

Jacob van Eyck
The Netherlands (~1590 – 1657)

The Psalms

A liturgical musical project at the German Protestant Church “Christuskirche” in Paris

Claudia Weik-Schäfer, Markus Schäfer – Readings
Eva Maria Schieffer – flute

During this project the compositions of psalms of the Dutch composer Jacob van Eyck will be performed during the service in their original liturgical context.

The idea was created by the collaboration of the parsons of the Christuskirche, Claudia Weik-Schäfer and Markus Schäfer and the flutist Eva Maria Schieffer, active member of the church, living in Paris.

Jacob van Eyck was a blind organ and recorder player who was employed at the cathedral of Utrecht as carillonneur. A document in the archives of the cathedral mentions that he used to play for the visitors of the cemetery the *St Jans-Kerk*, for which he received a raise in his salary. This activity led to the *Fluyten-Lusthof*, the biggest European oeuvre for solo wind instrument ever written. The collection contains profane and spiritual songs of this period and represents the first European Hit parade. Jacob van Eyck dictated the songs and his variations to a writer. There are two printed editions, which have been overseen by the author.

The *Fluyten-Lusthof* contains twelve psalms with variations. Originally, they could be played at two different moments of the liturgy during the service:

- As an opening psalm (read in exchange) the directing verse of which (the antiphon) determines the whole Sunday
- As a Hallelujah-verse after reading the epistle

From Sunday July 27th on, Eva Maria Schieffer will play the psalms in their original context during the service in the Christuskirche. The first psalm will be psalm number 33 (“Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous”). The next dates will be the 17th of August (number 119, “O praise the LORD, all ye nations”) and the 24th of August (Number 103, “Bless the LORD, O my soul”).

During the next twelve months all compositions will be played during the service. At the end of the year the music and the readings will be recorded for CD.

For further information you may consult the following web sites: www.schieffer-blockfloete.de and www.evangelischekircheparis.org