A Dutch Treat? Absolutely, and I invite you to share it with me! Springtime in the Netherlands means much more than tulips. Without question, this is ‘organ country’, as nowhere in the world can so many historically important instruments be found within such a small area, a sonic document that reaches forward to us from the 15th century.

Some of my earliest exposure to historic instruments in Europe took place in the Netherlands. As will you, I’ve found organs large and small, Protestant and Catholic, sacred and secular, in big cities and little villages. Each possesses its own unique personality, as you will realize while listening, peering inside, and (if you are brave) playing.

Some of you may already know of the magnificent 1725 Frans Caspar Schnitger organ at Alkmaar through recordings by Helmut Walcha, or the mighty 1735 Müller organ at the Bavokerk in Haarlem, featured in a memorable all-Mozart album by E. Power Biggs (also quickly learning that this Haarlem… the original… is not on the northeast hip of Manhattan Island!). Those two monuments, plus several dozen other organs, ranging in size from 5 stops to nearly 100, make up a list that will carry us literally from A to Z (from Amsterdam to Zwolle), and many places in between.

Remember, Pipedreams® tours are unyielding in their organ-centricity, offering an intense and rewarding itinerary with full-day schedules. Yes, we’ll see our share of windmills and canals, savor the cheese in Gouda, visit the ports from which the Pilgrims departed, as well as traverse a broad swath of Dutch countryside. But if you require a full day for art museums and another for shopping, please arrange to stay on a little longer. And pack your comfortable shoes…our coach, while agile, cannot always bring you to the church door, and a degree of occasionally strenuous walking is inevitable.

Whether you enjoy Andriessen or Sweelinck, seek Arnhem or Zaandam, your tastes will be met and your destinations achieved. I invite you to join us for a remarkable adventure, truly a Dutch Treat!

-JMB
Michael Barone is a well-known voice on public radio as host for national broadcasts of Pipedreams®. He came to Minnesota Public Radio in 1968, served as the system’s music director through 1993, and continues as a Senior Executive Producer. His long-running local Thursday night program, “The New Releases”, delights listeners with its odd-ball repertoire and candid commentary. Barone is a graduate (B.M. in Music History) of the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio, and an internationally-known advocate for the pipe organ and its music. He has received special honors from the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the Organ Historical Society (OHS), the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), and the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame for his contributions to the musical community at large and to organ music in particular.

Arjen Leistra received his first organ lessons from Christiana Ingelse. He subsequently went on to study Organ and Church Music at both the Rotterdam and The Hague conservatories and, after graduation in 1998, continued his studies in Paris with Marie-Claire Alain. In 1996 he won the second prize at the International Organ Competition in Dublin, Ireland. It was in this year that Arjen Leistra was appointed organist of the Hoflaankerk in Rotterdam-Kralingen. As a concert artist he has played many recitals in Holland, Germany, France and Great Britain. In 2005 he toured America for the first time and performed in Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina. He also teaches a growing class of organ students and is active as a choir accompanist and composer. More information can be found on his website: www.arjenleistra.nl

Johan Stolk was born in 1955 in Rotterdam. After his studies he worked as an ICT/telecommunications consultant with KPN, the former state telephone company of the Netherlands. In the 1980s Stolk combined his organizational skills with his passion for organs and organ music and began his activities to the musical community at large and to organ music in particular.

Allan J. Ontko has been involved in organbuilding since constructing “Opus Zero” in his basement as a teenager. And yes, he couldn’t get it out the door... He has designed, built, and rebuilt more than 40 organs in the Eastern US, as well as in France. He is an accomplished tonal finisher; and learned voicing from two “Dutch Masters”, Allan Van Zoeren and Tim Koelwijin. He is at the forefront of the development of pipe/digital hybrid organs of historic and musical value. Besides working on organs, Allan is a published composer of music for organ, including two Organ Symphonies in the French style. He was contributor to and editor of the document “Guidelines for Fine Organbuilding” for the American Institute of Organbuilders, and has in progress two murder mysteries in which pipe organs figure prominently. Ontko’s workshop and home are located on a small farm just west of Charleston, SC.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Sun 06 May Join your Pipedreams group on a journey of musical discovery amidst the historic organs of the Netherlands. Board your aircraft for the overnight, transatlantic flight from Minneapolis/St. Paul (or other gateway city) to Amsterdam. (Meals in-flight)

Mon 07 May Arrive Amsterdam/Alkmaar vicinity Arrive at Schipol Airport mid-morning, meet your local hosts and board your deluxe motor coach for the short trip to Zaandam, a shipbuilding center for all of Europe in the 17th century. Have lunch en route or upon arrival in Zaandam, then visit Flentrop Organworks, a family business of organ builders since 1903, famous for its association with recording artist E. Power Biggs. Proceed to the Westzijderkerk in Zaandam for a demonstration of the 1712 Duyshoorn organ. Arrive at your hotel overlooking the sand dunes along the North Sea shore near Alkmaar. After check-in and time to refresh, gather for a Welcome Dinner at the hotel. Hotel Zuiderduin (Meals in-flight, D)

Tue 08 May Alkmaar/Groningen Amidst the 12th century streets of Alkmaar visit two historic organs at St. Laurenskerk including the magnificent 1725 Frans Caspar Schnitger. Depart northward for Leeuwarden, which dates back to the 15th century and is the capital of the province of Friesland. In Leeuwarden enjoy a demonstration of the 1727 Müller organ at the Jakobijnerkerk, followed by a drive to Groningen. After hotel check-in and dinner, stroll to the 15th century Martinikerk for a demonstration of the reconstructed 1692 Arp Schnitger organ. Groningen is the capital city of the province of the same name. Known as the “Metropolis of the North” and with a population of 185,000, it is by far the largest city in the area and boasts a remarkable large student population (approximately 40,000), which gives the city a young and vibrant atmosphere. Check into your Groningen hotel for dinner and overnight. Eden City Hotel (B, D)

Wed 09 May Groningen Depart Groningen for a day excursion to area villages and churches, visiting organs in Noordbroek, Farnsum, Zeerijp and Leens. Throughout the journey you’ll see evidence of the province’s characteristic “bom” (mound) villages, which were constructed by Holland’s earliest settlers and were the forerunners of Holland’s dikes. Stop for lunch in Farnsum or en route to Zeerijp; continue on to Leeuwarden for dinner. This evening attend a performance of the Dutch Chamber Choir at the Jacobijner Church Leeuwarden. Return to your Groningen hotel for overnight. Eden City Hotel (B, D)

Thu 10 May Groningen/Arnhem Travel amidst steep-roofed, half-timbered farmhouses to the old seaport of Kampen to visit the 1743 Hinsz and 1999 Reil organs in the Bovenkerk. After lunch on your own, visit the Michaelskerk in nearby Zwolle for a demonstration of the 1721 Schnitger organ. Drive to the old town of Zutphen for a demonstration of the 1642 Bader organ at the Walburgiskerk. Have dinner in Zutphen before departing for Arnhem for hotel check-in and overnight. Arnhem nestles against the southern edge of the largest nature reserve in Holland. The city traces its roots as far back as the year 893; it joined the Hanseatic League in 1443. Despite heavy damage during WW II, Arnhem has kept much of its medieval charm. Golden Tulip Amrhem Velp (B, D)

Fri 11 May Arnhem After breakfast at your hotel board the coach and travel to Nijmegen, one of Holland’s oldest cities, to visit the Stevenskerk and its 1776 König organ. Have lunch in Den Bosch (The Woods) then visit the magnificent Gothic St. Jan Cathedral and hear the Hocc organ, which dates back to 1617. Travel among picturesque villages and ancient towns to Oirschot to visit the Petruskerk and its 1845 Smits organ. After dinner in charming Oirschot drive into the heart of the Dutch moorlands (de Peel) to Helmond to visit the Lambertskerk and hear its organ from 1772. Return to your hotel in Arnhem in late evening. Golden Tulip Amrhem Velp (B, D)

Sat 12 May Arnhem/Amsterdam Depart after breakfast this morning for Utrecht, one of the Netherlands’ most important cities, with a population of over 280,000. Like Amsterdam, Utrecht has a series of canals that connect various parts of the city. Visit the Nicolaakerk and its modern Marcussen organ, then enjoy a guided tour of mechanical musical instruments in the National Museum, housed in a former church. Carillon clocks, musical boxes, pianolas, orchestras, as well as full-size street-, fairground- and dance hall organs are all on show. After the tour, proceed to the Domkerk for a 3:30pm recital featuring the 1831 Bätz organ. After the concert, continue to Amsterdam for hotel check-in, dinner and overnight. Hotel Novotel Amsterdam (B, D)

Sun 13 May Amsterdam Amsterdam has long been a center of trade and a crossroads of culture. Its ring of canals was finished by the 17th century, and gabled, patrician houses from that era line the banks. There will be time at leisure this morning for individual explorations. In the afternoon the group will visit the Westerkerk (organ by Duyshoorn/Vater, 1686/1728 rebuilt by Flentrop, 1988) and the Oude Kerk, the oldest parish church in Amsterdam and the proud sponsor of a long tradition of excellent organs and organ players dating back to Sweelinck in the 16th century. Novotel Hotel Amsterdam (B)

Mon 14 May Amsterdam After breakfast, depart for Haarlem, only 20 km from Amsterdam, a city which has both flourished and suffered over the centuries. Beer is an important commodity made in Haarlem, a tradition that dates back to the 1400s and tulip bulbs were grown here and shipped worldwide. Stop at the Philharmonie to hear the 1878 Cavaille-Col organ, then on to St. Bavokerk, located on the Market Square (Grote Markt) and next to...
the magnificent City Hall to see and hear the 1738 Müller organ, with one of the world’s most impressive and famous organ cases. Enjoy lunch on your own, then visit the nearby St. Bavo Basilica for a demonstration of its 1906 Adema organ. Return to Amsterdam for dinner; this evening attend a performance of the Dutch Philharmonic Orchestra at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam. Overnight in Amsterdam. Newotmel Hotel Amsterdam (B, D)

TUE 15 MAY Amsterdam/Rotterdam

This morning the group will visit Keukenhof Gardens where Dutch flower growers display their wares in a dramatic, natural setting. Walk through the park-like grounds extensively adorned with blooming plants (especially tulips) amidst towering trees and serene ponds. This is the peak of the flower season in Holland, and Keukenhof Gardens is the ultimate place to experience these floral wonders. Travel to Leiden to visit the Hooglandsekerk (1565 Swart), and the Hartebrugkerk (1877 Maarschalkenweerd). Leiden University is the oldest university in the Netherlands. Have lunch on your own here before driving to the town of Gouda, famous for its cheese, smoking pipes and the largest organ in Holland - at the Pilgrim Fathers’ church in Delfshaven. After dinner and to enjoy a final recital featuring the organist, Ben van Oosten, perform the magnificent City Hall to see and hear the 1738 Müller organ, with one of the world’s most impressive and famous organ cases. Enjoy lunch on your own, then visit the nearby St. Bavo Basilica for a demonstration of its 1906 Adema organ. Return to Amsterdam for dinner; this evening attend a performance of the Dutch Philharmonic Orchestra at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam. Overnight in Amsterdam. Novotel Hotel Amsterdam (B, D)

WED 16 MAY Rotterdam

The bustling port city of Rotterdam started in 1228 as a small fishing village. Most of Rotterdam was destroyed in WWII, but the city was quickly rebuilt to modern standards, very little of the old city survives. Today visit significant organs in Rotterdam and its environs: the 1968 Flentrop organ at the De Doelen concert hall and the 1855 Bätz/Witte organ in the Pilgrim Fathers’ church in Delfshaven. After lunch attend a recital on the Marcussen organ — the largest organ in Holland - at the Laurenskerk and see two other organs onsite. Later travel to Maassluis to visit the 1732 Garrels organ in the Groote Kerk. Return to Rotterdam for dinner on your own and overnight. Eden Savoy Rotterdam (B, D)

THU 17 MAY Rotterdam

Travel to The Hague, Holland’s seat of government, where you will hear the Grote Kerk’s organist, Ben van Oosten, perform upon an exciting instrument built by Metzler in 1971. Ben is known worldwide for his highly regarded recordings of French Romantic organ literature. This afternoon visit Delft, perhaps the prettiest little town in Holland, to hear the 1857 Witte organ in the Oude Kerk and the 1839 Bätz in the Nieuwe Kerk. Return to Rotterdam for a farewell dinner and to enjoy a final recital featuring the 1966 Van Vulpen organ at the Hoflaankerk. Eden Savoy Rotterdam (B, D)

FRI 18 MAY Return to USA

Transfer to Schipol Airport for your home-bound flights. Arrive home this same day enriched with the sonorous beauty of Holland’s many and varied organs. Or extend your stay for an extra two nights in Amsterdam. (B, meals in-flight)

Code: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

AMSTERDAM OPTIONAL EXTENSION

May 18-20

Includes:
- Transfer to hotel on May 18
- Two nights accommodation at a city center hotel
- Breakfast daily

Tour inclusions

- Roundtrip economy class airfare from St. Paul/Minneapolis via Northwest/KLM Airlines or other ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- Eleven nights accommodation in first class hotels, double occupancy, with private facilities. Hotels as listed or similar.
- Breakfast daily and nine dinners as outlined in the itinerary.

Cost per person, double occupancy......$299

Single supplement..................................$229

Note: Organ visits subject to confirmation.
• Transfers and transportation by deluxe motorcoach.
• Extensive organ visits and recitals throughout, honoring and entrance fees included.
• Mid-range tickets for two classical music concerts.
• Luggage handling of one piece per person.
• Organ impresario Johan Stolk serving as tour manager from arrival in Amsterdam through departure from Amsterdam.
• Dutch organist, Arjen Leistra, serving as recitalist and lecturer.
• American organ builder, Allan O'ntko, serving as instrument lecturer.
• Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, $88 per person has been included).
• Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently $240 per person).
• Comprehensive documentation including flight bag or fanny pack, tag bags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

Items Not Included
• Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
• Beverages other than tea/coffee at breakfast.
• Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
• Items of a personal nature.
• Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended. See the following information.
• Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.
• No visa is required for U.S. citizens; non-U.S. citizens require a visa.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Travel insurance is included as an option with your deposit and is highly recommended. Accolades offers a competitive group policy from an independent company. By purchasing insurance at the time your initial tour deposit is made, you can be covered for events that may cause you to cancel or interrupt your trip, i.e., pre-existing medical conditions, travel provider bankruptcy or default, and terrorism (certain restrictions apply). If you decline travel insurance at the time of reservation, you may purchase it later without the pre-existing conditions waiver. You may contact Travel Insured International for further information before making your decision: www.travelinsured.com or 800-243-3174.

GROUP PROTECTOR PLAN INCLUSIONS from Travel Insured International

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Cost of this optional Group Travel Protector Plan is $462 per person.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS
Please be assured that Accolades continually monitors international events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Accolades:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw_1764.html

For more information, contact

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Phone, Day (          ) ___________________________Evening (          ) __________________________
E-mail _______________________________________

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. Accolades can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)
☐ I/we will take the group flights from St. Paul/Mpls.
☐ I/we will need assistance with flight arrangements from
______________________ airport to join the group.
☐ I/we will make ALL of my own flight arrangements

☐ I/we have read and understand the conditions of this brochure.

Signature_________________________________________ Date______________________________

Signature_________________________________________ Date______________________________