



200 jaar
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PRESS RELEASE

200 Years of the Royal Conservatoire

Anniversary year highlights the value of music and dance education



Photo: Alex Schröder

The Hague, 13 January 2026 – This year, the Royal Conservatoire The Hague celebrates its 200th anniversary. With a wide-ranging series of concerts and performances, the institute shows how conservatoire education has developed over two centuries: from a craft-based vocational training to a broad learning environment in which artistic excellence, collaboration and innovation come together. ‘An anniversary like this is about more than history,’ says Lies Colman, Director of the Royal Conservatoire. ‘It is about what arts education awakens in young people: dedication, imagination, craftsmanship and the ability to work together. We train students to reach the highest level, but also to further develop the arts and give meaning to the world around them.’

As the oldest conservatoire in the Netherlands, the Royal Conservatoire reflects on its past in 2026, while above all making visible how education and professional practice

intersect today. Music and dance are created here not only within the confines of studios and classrooms, but in dialogue with audiences, the city, and the professional field. The Royal Conservatoire is part of the University of the Arts The Hague and, since 2021, has been housed in Amare, together with the Residentie Orkest (RO) and Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT). This proximity brings education and professional practice literally closer together and supports an environment in which students learn alongside leading makers and performers. Connection, a constant throughout the conservatoire's history – will be evident in all activities during the anniversary year.

The Hague as learning environment and stage

The anniversary celebrations begin on Wednesday 4 March 2026, when hundreds of students perform at unexpected locations throughout The Hague. This opening reflects the institute's ethos: students take to stages and public spaces during their studies, gain experience and become part of the city's cultural ecosystem. This spectacular afternoon of musical surprises highlights the bond with The Hague and is a gift to the city's residents.

One of the highlights of the anniversary programme is Jubilee Night on Wednesday 8 April 2026: a full evening programme in which all departments and disciplines come together in a single joint production, under the artistic direction of Sjaron Minailo and choreographers Andrea Leine and Harijono Roebana. The evening symbolises what defines the conservatoire: high standards of craftsmanship combined with a willingness to cross boundaries – between instruments, styles, makers and disciplines.

Throughout the anniversary year, a series of special concerts and performances will also take place, many of them free of charge. In this way, the jubilee is not only an occasion for invited guests or insiders, but an invitation to a broad audience to experience what is created and shared within the educational programme. The full anniversary agenda can be found on the Royal Conservatoire website.

Artistic finale at the Grote Kerk

The anniversary year will conclude artistically at the Grote Kerk in The Hague with a performance of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. This production reflects an institution that has been training talent for 200 years and closely connecting performance practice with education. The work challenges students to develop not only technically, but also emotionally and with social awareness. By engaging with the message and background of the piece, students gain a deeper understanding of the role art can play in reflecting on and influencing society. In a world that calls for engaged and critical artists, the *War Requiem* offers a powerful example of how music can not only move but also connect and have social impact.

Notes for editors

- Opening of the anniversary year: Wednesday afternoon 4 March 2026 (various locations in The Hague). Members of the press are warmly invited to visit the locations or join the press tour. Please register via pers@koncon.nl

- Jubilee Night: 8 April 2026 (Amare). A limited number of places is available for the media. Please register via pers@koncon.nl
- Finale: *War Requiem* (Grote Kerk, The Hague, 17 and 18 October)
- Overview of the complete anniversary programme: www.koncon.nl/200

Press contact

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Images and press kit

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