

The St. John's inlays

Daniel was born in Gouda, The Netherlands. The city of Gouda is known worldwide for the stained glass in De Sint Janskerk (St. John's church). The church contains the most significant examples of sixteenth-century Dutch stained glass in the Netherlands. The glass windows in Daniel's town of birth are the inspiration for the St. John's inlays on the guitars. They were crafted by the Gouda glass painters Dirck and Wouter Crabeth, the earliest dating from 1555, created for Catholic as well as Protestant donors, which is highly unusual. The church and its windows have been designated a World Heritage Site.

During restorations of the stained glass windows in the 17th and 18th century, 3 windows were created with left-over glass fragments. They are mosaic windows and do not contain any representations. Beautiful in color and composition, they became the inspiration for the St. John's inlay in the Slaman guitars.

In cutting the pearl pieces for inlays on Slaman guitars, fragments are left over which have been saved up by Daniel over the years. Pieces are selected to form a St. John's mosaic inlay, much like the glass pieces were selected for the mosaic stained glass windows. Each inlay pattern is unique and will never be repeated. Pieces are carefully matched by Daniel to create patterns that are pleasing to the eye. Even lettering from broken logo's are re-used.

Information on St. John's Church

The church is dedicated to John the Baptist, the patron saint of Gouda, and was built during the 15th and 16th centuries. In 1552 a large part of the church burned, including the archives. The church is the longest in the Netherlands, with a length of 123 meters.

The stained glass windows were made and installed primarily by the brothers Dirk and Wouter Crabeth I, in the years 1555-1571, and after a short stop for the Protestant Reformation, until 1603. During the Reformation the church was spared, because the city fathers sided with the reigning king Philip II of Spain, rather than William the Silent, representing the *Orange* rebels. Later, after the orangists conquered the northern half of Holland, Gouda reverted to Orange in 1572. It was only during this period that the church was in danger, and three weeks later when the Reformation reached Gouda an angry mob stormed the church and plundered the contents, but fortunately left the windows intact. The church was closed, but many wealthy regents of the city attempted to have it reopened. In 1573 the Gouda council prohibited the practice of Roman Catholic religion and in the summer it was opened for the Protestant Dutch Reformed faith, which it still has today.

The original drawings or cartons still exist. The up to 20-m tall cartons were used for making the windows – it is the only complete collection of full-size cartons in existence for a 16th-century church.

Every Christmas the stained glass windows are lighted from **within** the church, creating a marvellous view of the windows from the outside of the church.

The magnificent Moreau organ was built between 1732 and 1736 by Jacob Francois Moreau.

In 1939 the stained glass was removed in anticipation of war with Germany. They were all carefully stored and numbered in large wooden crates. Later during the war, in 1944, when 51,000 men were called for service from Schiedam and Rotterdam, about 2800 were marched to Gouda, where they spent the night in this church on November 10.