

## Reconstruction of a mediæval organ type to suit solo and ensemble repertoire

**Configuration 1:** c13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries - 2 stops, 8' and 6'  
Arnaut de Zwolle scalings

**Configuration 2:** c11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Constant scaled 8'  
rank.

March/April 2010

February/March 2010

Arrival in Laufen - [www.davidrumsey.ch/picture.pdf](http://www.davidrumsey.ch/picture.pdf)

Tomas Flegr plays "Aliud Esclaphe" (Buxheimer Orgelbuch nr. 102, after Esclave puist yl... by Gilles Binchois) on this organ (live recording by Ingrid Noack - from the presentation of the instrument in the church of Beerta, Groningen province, NL, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010)

[www.davidrumsey.ch/Buxheim.wmv](http://www.davidrumsey.ch/Buxheim.wmv)

Jankees Braaksma improvises a "redeuntes" using 8', then 8'+6'.

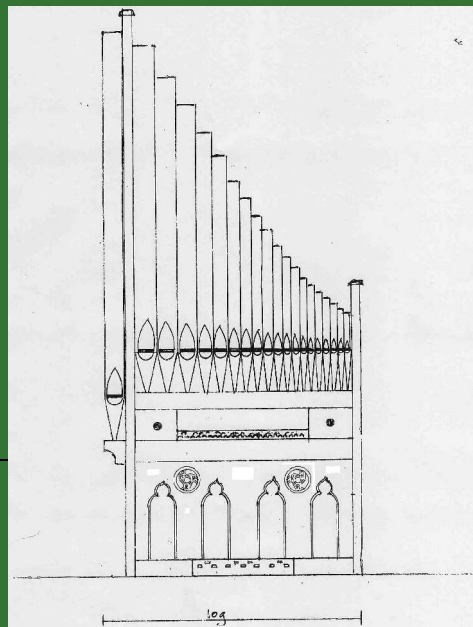
[www.davidrumsey.ch/redeuntes.mp3](http://www.davidrumsey.ch/redeuntes.mp3)

(Calcant for both: Winold van der Putten.)

David Rumsey plays Ileborgh Praeludium in d & c (in a)

[www.davidrumsey.ch/Ileborgh.wmv](http://www.davidrumsey.ch/Ileborgh.wmv)

(Electric blower)



Original design - front

\* Manual compass A-c<sup>3</sup>, 40 notes; Pedal compass - pull-downs A-a<sup>0</sup>; Both fully chromatic. Slider chests, suspended action.

\* Keyboard coverings of holly. Manual-key designs after the Ghent altarpiece by van Eyk, Hugo van der Goes ("Ange jouant de l'orgue" c1470) and the Norrlanda organ in Sweden. Pedal-key designs after Praetorius' reports of Halberstadt 1361/1495.

\* Case of Lebanese cedar.

\* Pipework of hammered lead (as "pure" as mediaeval lead could be, ca 95% - with traces of tin and copper), cast on sand. All pipes cut to length (8' rank without tuning caps a<sup>1</sup> = ca. 465Hz. at ca. 20°C).

\* Scaling of the 8' and 6' ranks: halving at the octave with an addition constant (as per Arnaut de Zwolle).

\* Constant-scaled rank according to the "pigeon's egg" dimensions in Anonymous of Bern (10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>c manuscript used well into the 12<sup>th</sup>c).

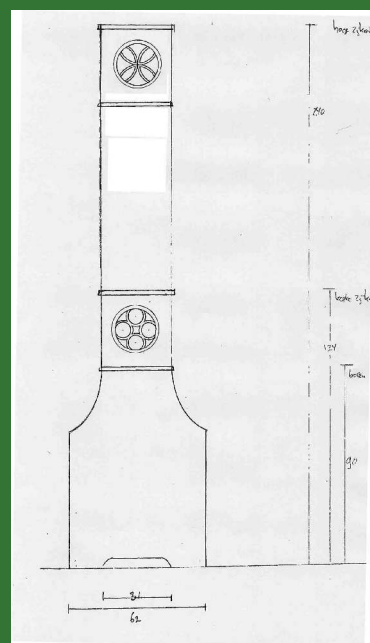
\* Pitch a<sup>1</sup> = (main 8' rank) 465 or 440Hz at ca. 20°C. 6' rank and constant-scaled rank 465 only. Tempering Pythagorean: all ranks offer choice of pre- or post-Arnaut de Zwolle with exchangeable pipes (the "wolf" at e<sup>b</sup>-g<sup>#</sup> or b-g<sup>b</sup> respectively). [Tempering details and summaries](#)

\* Two bellows behind the organ, for hand-pumping. Electric blower for non-calcant situations. Wind pressure = 47.5 mm.

Builder: Orgelmakerij Winold van der Putten, Winschoten (NL)

Purchasers: David and Elizabeth Rumsey, Basel (CH)

Inauguration during the Laufen Organ Festival 2010, played by David Rumsey at Herz-Jesu-Kirche, Laufen, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 8:15 p.m.



Original design - tall side

March-April 2010

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“Test flight” in Beerta (NL) on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010



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“The organ sounds wonderful...plays easily and has a very quiet, rich sound...all astonishingly natural. The Pythagorean tempering is fantastic.”

“...a refined, exquisite tone that takes us back in time and recreates the magic of late-medieval music. What a beautiful sound!”





Testing it out for size (it fits!)

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The bellows under construction



Keys, windchest, upperboard and pedals

Mooi orgel, schitterend!  
De klank is zo mooi!?

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Making the lead pipes

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Winold van der Putten and David Rumsey positioning the side-mounted pipes.

November 2011

The constant-scaled rank has its diameter based on the medieval prescription of “the width of a pigeon’s egg”



In the workshop at Finsterwolde: with the constant-scaled rank mounted instead of the 6' rank

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Awaiting completion

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Revision October 9<sup>th</sup> 2012