



SHELL  
HARMONIE  
AMSTERDAM



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Een mens  
is nooit te oud  
om te leren

musiceren

One  
is never too old  
to learn

music making

Amsterdam, August 2002

## Dear Colleague

Aside from our work here at SRTCA there also exist opportunities to relax and to partake in all manner of hobby's and sports activities.

The societies, which make up the 'Amsterdams Sport Verbond' offer you numerous possibilities, one of these is our symphonic wind orchestra:

the '**Shell Harmonie Amsterdam**'

In this booklet you can read just what the Shell Harmonie offers you.

Music making is a pastime of few boundaries, fitting for all times and ages. This needs little explanation for those of us who already play a musical instrument, no doubt you will read this book with special attention.

Even if you do not yet play an instrument I still hope you will take the time to read this book and show it to the other members of your family, for they too may benefit from what ASV and our orchestras offer.

Even though we have made every effort to make this booklet as comprehensive as possible I can well imagine you may still be left with questions, in which case I urge you to contact us, we will be only too pleased to provide extra information.

I hope I may soon welcome you as a member of our society.

Mark Swallow, chairman. 

## **The Shell Harmonie Amsterdam and its Orchestras.**

The Shell Harmonie Amsterdam is an amateur music society whose members are closely connected with the Shell Research and Technology Centre Amsterdam. Either they themselves, a partner, parent or child presently work here or they are now enjoying their retirement.



Our society consists of three orchestras: the main symphonic wind orchestra or 'Grote Harmonie (GH)', the second smaller learners orchestra or 'petite Harmonie (pH)' and the light entertainment group the 'Shell Kapel'

## What is an 'Harmonie Orkest'?

A harmonie orkest or wind orchestra consists of both



wood and brass  
wind instruments  
and a percussion  
section

augmented with  
individual string  
instruments and  
occasionally a  
keyboard  
instrument or

synthesizer.

The woodwind section consists of hobos, bassoons, flutes, saxophones and last but not least, the mainstay of an Harmonie, the clarinets, the solo clarinet player being the concertmaster (just like the solo violinist in a philharmonic or symphony orchestra).

The brass section consists of trumpets, french horns, trombones, baritones and bases.

Modern-day orchestras are not unfamiliar with the string bass. And the extensive percussion section is home to timpani's and a wide range of melodic instruments. Many contemporary works are also arranged for additional special instruments.

## **The 'Grote Harmonie'**

The main orchestra was founded in 1938 as a 'fanfare' which is similar to the English brass band with the addition of saxophones. In 1948 the orchestra was developed to its present form.

Under the inspirational leadership of Siem Noom, Jan Schaap, Karel Kokelaar and Jean Gruter the orchestra grew in size and musical ability. The (GH) orchestra, presently counting approximately 50 players, has been under the enthusiastic leadership of Jan Schut since April 1989.

The society is a member of the KNFM, the Royal Dutch Federation of Music societies and the GH has played in the highest contest section since 1963. First prizes were achieved at recent contests, with honours in 1987 and with colours in 1990, 1993 and 1997. The GH was twice invited to partake in national championship contests.

The orchestra can be heard predominately at other venues than contests: for instance in September in the square of the Amsterdam Historic Museum and giving concerts for the aged or handicapped. Most importantly the GH can be heard at concerts organised in the Amsterdam area in co-operation with other musical groups.



The Harmonie is also a member of the ABCO, a co-operative for the promotion of 'harmonie', 'fanfare' and brass band music. Each year the ABCO organises a concert series in the 'Purmaryn Theatre' in Purmerend. Each concert in the series is presented by two of the ABCO member orchestras.

The Shell Harmonie main orchestra is also host to conductor examinations, usually once a year, for students in their final year at the Sweelink Conservatory Amsterdam and the Conservatory High school Alkmaar.

A recent highpoint for the GH was performing the Requiem by the Hungarian composer Frigyes Hidas. The two performances of this Requiem written for 4 voices, choir and wind orchestra were organised together with the Chamber Choir of North Holland.

The image shows a musical score for the first movement of a Requiem by Frigyes Hidas. The title 'Requiem' is prominently displayed at the top in a large, bold, italicized font. Below it, the subtitle '1. Requiem' is centered, and the composer's name 'Frigyes Hidas' is on the right. The score is written for a woodwind instrument, likely a clarinet, as indicated by the 'clar.' marking. It features three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The music is marked with dynamic levels: *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*, and *mp*. The second and third staves continue the melodic line, with the second staff marked *mp* and *p*, and the third staff marked *f*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

## The 'petite Harmonie'

The petite Harmonie is the youngest member of the SHA family.

The pH is a starters orchestra founded in 1993. The pH offers the musical beginner the opportunity to gain meaningful experience playing in an orchestra, together with more experienced players. These players, often from the GH, find a place in the pH to broaden their abilities by playing a different instrument in what often is a cheery and undemanding atmosphere.



## The 'Shell Kapel'

The Shell Kapel is a band made up of a small group of enthusiastic musicians from the society, the majority of whom work at SRTCA. Together we play easily digestible entertainment music, good to dance to, which is why we are often to be found playing at anniversaries and retirement celebrations. The Kapel also accompanies the traditional 'Sint Nicolaas' children's party in December as well as the children's summer garden party, both organised by groups within the ASV.

Whilst the Kapel is an independent band it is still a part of the Shell Harmonie Amsterdam. The Band consists of about a dozen players, participation is strictly by 'invitation', of 'the Kapelmeester'.



## Shell Harmonie Activities

Each year the Shell Harmonie offers its members a number of activities developed to create a varied and interesting musical package. Many of these activities occur each year and there are activities which occur on an irregular basis, such as trips abroad to places like Poland and Germany.

The Harmonie, in the form of a 'visiting orchestra' made up of members of all parts of the society and sometimes guests, has in this way performed at the 'Palmengarten' in Frankfurt on two different occasions. The Shell Harmonie can also be found out and about in the Netherlands.



Annually both the GH and the pH hold 'open rehearsals' where one and all are welcome to come and sit in.

Also an annual music afternoon or evening is held at which the members, either individually or in ensembles, display their talents to each other. Quite often friends and family members take part in this event which is music making at all levels from the first (ensemble) pieces from new student musicians to almost professional performances. This 'family affair' takes place in springtime, usually in our rehearsal facilities at SRTCA.

Less regular are the contests and festivals at which both Shell Harmonie orchestras measure themselves against their peers.

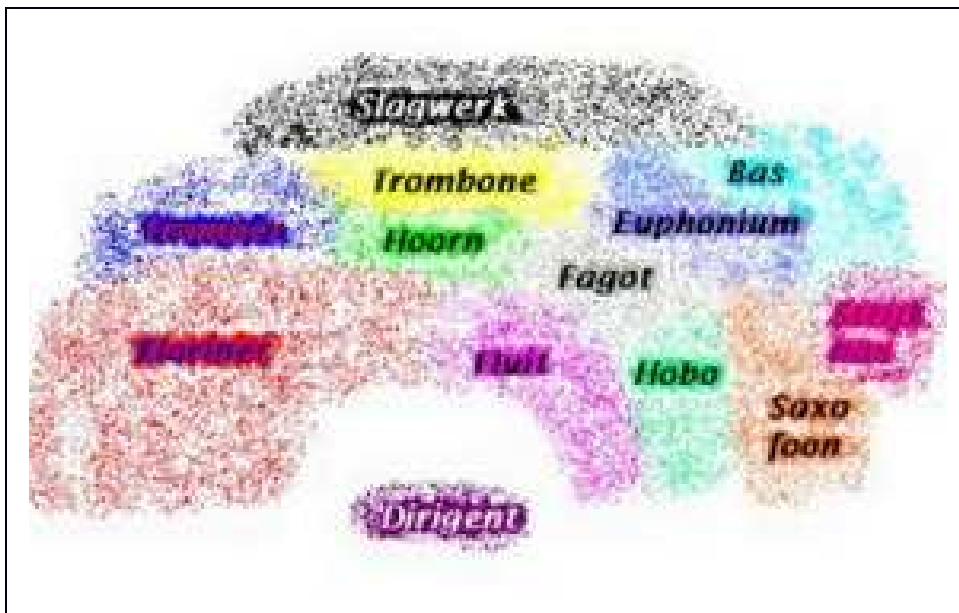


The Harmonie orchestras regularly accompany such ASV events as the children's summer party and the 'Sinterklaas' party. Also at the SRTCA events such as the 'Herring day' and bi annual open day we can be found entertaining the guests.

## Interested?

The Shell Harmonie offers you all manner of possibilities for learning to make music. Should you decide to give music making with the Shell Harmonie a try: we have an introductory contribution free period which gives you the opportunity to 'try out'. You can borrow the instrument of your choice (on condition we have one available).

Should you decide to carry on then the Harmonie will



subsidise part of the costs of taking lessons. After one year we hope to start 'cashing in' on this investment and so expect you to partake in one of the orchestras. Membership is possible for all Shell employees their partners and children up to 23 years of age Also employees of all companies on site who partake in the agreement for use of the fitness facilities. We also offer study membership to students of conservatories.

## Information.

Have we appealed to your curiosity? Would you like to learn more about the Shell Harmonie or one of the orchestras? The do not hesitate to contact:

Rik Baars	Secretary	2041
Johan Smit	pH co-ordinator	2848
Paul van Brugge	Public Relations	3357
Mark Swallow	Chairman	2968

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And our website: [www.sha.hafabra.nl](http://www.sha.hafabra.nl)

Or come and take a look and a listen at one of the orchestra rehearsals in the 'Lezingzaal', ground floor overhoeks:

- The Grote Harmonie Thursdays, 18.00 to 20.30
- The petite Harmonie Wednesdays 17.30 to 19.30
- The Shell Kapel Thursdays, 12.15 to 13.00

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