



## **A RUSSIAN EVENING.... WITH AN ARMENIAN TOUCH AND ICONS EXPOSITION CELEBRATING DUTCH-RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP, ALREADY MORE THAN 400 YEARS**

Please register for tickets: [info@franciscushuisweert.nl](mailto:info@franciscushuisweert.nl)

Date: Friday 12 July 2019, 20:00 hrs

Entrance: Free Gift

Location: Franciscus Huis Weert, Biest 43a, 6001 AP Weert

Website : [www.orgelkring-weert.nl](http://www.orgelkring-weert.nl)

### **JEAN-PIERRE STEIJVERS, HEYTHUYSEN, THE NETHERLANDS**

Jiang Shangrong (Bariton)

Raphaëla Danksagmüller (Duduk = Armenian hobo)

Weerter Mannenkoor (Men's Choir of the City of Weert) conducted by Wiel Bonten

Jan Teuwen (Exposition of Icons)

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF (1873-1943)	Thème Russe, Opus 11, no.3	Organ
RUSSIAN ROMANCES-1	Oh, You Wide Steppe If Mother River Volga	Organ/Bariton
MIKAEL TARIVERDIEV (1931-1996)	Choral-Prelude Opus 103, no.9	Organ/Duduk
ANONYMUS	Armenian Churchsong	Organ/Duduk
GEORGY SVIRIDOV (1915-1998)	Romance (from 'The Snow Storm')	Organ
PAVEL CHESNOKOV (1877-1944)	Eternal Council	Choir/Bariton
ALEXANDER KOSOLAPOV (..)	Affirm, O Lord	Choir/Bariton
ANONYMUS	Havun, Havun (Armenian Church Song 10 <sup>th</sup> century)	Duduk
RUSSIAN ROMANCES-2	Along the St. Petersburg Avenue  Here is Running the Troika Postal	Organ/Bariton
PAVEL CHESNOKOV (1877-1944)	Duh Tvoy Blagiy	Choir
ALEXANDER BORODIN (1834 – 1887)	Dans les Steppes de l'Asie Centrale	Organ
NERSES SHNORHALI (12th century)	Nor Tsaghik	Organ/Duduk
RUSSIAN ROMANCES-3	Oh, You Sweetheart	Organ/Bariton
ARAM KHACHATURYAN (1903-1978)	Sabre Dance (from ' Ballet Gayane ', 1942)	Organ

**Jean-Pierre Steijvers** (organist) studied organ, piano and church music at the Conservatory of Maastricht and the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam. He has also followed several masterclasses with renowned organists. He is prize winner of organ competitions in Dublin, Luzern, Chartres, Kaliningrad and winner of the "Moscow Philharmonic Society Special Award".

Since May 2004 he has been appointed "Organist-Titulaire" of the St. Christoffel Cathedral in Roermond and of the Louvigny/Robustelly/Verschueren organ of the Carolus-chapel organ in the former "Groot Seminary" of the Diocese of Roermond. He is also a teacher of organ, piano and music theory at the ECI culture factory in Roermond.

He gives many concerts in Europe, Japan and the USA. He also gives concerts every year in the most important concert halls of all Russia. He regularly performs with orchestras from the Netherlands and abroad and collaborated with renowned conductors such as Ed Spanjaard, Vladimir Askenazy, Edo de Waart, Paul Goodwin, Rizzi Brignoli and Kynan Johns.

As organ-duo with Hiroko Inoue (Osaka/Moscow) they particularly enjoy in Russia great fame. In April 2019, their CD COR D'HARMONIE was presented, the first CD recording with the restored organ of the St. Christoffel Cathedral in Roermond. In 2007, he was awarded the "Kiwanis Culture Prize 2007" because of his great merits as an organist in the Netherlands and abroad. He is an artistic advisor to the "Stichting Orgelkring" Roermond.

In 2017, 2018 and 2019 Jean-Pierre is a teacher of organ at The Moscow Gnessin Summer School.

**Raphaela Danksagmüller** (duduk = Armenian hobo) was born in Ried (Austria) and lives in Amsterdam. She completed her study recorder cum laude at the "Wiener Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst", after which she continued her studies at the Conservatory of Amsterdam with Walter van Hauwe. Subsequently, Raphaela studied duduk with Gevorg Dabaghyan in Yerevan, Armenia. As a solist and member of various ensembles, she is performing in Europe, Asia and the United States. Raphaela is a member of the Ensemble Zerafin, the Renaissance ensemble Mezza Luna and the Atlas Ensemble. She played as a guest among others at the "Nieuw Ensemble", the "Nederlands Blazers Ensemble", The "Nederlands Vocaal Laboratorium", "het Residentie Orkest", "het Nederlands Kamerkoor", "het Nederlands Kamerorkest", "het Nederlands Ballet Orkest", the Bratislava Opera Orchestra and at the Salzburger Festspiele. She received prizes from the International Recorder Symposium in Germany, the Bruges Old Music Competition and the "International Gaudeamus Concours". Raphaela cherishes a deep fascination for traditional musical instruments, in particular the special shepherd instruments such as the Armenian duduk, the Slovak fujara and the Moldovan kaval. The purity and enchanting sound spectrum of these instruments are for her the greatest inspiration to perform music. (<https://raphaeladanksagmuller.com>).

**Jiang Shangrong (bariton)** was born in Yantai in China (Shandong Province) and is now living in Moscow. Coming from a family of engineers he was also supposed to choose a 'hard' study, but with his artistic passion he opted for the Shandong University of Arts and then for Shanghai Conservatory of Music to further develop his vocal skills. His dream of further development came true when he was admitted to the Moscow State Conservatory of Music, where he studied from 2000-2003 with Professor Boris Kudryavtsev. Although he has been studying singing for many years, his professional development has only flourished in Russia, where all the secrets of the singing art were gradually unlocked for him, thanks to the unique atmosphere at the Moscow Conservatory and the Russian musical tradition. Russian folk music and art songs have a special place in his heart. He feels a great affinity with the soul of Russian vocal art. In

addition, he has an impressive list of performances in operas by Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Carvalho, Donizetti, etc. Jiang is a winning singer who has received many awards at competitions and festivals. He also currently acts as a solo singer (recitals) in the large concert halls throughout Russia, he is a jury member at many competitions and festivals, and is associate professor at Moscow City University. In view of his origins and qualities, he has gradually become an informal ' cultural ambassador ' in relation to Russian-Chinese relations and is involved in various cultural exchanges between the two countries.

**Weerter Mannenkoor (Weerter Men's Choir).** Quite quickly after its founding in 1966, a full-fledged choir was created that managed to combine light and heavy repertoire in a harmonious way. The musical level increased over the years and gradually a great deal of daring and ambition was tackled. Major concerts were performed, including with the Limburg Symphony Orchestra and internationally known soloists. The many first prizes and awards received over the years when participating in competitions show that the choir could compete over the years in the National Summit. There have also been regular successful concert tours, including Poland, Hungary, Malta and Wales.

The choir performs a wide range of music genres: classical, religious and popular. Over the years many works have been recorded on all kinds of music media; some CD's are still available ([www.weertermannenkoor.nl](http://www.weertermannenkoor.nl) <https://cl.ly/2X1S0C432v2Q>). Especially noteworthy are the CD with the ' Frithjof Sage' by Max Bruch(1867) and the CD containing only Russian-Byzantine chants. In the last decades the Weerter men's choir gained broad fame with the Russian-Byzantine repertoire.

The choir currently has two conductors: **Jean-Pierre Steijvers** and **Wiel Bonten**. The last mentioned- also as conductor attached to the Slavic-Byzantine mixed choir Sobornost in Kerkrade - will on this "Russian evening" in the Franciscus Huis Weert conduct the Weerter Mannenkoor.

Russian version " Our Father" <https://cl.ly/2X1S0C432v2Q> by Weerter mannenkoor

### **Jan Teuwen (Posterholt) and his icons**

Icons are ' written ' and not ' painted '. When writing icons, the portraits/depictions of Christ, the Mother of God, angels and saints, prophets and events from the Bible are taken as a starting point. In addition, it involves subjects from written sources and narrated stories, including the legends that have arisen in time. The rules laid down by the Orthodox churches are respected. Jan Teuwen says: "I use this for the exploration of the relationship between inside and outside, reality and image, original and replica and the effect of the fragment on the whole."

Jan Teuwen is what icons concerns an autodidact. The writing of icons, is certainly after further orientation and following numerous symposia and courses become a real passion. In the course of the years he attended at the Brothers of the Beyart in Maastricht, the Cistercian Abbey of Tongerlo and the centre of the Diocese of Bruges in Torhout. These courses were also given by Eastern European icon-writers. He says: "My goal of following various courses was and is still to gain technical skills and knowledge and to master them according to both the Russian and Greek Orthodox tradition. This is to achieve a sound technical and theologically responsible professional level. "

At the moment Jan Teuwen offers courses in writing, both in his own workshop in Posterholt and on location. A varying selection of the many artistic icons he has written is regularly exhibited, including in the St. Christoffel Cathedral in Roermond, now for 3 consecutive years, in the period from Christmas to Maria Candlemas.