 April 2026

10:30–12:30 – masterclass
12:30–13:30 – lunch
13:30–16:00 – masterclass
16:00–18:00 – opportunity to prepare the presentation concert
20:00 – presentation concert by the participants and Léon Berben (organ & harpsichord)
21:30 – reception and presentation of certificates



Registrations

Registration as an active participant or auditor is possible via our website: www.derijckereorgel.nl
A maximum of 8 active participants can be accommodated. Language: Dutch / English

Active participants: €130 (three days of masterclasses and free admission to the concerts)
Passive participants (auditors): €30 (three days of masterclasses, concerts not included)

The deadline for registration as an active participant is 1 March 2026.
For questions: info@derijckereorgel.nl