

Dordt Choir Sings in Dordrecht

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Marcus: Dordt Choir Sings in Dordrecht

PHOTO SUBMITTED

"It was a thrill to conduct such a fine gathering of alumni singers from the last 25 years, as well as a few current students," says Ryan Smit.

DORDT CHOIR SINGS IN DORDRECHT

In celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Synod of Dordt and the creation of the Canons of Dordt, the choir of Dordt—that is, the Dordt University Choir—ventured to the Netherlands to share the gift of music.

The choir, represented by 14 current students and 29 alumni singers on this tour, gathered on Dordt's campus on May 21 for three days of intensive rehearsal and a pre-tour concert before flying to Amsterdam on May 24. They were joined by six non-singing spouses and, of course, Director Ryan Smit.

"Meshing as a choir in a short period of time was a learning curve, especially since most of the alumni had never had Professor Smit as a director before," says Janelle Cammenga ('19). "In the end, our mutual love of making music and our concert choir traditions brought us together."

"I think I had a conversation with nearly every person on the tour, whether they were 19 or 56," says Andrea (De Jong, '07) Van Dyken.

On May 29, the choir sang three songs at the five-hour Synod of Dordt 400th anniversary closing ceremony celebration, which was held in the Grote Kerk—"the big church"—in Dordrecht. The celebration also included performances by other professional musicians, messages from clergy, speeches from government officials, and a brief message from Dordt University President Dr. Erik Hoekstra about the role of church, family, and Christian education in faith formation.

"The setting was a fascinating mix of old and new," says Smit. "The Grote Kerk was built in the 11th century and contains a

fabulous pipe organ that is hundreds of years old. At the same time, there were TV cameras, projection screens, and a modern sound system for amplification and broadcast."

"It was an honor for our choir to be part of the event," says Emily Borger ('16).

The choir gave five additional concerts at churches in the central and southern parts of the Netherlands as well as at the Erasmus Medical Center. When they weren't performing, the group explored Delft, Gouda, Kinderdijk, Haarlem, Bruges, and other famous cities. On most nights, after a day full of sight-seeing and singing, tour members stayed with Dutch host families, who welcomed them enthusiastically.

"One of our host dads drove us to the beach at Katwijk aan Zee right after a concert, then took pictures like a proud dad when we sprinted into the ocean in full concert dress, pants rolled up to our knees," recounts Cammenga.

On June 2, the tired but happy choir made their way to Schipol Airport and flew back to the United States. "On the whole, the trip was a wonderful success," says Smit. "It was a thrill to conduct such a fine gathering of alumni singers from the last 25 years, as well as a few current students."

"It was a choir experience like none I've ever had," says Cammenga. "Getting to hear stories of Dordt throughout the years was amazing, and it really reminded me of what a special community I got to be a part of for four years at Dordt."

LYDIA MARCUS ('18)

FACULTY NOTES

Over the course of two decades, Professor of Language Studies **Dr. Leendert van Beek** translated eight small volumes of the sermons of Charles Spurgeon, a theologian, from English into Dutch. Each volume contains seven sermons, and each sermon took approximately one week to translate. Van Beek completed the translations in service to an interdenominational ministry foundation that supports intercultural church plants in large metropolitan areas in the Netherlands. Van Beek's work was featured at a "Dordt Writes" event in September.

Professor of Nursing **Dr. Debbie Bomgaars** obtained certification as a nurse educator from the National League of Nurses. Certification implies expertise in a nursing specialty.



Professor of Statistics **Dr. Nathan Tintle** was awarded a \$353,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue research on statistical methods for analyzing human genetic data. To learn more, visit dordt.edu/news/48534.

Professor of Chemistry **Dr. Carl Fictorie** and Professor of Biology **Dr. Tony Jelsma** presented posters at the annual meeting of the American Scientific Affiliation at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois on July 19-21. Jelsma's poster was titled "The Limbic System and Christian Sanctification," while Fictorie's poster was titled "The Meaning of Measurement: On the Redefinition of the Fundamental Units of the Measurement."



In the spring, Professor of Engineering **Dr. Kevin Timmer** received the John Calvin Award, which is given annually to a Dordt faculty member who inspires students in the development of their world-and-life view.

