



Festival Oude Muziek Utrecht 2026

with Early Music Seattle

Christina Pluhar and L'Arpeggiata

Join Early Music Seattle for a trip to the fabulous Festival Oude Muziek in Utrecht this summer—

eight glorious days and nights filled with music, art, touring, and great food and company in the beautiful Netherlands. Early Music Seattle's Artistic Director Gus Denhard and Executive Director Ludovica Punzi lead the way on this performance filled journey to the Festival Oude Muziek - the world's largest early music festival, held annually in Utrecht city center for ten days at the end of August. Since 1982, the festival has showcased music from the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Baroque eras in over 250 events per edition, drawing more than 70,000 visitors. The festival features prestigious musicians and emerging talent, along with fringe concerts and coaching sessions and is renowned for its historically informed performances, innovative programming, and its role as a meeting place for leading early music specialists from around the globe.



Enjoy performances by some of the best early music musicians and ensembles in the world, including Christina Pluhar's L'Arpeggiata, Gli Angeli Genève and Stephan MacLeod, Ensemble Correspondances with Sébastien Daucé, Huelgas Ensemble, and Le Concert Spirituel with Hervé Niquet, all while being surrounded by a festival atmosphere in one of the Netherlands's loveliest cities.

Festival Oude Muziek is the ultimate pilgrimage for classical music purists and history aficionados, offering rare access to "Originalklang" (original sound) performances with music played on period instruments or faithful replicas, reflecting the composers' intent. Whether you are an experienced scholar of early music or an inquisitive traveler, you'll find that the festival delivers an exceptional blend of artistic excellence and scholarly depth in one of the prettiest towns in the Netherlands.

We hope you will join us and look forward to seeing you on this unforgettable musical journey!

circle photo, left: Klinkhamer Harpsichord

Early
Music
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Festival
Oude Muziek
Utrecht



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



LIMITED TO
25 PARTICIPANTS

- Prime tickets to four major evening performances at the Festival Oude Muziek Utrecht, along with daily matinee options in Utrecht
- Excellent, centrally located, 4 and 5 star accommodations in Amsterdam and Utrecht
- Welcome reception on a private cruise on the canals of Amsterdam
- Privately guided walking tours of Amsterdam and Utrecht, including a food tour
- Private workshop tour of Klinkhamer Harpsichord and Fortepiano workshop and musical demonstration with Mr. Ton Amir
- Private visit to the Walloon Church and demonstration of its beautiful baroque organ in original state
- Delicious food! 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 2 dinners, and a reception

above: 'Dancing' canal houses, Amsterdam

August 23* - September 1, 2026

*Tour begins August 24 in Amsterdam



De-Pijp-Houseboats

Tuesday, August 25 *Amsterdam*

Breakfast daily at both hotels.

Today, we explore Amsterdam, the Netherlands' capital. A walking **food tour** leads us through some of the city's most vibrant neighborhoods and hidden gems, where locals share their history, passion and pride for all things Dutch. This afternoon, we'll have an opportunity to visit the works of one of the most famous artists of all time, Dutch-born Vincent Van Gogh, in the eponymous museum on the famed Museumplein in the heart of the city.

Wednesday, August 26 *Amsterdam*

We begin the day with a visit to the workshop of Klinkhamer Harpsichord and Fortepiano Makers. Mr. Ton Amir, an expert keyboard maker who also specializes in voicing, regulating and tuning, leads us through the Klinkhamer workshop on a private tour. Afterwards we'll visit the Walloon Church in the old city center. The Oude Waalse Kerk dates to the 15th century and is home to one of the best preserved Müller organs still in existence, and today we'll be fortunate to have a demonstration by a fine organist. After **lunch**, we'll pay a visit to the 'Old Masters' and others at the renowned Rijksmuseum, where we'll be privately guided through the collections.

Thursday, August 27 *Utrecht*

This morning, enjoy some free time in Amsterdam before we bid the city 'tot ziens' and transfer by private coach to Utrecht in anticipation of the exuberant Festival Oude Muziek. Check-in at the Grand Hotel Karel V, set in a 14th-century monastery in the very heart of the city, with all of Utrecht at our fingertips. **Dinner** that evening offers us a warm welcome to the city.

Sunday, August 23

Flights to Europe, with arrival the following day

Monday, August 24 *Amsterdam* Welkom!

Arrival at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS) and transfer to the De Pijp neighborhood of Amsterdam. Our home for three nights is the irresistibly charming Sir Albert Hotel, ideally located in ostensibly the 'hippest' neighborhood in Amsterdam. We celebrate our arrival with a **reception** on a private cruise along Amsterdam's canals and a **welcome dinner**.



right: Early music manuscript
left: Philippe Jarrousky at Oude Muziek Utrecht
below: Rijksmuseum Amsterdam



Friday, Aug. 28–Monday, Aug. 31

Utrecht

Every day in this historic Dutch city promises a cultural feast of new experiences, fine performances, delicious food and the company of friends, both old and new, while the music flows—literally—in the streets of the town. We'll attend 4 major concerts in the evenings and choose daily among matinee performances in addition to Fringe programs and Hifi Sessions, lectures, an extensive instrument exhibition, and even... music in a van! **Daily lunch** in top-notch eateries will be an opportunity to share our musical experiences while sampling some of Utrecht's finest culinary offerings. From vibrant festivals and performances in storied, steeped churches and modern halls to the lively charm of Utrecht's cobblestone streets and winding canals, the experience is not to be missed.

Monday, August 31 Utrecht

After another day full of rich musical offerings, we'll have a chance to reflect on our time and bid goodbye to our friends and the festival with a gala **farewell dinner**.

Tuesday, September 1

Tot we elkaar weer zien, Nederland!

The tour ends after breakfast. Transfer by private coach to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS)

Itinerary is subject to change.

*Meals in **bold** are included in the price of the tour.*

*below: Utrecht's Domkerk
bottom: Kinderdijk windmills*



Tour Registration

Van Gogh Museum,
Vincent Van Gogh, *Sunflowers*, 1889

Tour Cost: \$7,950* per person, ground only, double occupancy. [*Includes \$1,000 tax-deductible contribution to Early Music Seattle]
Single supplement: \$1,085

Deposit: \$1,000 per person first come, first served

Registration Deadline: Friday, June 26, 2026. After that date, call for availability. Tour limited to 25 paying participants, or as hotel space allows.

To reserve your place, visit our website and locate the [EMS Early Music Festival Utrecht Tour](#). Enter the code **1122** in the box on the right to access your tour's full itinerary and the registration and payment portal page. Then simply follow the instructions to complete and submit your registration form and deposit payment.

If you prefer to complete your registration manually, please call or email us. If you do not wish to pay your deposit through TGT's web portal, please call us with your credit card information, or mail a check to: EMS Early Music Festival Utrecht Tour, c/o The Grand Tour, PO Box 274, Peterborough NH 03458.

Questions? Contact The Grand Tour: 800.727.2995 / info@thegrandtour.com, or Ludovica Punzi, EMS Executive Director: 206.325.7066 / ludo@earlymusicseattle.org

The Early Music Festival Tour is organized exclusively for Early Music Seattle by The Grand Tour Travel Company, Peterborough, NH.