

Warner Fokkens – Biography (June 2009)

Warner Fokkens was born on April 6, 1965. When he was six years old he started to have organ and piano lessons. His teacher then was Mr Hed Kors, former organist of the Remonstrants Church in the Hague.

In 1982 he went to the Royal Conservatory in the Hague to study the Organ, Piano and Church music. His organ teachers were Johann Th. Lemckert, Wim van Beek and Rienk Jiskoot and for piano Albert Brussee. He studied Church music with Theo Goedhart. From 1992 to 1994 he studied organ at the Conservatory in Hilversum with Leo van Doeselaar.

In January 1980 Warner became the organist at the Sjalomkerk, a Protestant Church, in the Hague. In 1986 he became the organist and director of the choir at the Pauluskerk, also in the Hague.

In 1987 he started his own practise for piano and organ. For 22 years he has had experience of teaching several methods and styles with all ages.

Since October 2002 he has been the organist of the Bergkerk. At this church he was a coordinator with the committee to build a completely new wooden pipe organ, by Klop organ builders.

Warner is also a keyboard teacher at the International School of the Hague and the American School in Wassenaar.

On Saturday the 21st of March of this year, when the 5th Anniversary of the organ of the 'Bergkerk' was celebrated, Warner was decorated by the 'Vereniging voor Kerkrentmeesterlijk beheer' for fulfilling his function of organist for the duration of 28 years. This decoration, the 'Draaginsigne in Zilver' was given out by Albert Brussee, one of his former piano teachers at the Royal Conservatory of the Hague. The decoration was pinned on by Arjan Breukhoven, friend and colleague.

Warner is also choir conductor and music publisher.