

Huw Williams MA, MMus, FRCO, ARAM
Director of Music, Her Majesty's Chapel Royal
St James's Palace
Cleveland Row
London SW1A 1BL
huwilliams71@gmail.com
01249 249422, 07985 923365

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Dear Frank,

Thank you very much for your welcome last week to play the wonderful new Willis organ in Leiden. I would like to congratulate you on this magnificent achievement. In the full and rich acoustic of Hooglandse Kerk the organ sounds absolutely stunning. This romantic and expressive instrument will be a perfect compliment to the superb baroque organ at the west end of the church. What an organist's paradise you have established here!

The Willis organ has a rich and diverse colour palette – as you would expect from one of the world's best ever organ builders, Father Willis. The quiet atmospheric yet beautiful string sounds and the wonderful variety of flutes, from gentle, velvety, smooth and silvery provide a great variety of musical colour. The clarinet is expressive and sings with a mysterious beauty. The oboe is plaintive and yet can sound so cantabile. The range of volume on the organ is extraordinary, with full organ being majestic and exciting. Full swell with box closed is thrilling – a worthy example of 'caged rage' but when open is full bodied and strong. The chorus on the great organ is sweet yet singing in tone but when added to the swell combines into a strong voice – ideal for congregational singing and for accompanying choirs. The wide dynamic contrasts possible from the swell box, the combination pedals and more especially from the sequencer give the organist countless combinations of sound. This is an extraordinary instrument – able to be bold and vivacious and yet gentle and wistful within a few moments. It is a comfortable organ to play with a lovely action which encourages musical and expressive playing.

You and the committee must be commended for your hard work and commitment over many years. This instrument will enhance the worship and musical life of the church and wider community for generations to come. Originally built in 1892 – your committee have offered a great legacy to all which will hopefully last longer than all our lives. I wish you continued success as you seek to finish the few remaining tasks to fully restore and complete this wonderful organ.

Yours sincerely

Huw Williams