

Discipel 1975-1999

A short survey of the 25 years history of DISCIPEL.

After the visits of the first USA Continentals in 1969 and 1970 the development went fast. Youth choirs started all over the place as result. But Leen La Rivière wanted a cross-cultural phenomena: real European Continentals. So how to do this. In 1975 auditions started, followed by rehearsals and in that year the first 'Discipel-group' went on the road with the religious musical 'Come Together', written by Jimmy Owens. Before doing European Continentals, we decided first to practise in many forms and format with this Disciple-system. It took 10 years to find all the ins and outs how to apply the USA Continentals to a European/Dutch situation. But as the Disciple-system became such a success, the Discipel groups were continued till 2000. Celebrating 25 years.

The Discipel System was: starting with auditions early September. Trainings on weekends September and October, followed by doing concerts each weekend November – June (As in the summer there were The Continentals and Young Continentals on tour); normally with Easter a week tour to Eastern Europe or Southern Europe.

In the beginning a weekend had 5 concerts (Friday evening, Saturday afternoon at a square, Saturday evening in a theatre, Sunday morning in a church, Sunday afternoon in another church....) That became too exhausting, so decide was to be a full weekend in ONE church and serve that community with performances on Saturday and Sunday. That worked out very fine and the ministry has blessed many.

Thanks to our Dutch Discipel group we got a real bus/coach, we got permits to operate busses for this type of transport and many years Continentals used these papers to get everywhere with our own manned busses. A great help!

Very special have been the adventures to do concerts in communistic Eastern Europe.

As we were able to start doing Continental Singers and Young Continental short tours outside of the summer season, to have Discipel on the road was not longer essential in 2000.

All experience lives on in the ministry of every Continental group wherever in Europe.

STATISTICS 1969 – 1999

- there have been 635 concerts with 160.000 audience
- there have been additional 600 church services with 180.000 audience
- smallest performance: house church in Belgium with 25 persons
- largest performance: EO Youth event with 25.000 persons
- funniest tour: as backing vocal with the Swedish pop-rock singer Ingemar Olsson & band
- Some years we had double Discipel groups, like one in Belgium
- Special programs done: the musical Come Together, the musical It's getting late, the musical Living Water

Directors/leaders during the years:

- Andries van der Wal
- Nico Zwarts
- Leen La Rivière
- Rob Werner
- Ron Mostert
- Govert Jonker
- Peggy Laurens
- Adrie Geerts
- Irma Deurloo
- Jeanette Vermeyden
- Herman + Adrie Spaargaren
- Joop Heusinkveld
- Peter & Rolina Grasmeijer
- Egbert van de Baan
- Jacqueline Buitenhuis
- Jeanine van de Bunt
- Maarten Wassink
- Eveline Hubertse
- Janneke Kunst
- Marga Holtrop
- Marcel Koning
- Marinus den Harder
- Rob de Jong
- Heidi Koning

LP/CD productions:

- Kom Tezamen (76)
- Discipel (86)
- in concert (87)
- Shalom (90)
- Prijst zijn grote naam (91)
- Hoop (92)
- Kracht (93)
- Levend water (94)
- Het is tijd (96)
- Niet alleen (98)
- Discipel, nationaal gospelkoor, 25 gospels van 25 jaar.
- Jubileum CD (99)
- Ga in het licht (99)
- Megasongs (2000)

