



3 July 2026

Dear SAKOV Members and Honorary Members,

INVITATION: SAKOV NATIONAL ORGAN SYMPOSIUM AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

You are warmly invited to attend SAKOV's Fourth National Organ Symposium (NOS) and 46th Annual General Meeting (AGM), to be held from 3–5 September 2026 at Stellenbosch University and surrounding venues in the Cape Winelands.

1. SAKOV NATIONAL ORGAN SYMPOSIUM 2026

This year's programme offers something for beginner and experienced organists, academics, church musicians, students, young people, and enthusiasts from a variety of church denominations and traditions. The symposium will feature 17 presenters, three concerts, two hymn-singing sessions, and a panel discussion.

Many of you will remember *Ars Organi* by Flor Peeters—a publication that undoubtedly occupies a place on many organists' bookshelves and played an important role during the early years of your organ studies. Our guest organist, Prof. Luc Ponet, studied with Flor Peeters himself and will offer a unique perspective on this influential tradition of organ pedagogy. Prof. Ponet is travelling from Belgium, and it is a tremendous privilege for us to welcome him to this year's symposium.

In addition to the masterclasses and presentations, delegates will once again have the opportunity to hear and experience the magnificent Marcussen organ in the Endler Hall.

2. MASTERCLASSES

Prof. Luc Ponet and Dr Marian Steyl will present masterclasses on Thursday, 3 September, focusing respectively on the classical organ repertoire and South African chorale preludes. The closing date for performers is Friday, 21 August 2026 and registrations can be submitted via the online registration form. Observers are also most welcome.

3. SAKOV FOR THE YOUTH

The future of the organ lies in the hands of the next generation, and for the third consecutive year SAKOV will present a special event for young people.

Young musicians are invited to discover the fascinating world of the pipe organ. The session, presented by Dr Andrea Kayser-Mitas, will take place on Thursday, 3 September at 15:30 at NG Toringkerk in Paarl.

Although the event is primarily aimed at school learners, all SAKOV members and members of the public are warmly invited to attend.

This event is free and open to the public. We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this opportunity with music teachers, music learners, and young musicians in your area.



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4. PANEL DISCUSSION: THE CHURCH HYMN IN 2030

Technology is developing rapidly and is increasingly influencing the way music is created, distributed, and used. In response to these developments, SAKOV will host a panel discussion featuring specialists from a range of disciplines who will share their perspectives on this important topic. The discussion will take place on 3 September, at 18:00 at the Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality in Wellington and will be chaired by Prof. Gideon Els. The panel brings together experts from the fields of church music, theology, media, and communications.

***This event is free and open to the public.** We encourage anyone interested in the future of church music to attend. Clergy, composers, church musicians, and leaders involved in both traditional and contemporary church music will find the discussion particularly valuable.*

5. CONCERTS

One of the highlights of this year's symposium will be a performance of **Joseph Jongen's** monumental ***Symphonie Concertante*** for **organ and orchestra**, presented by Prof. Luc Ponet and the Stellenbosch University Symphony Orchestra. This remarkable work was last performed in South Africa in 1998, making this a rare opportunity to hear one of the great masterpieces of the organ repertoire.

A limited number of **40 discounted tickets** are available to SAKOV members at 25% discount (R120). Payment must accompany your symposium registration before 21 August 2026.

Two lunchtime concerts will also be presented. On **Friday, 4 September** at 12:00, the 2025 bursary recipients will perform a programme of South African chorale preludes on the Marcussen organ in the **Endler Hall**. Our **Closing Concert** will take place on **Saturday, 5 September** at 15:00 at **NG Church Stellenbosch North**. The programme includes the launch of SAKOV's new publication, *Halleluja's en Erediensmusiek*, performed by several organists, followed by ***Die Mag van Twee***, presented by **Louna Stofberg** and **Winand Grundling** in a recital for piano and organ.

The lunchtime concerts are open to the public. Please feel free to invite family, friends, and colleagues. Admission is by donation.

6. PUBLICATION LAUNCH

The SAKOV Executive is delighted to make new South African organ music available to our members. This year we are proud to launch *Halleluja's en Erediensmusiek* by Dr Niel van der Watt. This valuable collection contains 25 arrangements of beloved Hallelujah songs, ideally suited for use in worship services throughout Southern Africa. The arrangements are written at a level that makes them readily accessible to the average church organist with minimal preparation. In addition to the 25 Hallelujah songs, the collection also includes nine hymn arrangements and two non-liturgical works.



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7. SAKOV 46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 46th Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, 5 September 2026, at 14:00 at NG Church Stellenbosch North.

Members wishing to place matters on the agenda are requested to submit them to chair@sakov.co.za by Friday, 21 August 2026.

8. PROGRAMME

A detailed programme accompanies this invitation. We trust that the wide variety of presentations, concerts, and networking opportunities will provide something of value for every participant.

9. REGISTRATION AND FEES

Registration can be completed via the following link. <https://forms.gle/WwhfTxivkY7SQbv38>
All payments should be made directly into the SAKOV bank account.

SAKOV FOR THE JOUTH	FREE
SAKOV-PANEL DISCUSSION	FREE
SAKOV Member Friday, 4 September	R200 (11 sessions)
SAKOV Member Saturday, 5 September	R150 (5 sessions followed by SAKOV affairs)
Masterclasses Participant	R350 per piece
Masterclasses Listener	R100 for the day
Lunch Hour Concerts	Donation
<i>Halleluja's en Erediensmusiek</i>	R200 per copy available at NOS
Non-members Friday, 4 September	R400 (11 sessions)
Non-members Saturday, 5 September	R300 (5 sessions followed by SAKOV affairs)
Non-members Friday, Saturday and membership	R950

The closing date for all registrations is Friday, 21 August 2026.

We would appreciate it if you could share this invitation with colleagues, students, and other interested persons. Please direct anyone who is **not a member of SAKOV** to our website, where tickets can be purchased: <https://sakov.co.za/shop/>

We look forward to welcoming you to Stellenbosch as we celebrate three inspiring days devoted to our beloved instrument.

With kind regards,

Dr Isabelle van Rensburg
Chairperson, SAKOV

Mr Wybrand van der Westhuizen
Secretary, SAKOV