

## **Biography of Michael De Geest - concert organist**

Michael De Geest was born in 1982 in Eeklo. He is the son of Edward De Geest, honorary organist at Ghent's Saint Bavo Cathedral. In his native city, Michael completed his Science and Mathematics program at Sint-Vincentius College and earned his final certificates for organ and piano at the Municipal Academy for Music and Speech (in the piano class of his mother, Monique Lanszweert, and in the organ class of Dirk Bruggeman). He also received the Special Prize and the Certificate of the City of Eeklo for both disciplines.

His interest in mathematics and computer science led him to Ghent University, where he graduated with a master's degree in computer science in 2004. Michael also holds a master's degree in education in science and technology (majoring in computer science).

In addition to his computer science studies, Michael pursued higher education in music. In 2009, he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Classical Music (organ instrument) with Ignace Michiels at the Ghent Conservatory. He subsequently specialized in Baroque organ music with Liège organist Serge Schoonbroodt. He participated in organ masterclasses with Helga Schauerte in Eckenhausen, Germany, and with Baroque specialist Liuwe Tamminga in Urbino, Italy, during the Musica Antica festival. Michael was the titular organist in Ghent for over twenty years: first at St. James's Church (2000–2012) and then at St. Nicholas' Church (2010–2022).

He works as an organ teacher, mathematics teacher, and ICT coordinator at Kunsthumaniora Brussels.

Michael has given recitals in Germany, the Netherlands, France, England, Denmark, Hungary, Japan, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Italy. In chamber music, he performs with oboist Dagmar Robben, who is also his wife. He is also a member of the ensemble Fuga Temporis.

Michael is the executive director of the symphonic orchestra Lumen Symphonicum, founded in 2015 (under the direction of his brother David De Geest).

In 2022, Michael was appointed titular organist of the Carmelite Church in Bruges, succeeding the renowned Chris Dubois. Since then, he has also organized thematic organ concerts in this beautiful church.

In June 2023, Michael was honoured by the city of Eeklo as a deserving citizen of Eeklo for his artistic achievements.