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29 April 2010

*Dear Madam,*

In May 2006, my predecessor Lyn Parker became involved with the project embarked upon by the Stichting Cathedral Organ Leiden to install an English cathedral organ in the magnificent Hooglandse Kerk in Leiden's historic centre.

Having recently become acquainted with the details of the project, I must say that I cannot help but share his enthusiasm and support for it. This is not simply because it will involve an historic organ built in 1892 by one of Britain's most renowned organ builders, 'Father' Henry Willis, who built organs for many of the finest cathedrals and concert halls in the UK.

The project is also exciting because it will offer the music-loving people of the Netherlands, together with Leiden's many thousands of visitors from abroad, the opportunity to hear music from the Romantic Era and later – played as it should be on an English organ from that period. What is more, the Hooglandse Kerk, with its amazing acoustic, provides the perfect setting. This beautiful church is still used for worship, but also serves as a versatile multifunctional centre for events of a widely varying nature. The Stichting therefore intends that the organ will be played not only as a solo instrument, but also in the accompaniment of choirs and orchestras, for recordings, and for radio and television broadcasts. I am sure, too, that the 'Father' Willis organ will contribute in the encouragement of both national and international music students.

This project currently enjoys wide financial backing but still needs a substantial amount of support from donors and sponsors. I hope sincerely that this is forthcoming, and commend to you in particular the 'Willis Ambassador' scheme, which should go a long way towards the realization of this culturally very interesting and rewarding project.

Yours Sincerely

Paul Arkwright