



Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest

History

Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest (BAO) was founded in May 1955 by the renowned accordion teacher from Gytsjerk, Marten Brouwer. The orchestra was called "Schoolorkest van Brouwer's Muziekschool" (Brouwer's Music School Orchestra) and consisted of the best accordionists from all his ensembles, supplemented by the best players among the pupils of his over the whole of Friesland scattered accordion school.

The ensemble made many appearances and, besides some records, a large number of radio-recordings. Brouwer died, at the age of 47 years, in 1963, after having transferred the leadership of the orchestra to Johan de With. The name of the orchestra then was changed to "Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest".

Traditions such as: no electronics, no percussion, original music as much as possible, "classical" work for accordion orchestra but also folk music, are intact; the music from Northern and Eastern Europe - so rich in accordion music - was welcomed with enthusiasm and many arrangements and compositions, specifically for this orchestra, were made, not only by/of the conductor and other members of the orchestra (especially Hotze Jelsma and Wieke Hofstra) but also by other composers (like Jan Masséus and Gerard Ammerlaan).



Concerts were and are being given, especially in Friesland, but also in other Dutch provinces and abroad (Italy, Belgium, Germany).

Cooperation with other instruments worked inspiring, from the "Concertino for flute and accordion orchestra" (dedicated to the orchestra) by Jan Masséus to a LP record together with the folk group Irolt, and two productions with the dancing-group "Duende"; a performance of "Sân" in the Haarlem Concertgebouw, representing Friesland at the Manifestation of Dutch Music 1986, was a highlight.

BAO also plays frequently as an accompaniment to choral and solo singing and also solo violin. This resulted in recent years in a number of concerts with the Sneeker Cantorij and the Fries Kamerkoor. In 2004 the orchestra worked for the first time with a brass band (De Bazuin, Oentsjerk).

After five "longplay-records", so far six CD's has been published on which the orchestra, alone or with other musicians, is to be heard: one with the theme of Folk Suites, one with Frisian vocal music with the Mingd Koar Grou, one in collaboration with Irolt, one with accordion music by Jacob de Haan and a CD released by the music publishing firm De Haske with new orchestral works. A special (historical) anniversary double-CD ("50 Jier Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest"), with a selection from five decades of repertory, was presented in connection with the 50th anniversary of the orchestra. Recently in 2014 the orchestra released a CD with both classical and Folk pieces.



The Conductor

Tim Fletcher, the current conductor, was born in Amsterdam in 1973. He completed the education teaching musician, accordion, at the conservatory of Rotterdam. Besides that he studied orchestral conducting with Arie van Beek, Daan Admiraal and Jos van der Sijde.

In this period he also took private-lessons with Jac Willems. He is also qualified as a HaFaBra-conductor (Alex Schillings, Arnold Span).

Tim Fletcher is conducting several orchestra's. Since 2010 he is the conductor of a professional ensemble, named STRACC. This ensemble consists of 9 strings and 5 accordions. Here he keeps in touch with prominent composers like Florian Maier, Anke Brouwer, Joost Kleppe, Kate Moore, Reza Namavar, Ana Mihajlovic and Bernard van Beurden.



Furthermore he is the founder of the REL-accordionorchestra. This is a projectorchestra with 35 players from all over the country, gathering once a month for a rehearsal.

At the initiative of Tim Fletcher, the REL-festival originated from this. A stylish festival where various accordionorchestra's get the opportunity to play. It is also a meeting between members of the orchestra's to find inspiration and to learn from each other. During the REL-festival on November 5, 2011 he organized a masterclass, where the string-quartet "EnAccord" gave a performance with regard to tone production, articulation and sound.

Among others Tim Fletcher is also conducting the A- and B-orchestra of RAC from Bennekom, Accordionorchestra KNA from Goor, the A-orchestra of the Leeuwarder Accordeon Ensemble and the small ensemble of the accordionclub Haganum from The Hague. Besides his work as a conductor, he is accordionteacher of private-students.

He himself is playing the bandoneon in the Piazzo Ensemble.



The founder

Marten Brouwer was born on September 26, 1915 as the son of a Skûtsje-skipper. Until his 12th years he held the school duty, and then he had to work on board father's Skûtsje. In his 18th year he became ill, and during one year of recovery, he taught himself to play the accordion. He entertained the villagers of Gytsjerk, where he had been located. Seized by the instrument and with the understanding that it meant more than an accordion master keyboard, a "folks-tool", he sold his bike and bought himself a new accordion. Meanwhile, he started a fuel and oil trade and spent his free hours to qualify himself on the accordion.

Leerlingenavond van Brouwer's Accordeonschool!

met het schoolorkest, op
woensdag 29 maart,
's avonds 8 uur, in café Th.
Oostenbrug,

Giekerk

Kaarten aan de zaal.



In 1939 he married and began teaching a student, but that number quickly grew and eventually resulted in the creation of an accordion school (later supplemented with other instruments to music), and of Brouwer's AkkordeonClub (BAC) in 1946.

Meanwhile, his music has expanded with branches spread throughout the province Friesland, the pupil numbers grew steadily and more and more teachers were appointed. Over time, under his inspiring leadership and excel its best orchestra students from all corners of the province selected for the establishment, in early May 1955, of the "School of Brouwer's Music School Orchestra".

Marten Brouwer died on May 8, 1963. At his death he carried on the leadership of the orchestra to conductor, Johan de With. The orchestra was, with the merging of the various departments of Brouwer's music school in the various municipals, renamed as "Brouwer's AkkordeonOrkest" (BAO)



Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest

Conductor: Tim Fletcher

First Party: Boukje Bonnema
Hilly Riemersma
Wieke Hofstra
Jetske Leijenaar

Second Party: Aukje Brouwer
Lizzy v.d. Laan
Reinou v.d. Veen

Third Party: Carolien v.d. Zande
Klara Dotinga
Ellen Bij de Weg

Fourth Party: Einte Slootstra
Chris Kesting
Bram Zijlstra

Bass: Doetie Peenstra
Akkie Blaakmeer
Jolanda Jutte





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Double CD "50 Jier Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest"

can be ordered by € 12,50 (including postal costs) making over to bank number **NL63RABO 012.75.93.691** of Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest, Burgum referring to "BAO CD 50" and by also notifying by e-mail or phone to **doetypeenstra@home.nl** or **+31 513-463308**



From our CD's "Folksmuzyksuites" and "The Accordion Music of Jacob de Haan" a limited supply is available. You can also order these CD's of course (while supplies lasts!). The unit price is € 7,50 in combination € 12,50 (all offers excluding postal costs). We provide a fast and accurate transmission!

The - in honour of the golden jubilee of BAO - published double-CD aims to give a short overview of the fifty years that BAO currently exists. Most of the numbers were not meant to be immortalized on CD; in 1955 we could not even know that such a phenomenon ever would happen. The often amateurish recordings of radio broadcasts made, or, even worse, with its own microphone, cannot compare with today's quality.

The early recordings are all still single course, also the reception on the radio was sometimes disrupted by the partial withdrawal of the station, crackling through along riding motorcycles, and other disturbing noises. Moreover, the sounds were often dull and sometimes noisy, even in the recordings.

The orchestra itself before autumn 1963, still without their own instruments, made noises here and there, such as register clicks. And of course the accordion sound "floats" much more than usual today. Sometimes the interpretations make some outdated or is about to play minor mistakes, nothing that it is a live recording goes. But all this belongs to our history, and that is, with all of that nostalgia sometimes, what we wanted to hear. Of course we had, for this two CD's, a choice to make. Especially having to leave out whole sections of multipart documents often led us to the heart, but still a somewhat comprehensive overview to give it was inevitable. We hope that the listeners, despite these concerns, can hear how much fun and enthusiasm we have worked all these years and, like us, will enjoy this historical document.