

Organ at Davidson Artist Bio and Program for September 20

Sonata III Op. 65 No. 3 Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Allegro maestoso

Andante

O Welt , ich muss dich lassen Op. 122, #3 Johannes Brahms

Mein Jesu, der du mich Op. 122, #1 (1833-1897)

Prelude, Fugue and Variation Op. 18 Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

Ein feste Burg is Unser Gott: Franz Liszt transcription of the overture by Otto Nicolai (1811-1886)

Pilgerchor aus "Tannhauser" by Richard Wagner (transcription by Franz Liszt)

Praeludium und Fuge uber B-A-C-H Franz Liszt

Gail Archer is an international concert organist, recording artist, choral conductor and lecturer; she is known for her comprehensive cycles of organ works by Liszt, Bach, Mendelssohn and Messiaen presented in New York City each spring. Ms. Archer was the first American woman to play the complete works of Olivier Messiaen for the centennial of the composer's birth in 2008. The New York Times declared, "Ms. Archer's well-paced interpretation had a compelling authority. She played with a bracing physicality in the work's more driven passages and endowed humbler ruminations with a sense of vulnerability and awe." Time-Out New York recognized the Messiaen cycle as "Best of 2008" in Classical music and opera.

Ms. Archer's recordings span the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries, a festive discography that highlights her musical mastery on grand Romantic instruments as well as Baroque tracker organs. Her most recent compact disc, recorded on the Gre-Miles organ in the Vassar chapel, is Franz Liszt: A Hungarian Rhapsody. Bach, the Transcendent Genius, celebrates the brilliant improvisations on Lutheran hymn tunes of the "Great 18" chorale preludes. (MM1013) The release on Meyer-Media, is the first recording on the Paul Fritts tracker organ at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. An American Idyll, released by Meyer Media in August, 2008. (MM08011) and recorded on the E. M. Skinner/Randall Dyer organ at Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, features American organ music from 1900 to the present, including music by Joan Tower and a work commissioned by Ms. Archer, Praeludium super Pange Lingua by David Noon. Her centennial concerts in honor of Olivier Messiaen also produced A Mystic In the Making (MM07007), recorded on the Aeolian-Skinner organ at Columbia University, which includes two complete cycles, L'Ascension, and Les Corps Glorieux Her solo debut CD The Orpheus of Amsterdam: Sweelinck and his Pupils (CACD 88043), recorded on the Fisk organ at Wellesley College, was released in 2006 by London's CALA Records.

Ms. Archer is college organist at Vassar College, and director of the music program at Barnard College,

Columbia University where she conducts the Barnard-Columbia Chorus.. She serves as director of the artist and young organ artist recitals at historic Central Synagogue, New York City.