

Jan-Piet Knijff was born in Haarlem, The Netherlands, and gained important early experience as a boy chorister at St. Bavo's Cathedral (home to a famous Adema organ). Following a Classical education, he studied music in Amsterdam, concentrating on keyboard instruments (organ with Piet Kee and Ewald Kooiman). For some twelve years he wrote about music for the world's oldest extant newspaper, *Haarlems Dagblad*, while performing at home and abroad.

After winning the International Bach Competition in Lausanne, Switzerland, Jan-Piet moved to New York, where he took the doctorate with a dissertation on early chamber music of the German poet-composer Peter Cornelius. He taught music at all levels, including ten years at Queens College/CUNY, where he was instrumental in the major refurbishment of the Maynard-Walker Organ. He has also taught at Fairfield University; Hofstra University; and in the graduate school at Purchase College/SUNY.

Following a period teaching music and Classical languages in university in Australia and performing extensively in regional Australia (most prominently 90 instalments of his community music series *Jan-Piet's Choice* and four community music festivals), Jan-Piet returned to the US to take the MA in Classics in the University of Kentucky's cutting-edge spoken-Latin program. He subsequently taught Latin, ancient Greek, and related subjects at independent schools in Louisville and Vermont. He is currently Music Director and Conductor of the Northeast Kingdom Community Orchestra and the Lyndon State Community Chorus. A church musician for nearly 35 years, he greatly enjoys playing for services at Barton United Church.

A well-versed accompanist on three keyboard instruments, Jan-Piet has played organ, piano, and reed organ parts in Bach's St. Matthew Passion, Britten's *Saint Nicholas* and *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Honegger's *Christmas Cantata*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, and Kurt Weil's *The Flight of Lindbergh*. An occasional singer, he has appeared as Strophon in *Iolanthe*, Major Murgatroyd in *Patience*, and as baritone soloist in Bach's St. John Passion.

Jan-Piet's scholarly articles – often on organ art, keyboard music, and hymnology – have been published in three languages and on three continents. A Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, he is a member of the Guild's Professional Certification Committee and has presented on a wide range of topic at AGO chapter meetings. Jan-Piet acted as Huguenot's consultant for the new Ingram-Hele-Willis-Aeolian-Skinner-Adema sanctuary organ.