

P R E S S R E L E A S E

dutch harp festival.



27 March - 1 April 2012

Utrecht, 29 November 2011

The second Dutch Harp Festival

After its successful inaugural season in 2010 the internationally-acclaimed **Dutch Harp Festival (DHF)** returns to Utrecht on **Tuesday 27 March** and continues until **Sunday 1 April 2012**. The Dutch Harp Festival received much praise both in the Netherlands and abroad for its unusual programming, for its revolutionary competition and for its well-balanced combination of both competition and festival. This second edition of the festival – now under the artistic direction of the **22 year old harpist Remy van Kesteren** – is well set to become another fascinating festival with events in various places in Utrecht and with twice as much prize money available for the competition. Harpists from over twenty countries have already expressed interest in taking part; a representative selection of these will take part in the quarter-finals. The Dutch Harp Festival is organised and run by students and young professionals and intends to set a new standard for (harp) competitions over the coming years; their intention is that the prizes shall not be an end in themselves but rather a way of putting the harp on the map as a solo instrument.

Vredenburg and Radio 4

The competition and the associated master classes will be held in the **Conservatory of Utrecht. Vredenburg** also plays an important part in the DHF 2012. The greater part of the concerts will take place in either Vredenburg Leidsche Rijn (the Opening Concert and Finale amongst others) or in Vredenburg Leeuwenbergh. The festival's opening concert ***Real Men Play the Harp*** will be broadcast in a **live transmission on Dutch Radio 4** on **Tuesday 27 March**, whilst the finals of the competition will be available via the Internet.

Composition Competition

The Dutch Harp Festival and the Gaudeamus International Music Week organised a workshop for composers last year on 6 September with the intention of assisting composers with their entries for the upcoming **Composition Competition**, the finale of which will be held on **Wednesday 28 March** in **Vredenburg Leidsche Rijn**. The prize-winning compositions will be announced on 1 February 2012.

Performers

Performers taking part will include leading harpists **Lavinia Meijer, Andrew Lawrence-King, Gwyneth Wentink, Emmanuel Ceysson** and **Remy van Kesteren** himself as well as **Erik Vloeimans** (trumpet), **Eric Vaarzon Morel** (guitar), **George Brooks** (saxophone), **Felicia van den End** (flute), **The Harp Consort** and the **Rubens Quartet**.

Programme

The quarter-finals, the semi-finals and the finals of the competition will be accompanied by evening and lunchtime concerts, master classes, Meet & Greets, the children's concert *The Crown of Ariadne*, the supper concert *Bread and Music*, the late-night concert *Better than Coffee* and a Spanish evening and night with star harpist **Edmar Castañeda** on the Latin-American harp. A series of concerts will also take place in various locations in the centre of Utrecht – including the tower of the Dom Church and Utrecht Central Station – during the afternoon of Sunday 1 April, the final day of the festival.

Remy van Kesteren (1989)

The young Dutch harpist Remy van Kesteren entered the Utrecht Conservatory when he was ten years old and made his debut in the Amsterdam Concertgebouw at the age of sixteen with the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra. One year earlier he had played at the baptism of Princess Amalia of the Netherlands and has appeared in Carnegie Hall, New York. He was chosen as Dutch Musical Talent of the Year in 2009 and won third prize in the prestigious Harp Contest in Israel that same year. He was Young Artist in Residence during the NJO Muziekwinter (Dutch Youth Orchestra Music Summer) in Gelderland in 2011 and his first solo CD will be released in the first months of 2012.

[Download](#) a high resolution photo of Remy van Kesteren

The complete programme of the Dutch Harp Festival 2012 will be available on www.harpfestival.nl from December 1 2011 onwards.

**Press Contact: Tia Schutrups, T + 31 6 250 95 705, E tia@harpfestival.nl
Laan van Chartroise 170, 3552 EZ Utrecht, www.harpfestival.nl**