

LUYTSLAGERS TE LEYDEN

CISKA MERTENS

Program

<i>David Janszoon Pabrué (1553–1635)</i>	Passamezo – Ick lijd int hart pijn onghewoon – Almande Prince Parma
<i>Joachim van den Hove (1567–1620)</i>	Toccate pour Mons. Vander Lynden – Den lustelijcken Meij ter eeren mijnen goeden vriendt Sr. Adam Leenaerts
<i>Joachim van den Hove</i>	Het laeste Leytsche afscheyt tussen doctissimo Martino Dalemio ende Joachim vanden Hove
<i>Thysius manuscript</i>	Den Boerendans- Gruen sliefs ey touiou met all myn here
<i>Joachim vand en Hove</i>	Pavana Lachrimae (John Dowland) – Gaillarde geschreven ter eeren mijnen goeden vrient Adam Leenaerts in Leijden 17 Jan. 1615
<i>Joachim van den Hove</i>	Susanneken – Volte
<i>Joachim van den Hove</i>	Praeludium IX – Gaillarde
<i>Joachim van den Hove</i>	Fantasia tertia
<i>Thysius Manuscript</i>	Den Lustelijcken Meij – Die Gans die compt van Sassem – Aensiet schoon lieff met moede fier (Mr. David)
<i>Joachim van den Hove</i>	Fortuna
<i>Herman Piso (ca. 1580–1645)</i>	Praeludium
<i>Joachim van den Hove</i>	Passamezo d'Italia – Gaillarde du Passamezo
<i>Anonymus</i>	Courante La Princesse – Sarabande
(publ. Joachim van den Hove)	

Luytslagers te Leijden / Luteplayers in Leiden — Lute music around 1600 in a Dutch town

During the Dutch War of Independence (1568–1648) against Philips II of Spain, when the Spanish attempted to capture the rebellious city of Leiden, 6,000 of the 15,000 inhabitants perished. But the siege failed and the city was liberated after 11 months in October 1574, an event which is still celebrated every year on the 3rd of October. Probably as a reward for this resistance, the University of Leiden was founded in 1575 by William, Prince of Orange, leader of the Dutch Revolt.

From the beginning, this protestant university attracted students from all over Europe, not only because of its excellent teaching and research, but also because of the freedom of speech.

For these reasons, Leiden was a good place for lutenists. The elite of the Dutch Republic studied there, and the lute was a popular instrument amongst students.

We know several Leiden lutenists by name. In the program, music by David Janszoon Padbrué, known in Leiden as luytslager (Lautenschlager) and Master of Music, can be heard. Most of his music can be found in the Thysius manuscript.

Between 1595 and 1601 the (theology) student Adriaen Smout from Rotterdam began work on a huge lute manuscript. Known as the Thysius manuscript, it gives a beautiful impression of the songs which were popular in Leiden during this time. The manuscript is still kept in Leiden, at the Thysius Library.

The most important lutenist in Leiden during this period was Joachim van den Hove (1567–1620). He came from Antwerp and, for a few decades, was one of the leading musicians of the Dutch republic. After the Fall of Antwerp in 1585 many people moved north and with this mass immigration, the Dutch Golden Age began. In 1622, sixty-seven percent of the population of Leiden was originally from the southern, catholic Netherlands.

One of the first concerts we know of in Leiden by Van den Hove was in 1593 together with the Leiden organist and composer Cornelis Schuyt during the annual foundation day celebration of the University. He played for the elite, and was teacher to Fredrik Hendrik, prince of Orange. In 1616, Van den Hove left Leiden in a great hurry because of his increasing debts. In 1620, he died a pauper in The Hague.

We know of one lute piece by Herman Pijs, or Piso. In 1607 he started as a medical student in Leiden, and during his early years was known as a lutenist, but later became organist at one of Leiden's main churches.



CISKA MERTENS

studied the lute at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague with Toyohiko Satoh.

She works as soloist and ensemble performer. Recent programs were “Entchanted World” a program for children around Wilhelmine von Bayreuth, 18th century lute duets with Earl Christy and as soloist programs with Galant Lute music and music from Leiden Lute Players.

Ciska lives and teaches in Leiden. She is one of the founders of the Nederlandse Luitvereniging/ Dutch Lute Society and is currently president of the Luitvereniging.