

## History

Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest (BAO) was founded in May 1955 by the renowned accordion teacher from Gytsjerk, Marten Brouwer. The orchestra was called "Schoolorkest van Brouwer's Muziekschool" (Brouwer's Music School Orchestra) and consisted of the best accordionists from all his ensembles, supplemented by the best players among the pupils of his over the whole of Friesland scattered accordion school.

The ensemble made many appearances and, beside some records, a large number of radio-recordings. Brouwer died, at the age of 47 years, in 1963, after having transferred the leadership of the orchestra to the current conductor, Johan de With. The name of the orchestra then was changed to "Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest".

Traditions such as: no electronics, no percussion, original music as much as possible, "classical" work for accordion orchestra but also folk music, are intact; the music from Northern and Eastern Europe - so rich in accordion music - was welcomed with enthusiasm and many arrangements and compositions, specifically for this orchestra, were made, not only by/of the conductor and other members of the orchestra (especially Hotze Jelsma and Wieke Hofstra) but also by other composers (like Jan Masséus and Gerard Ammerlaan).

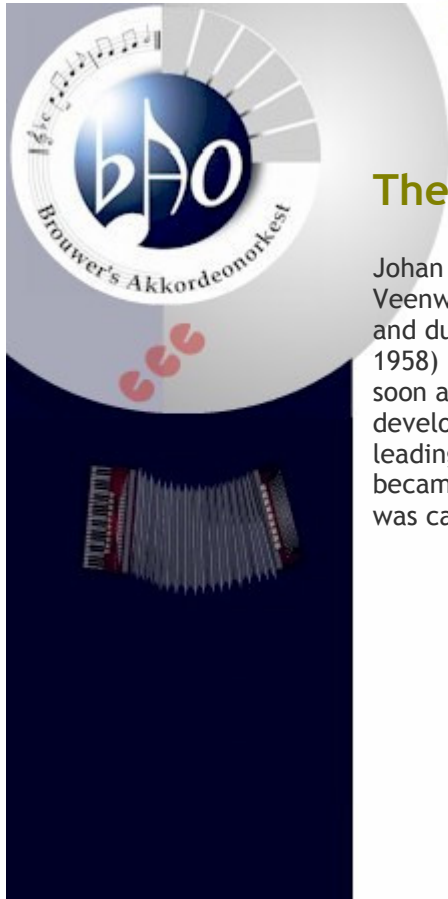


Concerts were and are being given, especially in Friesland, but also in other Dutch provinces and abroad (Italy, Belgium, Germany).

Cooperation with other instruments worked inspiring, from the "Concertino for flute and accordion orchestra" (dedicated to the orchestra) by Jan Masséus to a LP record together with the folk group Irolt, and two productions with the dancing-group "Duende"; a performance of "Sân" in the Haarlem Concertgebouw, representing Friesland at the Manifestation of Dutch Music 1986, was a highlight.

BAO also plays frequently as an accompaniment to choral and solo singing and also solo violin. This resulted in recent years in a number of concerts with the Sneeker Cantorij and the Fries Kamerkoor. In 2004 the orchestra worked for the first time with a brass band (De Bazuin, Oentsjerk).

After five "longplay-records", so far six CD's has been published on which the orchestra, alone or with other musicians, is to be heard: one with the theme of Folk Suites, one with Frisian vocal music with the Mingd Koar Grou, one in collaboration with Irolt, one with accordion music by Jacob de Haan and a CD released by the music publishing firm De Haske with new orchestral works. Recently a special (historical) anniversary double-CD ("50 Jier Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest"), with a selection from five decades of repertory, was presented in connection with the 50th anniversary of the orchestra.



## The Conductor

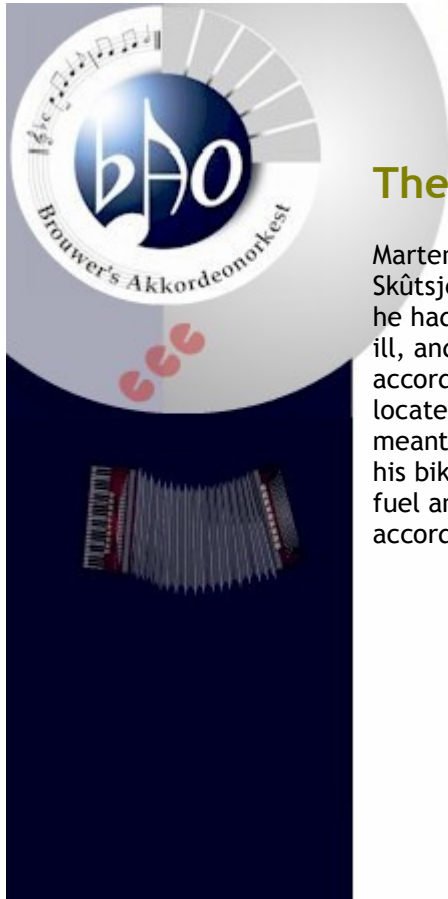
Johan de With was born in 1939 in Minnertsga (Fr.) and now lives in Veenwouden. At the age of ten he became fascinated by the accordion, and during his studies at the Stedelijk Gymnasium in Leeuwarden (1952-1958) he began to take lessons from Marten Brouwer (accordion, but soon also music theory). The lessons were crucial for his further development. Soon he himself taught at various music schools and was leading orchestras of accordions. After Brouwer's death in 1963 he became conductor instead of member of the "School Orchestra", what was called from that time "Brouwer's AkkordeonOrkest (BAO).



From university physics in Groningen he switched to a conservatoire training of the accordion as soon as possible. After completion thereof (with majors in teaching Philip van Loon and Wilt Boonstra) he studied Theory of Music to Wim Brandse at the conservatory in Zwolle, and was from 1965 to 1990 accordion teacher, later also in music theory, to which initially was called "the professional training division of the Leeuwarder Music School", later on the Music Pedagogical Academy Leeuwarden and after that the Leeuwarder Conservatory. After the forced removal of that institution he was professor of music theory, accordion later, at the conservatory in Groningen. As a second stage accordion teacher he also did work several years at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague.

He is a member of the accordion quartet Variable, writes articles in accordion magazines and was active in national- and international accordion events. In 2006 his book "Portable, more moody, expressive; the accordion and its relatives" appeared. As the composer Johan de With he has several dozen works to his name, including compositions for choir, organ and horns; and of course with some accordion, including "Oere noch tiid" for singer/reciter, accordions and drums, "Sân" for 7 dancers and accordion orchestra, "Pjesma miru" for mixed choir, baritone, harp, (bass) clarinet, 4 accordion and percussion, "Canto para paz" for mixed choir, trumpet, 3 accordions and percussion, "Wurden" for mixed choir and accordion orchestra, "Colori del re" for brass band and accordion orchestra, and "Wynstreken" for oboe, horn and accordion quartet.

He also made various arrangements for accordion quartet and -orchestra, with which several solo and/or chorus. Almost all his work for accordion orchestra is thought to BAO.



## The founder

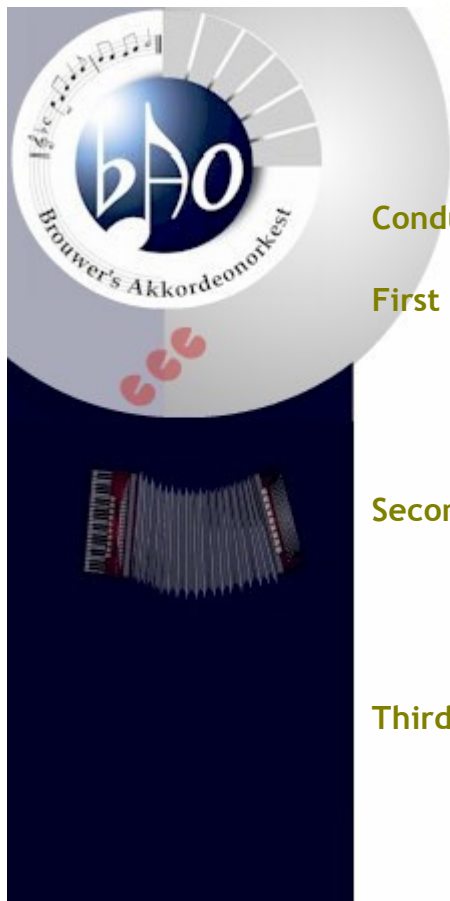
Marten Brouwer was born on September 26, 1915 as the son of a Skûtsje-skipper. Until his 12th years he held the school duty, and then he had to work on board father's Skûtsje. In his 18th year he became ill, and during one year of recovery, he taught himself to play the accordion. He entertained the villagers of Gytsjerk, where he had been located. Seized by the instrument and with the understanding that it meant more than an accordion master keyboard, a "folks-tool", he sold his bike and bought himself a new accordion. Meanwhile, he started a fuel and oil trade and spent his free hours to qualify himself on the accordion.



In 1939 he married and began teaching a student, but that number quickly grew and eventually resulted in the creation of an accordion school (later supplemented with other instruments to music), and of "Brouwer's AkkordeonClub (BAC) in 1946.

Meanwhile, his music has expanded with branches spread throughout the province Friesland, the pupil numbers grew steadily and more and more teachers were appointed. Over time, under his inspiring leadership and excel its best orchestra students from all corners of the province selected for the establishment, in early May 1955, of the "School of Brouwer's Music School Orchestra".

Marten Brouwer died on May 8, 1963. At his death he carried on the leadership of the orchestra to the current conductor, Johan de With. The orchestra was, with the merging of the various departments of Brouwer's music school in the various municipals, renamed as "Brouwer's AkkordeonOrkest (BAO)



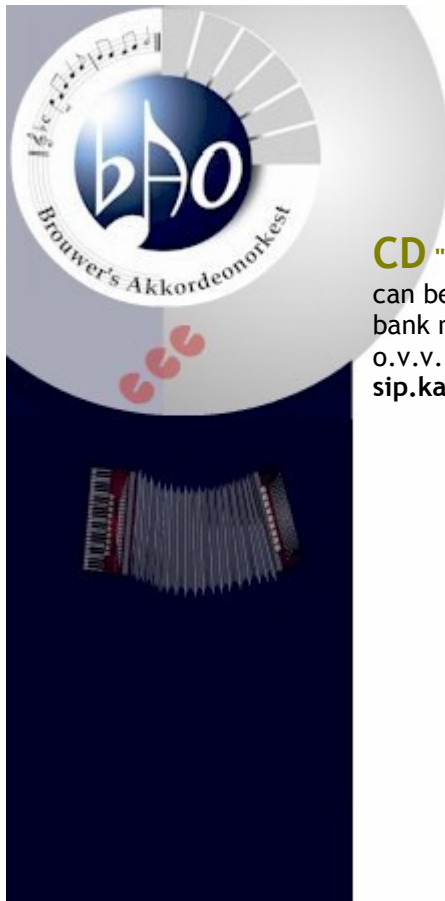
## Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest

<b>Conductor:</b>	Johan de With
<b>First Party:</b>	Hotze Jelsma Hilly Riemersma Tanya Kok Wieke Hofstra
<b>Second Party:</b>	Aukje Brouwer Lizzy v.d. Laan Reinou v.d. Veen
<b>Third Party:</b>	Sietske v.d. Sluis Carolien v.d. Zande Klara Dotinga Ellen Bij de Weg
<b>Fourth Party:</b>	Einte Sloomstra Boukje Bonnema Akkie Blaakmeer Sip Kampstra
<b>Bass:</b>	Afke Dijkstra William Molenbuur Frances Molenaar Doety Peenstra Froukje v.d. Schuit Froukje v.d. Schuit
<b>Rehearsal location:</b>	It Skewiel Frisia State 23, 9062 GX Oentsjerk



## Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest

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## CD "50 Jier Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest"

can be ordered by **22.50 Euro** (including postingcosts) making over to bank number **12.75.93.691** of Brouwer's Akkordeonorkest, Leeuwarden o.v.v. "BAO CD 50" and by also notifying by e-mail or phone to [sip.kampstra@home.nl](mailto:sip.kampstra@home.nl) or +31 515-415948



From our CD's "Folksmuzyksuites" and "The Accordion Music of Jacob de Haan" a limited supply is available. You can also order these CD's of course (while supplies lasts!). The unit price is 12,50 Euro, in combination 20.00 Euro (all offers excluding costs ad 2.50 Euro). We provide a fast and accurate transmission!

The - in honour of the golden jubilee of BAO - published double-CD aims to give a short overview of the fifty years that BAO currently exists. Most of the numbers were not meant to be immortalized on CD; in 1955 we could not even know that such a phenomenon ever would happen. The often amateurish recordings of radio broadcasts made, or, even worse, with its own microphone, can not compare with today's quality.

The early recordings are all still single course, also the reception on the radio was sometimes disrupted by the partial withdrawal of the station, crackling through along riding motorcycles, and other disturbing noises. Moreover, the sounds were often dull and sometimes noisy, even in the recordings.

The orchestra itself before autumn 1963, still without their own instruments, made noises here and there, such as register clicks. And of course the accordion sound "floats" much more than usual today. Sometimes the interpretations make some outdated or is about to play minor mistakes, nothing that it is a live recording goes. But all this belongs to our history, and that is, with all of that nostalgia sometimes, what we wanted to hear. Of course we had, for this two CD's, a choice to make. Especially having to leave out whole sections of multipart documents often led us to the heart, but still a somewhat comprehensive overview to give it was inevitable. We hope that the listeners, despite these concerns, can hear how much fun and enthusiasm we have worked all these years and, like us, will enjoy this historical document.