

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

June 17—20, 2019

ORGAN WEEK

WITH

JOEL **BACON**,
KEN **COWAN**,

AND

MICHAEL **UNGER**



Colorado State University

JOEL BACON is the Stewart and Sheron Golden Chair of Organ and Liturgical Studies at Colorado State University.

He has been heard in recital throughout Europe and North America, and live performances have been broadcast on Austrian Radio (Ö1) and Public Radio International. A specialist in music for organ and orchestra, his recent performances include: Saint-Saëns' Symphony No. 3; Josef Rheinberger's Concerto in F Major; Marco Enrico Bossi's Concerto in A minor; Herman Berlinski's Sinfonia No. 6; Stephen Paulus's Concerto for Organ, Strings and Percussion; François Poulenc's Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani; as well as numerous Baroque concertos by Handel and Bach (including the complete Brandenburg Concertos on harpsichord). His most recent recording project, "Denkmal an Martin Luther / Monument to Martin Luther" was recorded in Germany at St. Thomas in Grünwald (Munich), and features solo organ music by J. S. Bach.

Joel Bacon directs and teaches an annual summer course for young organists (CSU Organ Week) and has directed several national Pipe Organ Encounters of the American Guild of Organists. He has taught at the Oundle International Festival (Cambridge, UK), at organ courses of the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna, and at numerous other courses in the US and Canada.

He earned a Ph.D. in historical musicology through a joint degree program of Vienna's University of Music and Performing Arts and the University of Vienna, with a dissertation on the use of the organ in orchestral music. In his work as a musicologist, he has lectured widely on topics related to the organ and liturgical music. He is currently researching the American composer Herman Berlinski.

Joel Bacon is organist at St. John XXIII Catholic Church in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he conducts a choir specializing in Gregorian chant and sacred polyphony.

JOEL BACON

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH,
FORT COLLINS

JUNE 17, 2019, 7:30 P.M.

Pièce d'Orgue, BWV 572

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685–1750)

Suite du deuxième ton

JEAN-ADAM GUILAIN (fl. 1702–1739)

- I. Prélude
- II. Tierce en taille
- III. Duo
- IV. Basse de trompette
- V. Trio de flûtes
- VI. Dialogue

INTERMISSION

Goldberg Variations, BWV 988

J. S. BACH

Originally from Toronto, Canada, **MICHAEL UNGER** is a multiple award-winning performer who appears as a soloist and chamber musician in North America, Europe, Japan and South Korea. Since 2013, he is the Assistant Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He is a First Prize and Audience Prize winner of the National Young Artists' Competition of the American Guild of Organists (NYACOP), a First Prize winner of the International Organ Competition Musashino-Tokyo, and a Second Prize and Audience Award winner of the International Schnitger Organ Competition on the historic organs of Alkmaar, the Netherlands. Recent solo recitals include performances for national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, Organ Historical Society and Historical Keyboard Society of North America, 'Five Continents – Five Organists' Festival at Seoul's Sejong Center, Internationale Orgelwoche Nürnberg – Musica Sacra, and numerous international and regional recital series. In 2018, he premiered two Preludes and Fugues by American composer Henry Martin for the national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Kansas City, Missouri. Recent harpsichord collaborations include Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, Collegium Cincinnati, Catacoustic Consort and Publick Musick, with repertoire including the complete Brandenburg Concertos and sonatas for viola da gamba and harpsichord by Johann Sebastian Bach. He received favorable international reviews for his debut solo recordings under the Naxos and Pro Organo labels, and his performances have been broadcast on North American and European radio, including syndicated programs *Pipedreams* and *With Heart and Voice*. He was a guest faculty at the 2015 and 2016 Smarano International Academies in Trentino, Italy, and has given masterclasses at several North American universities. He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music, where he was a student and teaching assistant of David Higgs and William Porter. He is also a Gold Medal graduate of the University of Western Ontario, where he studied with Larry Cortner and Sandra Mangsen, and has pursued post-graduate coaching in Cincinnati with Roberta Gary. Formerly the Director of Music at the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word in Rochester, New York, he currently serves as organist of Cincinnati's historic Isaac M. Wise – Plum Street Temple.

**MICHAEL UNGER,
IN THE COMPANY OF BACH**

ORGAN AND HARPSICHORD RECITAL
UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
ORGAN RECITAL HALL

JUNE 18, 2019, 7:30 P.M.

Concerto del Sigr. Torelli in A minor

JOHANN GOTTFRIED WALTHER (1684–1748)

[Allegro]

Adagio

Allegro

**Herzlich tut mich verlangen
Was Gott tut das ist wohlgetan**

JOHANN PETER KELLNER (1705–1772)

“Württemberg” Sonata in B-flat Major, Wq 49/4

C.P.E. BACH (1714–1788)

Un poco Allegro

Andante

Allegro

Sonata III in A Major, Op. 65, No. 3 (1845)

FELIX MENDELSSOHN (1809–1847)

Con moto maestoso

Andante tranquillo

from *Douze pièces pour Grand Orgue*

GASTON LITAIZE (1909–1991)

Jeux de Rythmes

Prélude

Prière

Fugue No. 2 on B.A.C.H., Op. 60, No. 2

ROBERT SCHUMANN (1810–1856)

KEN COWAN Regarded as one of North America's finest concert organists and praised for his dazzling artistry, impeccable technique, and imaginative programming by audiences and critics alike, Ken Cowan maintains a rigorous performing schedule that takes him to major concert venues in America, Canada, Europe, and Asia.

Recent feature performances have included appearances at Verizon Hall in Philadelphia with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonie, Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, Vienna Konzerthaus, Maison Symphonique in Montreal, St. Paul's Cathedral in London and Walt Disney Concert Hall. In addition, Mr. Cowan has been a featured artist in recent years at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists in Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Houston. He has performed at many regional conventions of the AGO and has been featured at several conventions of the Organ Historical Society and the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

Numerous critically acclaimed compact disc recordings by Mr. Cowan are available. His most recent releases are *Dynamic Duo*, (Pro Organo), featuring Mr. Cowan and Bradley Welch in a program of original works and transcriptions for duo organists, performed on the monumental Casavant organ at Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX; *Ken Cowan plays The Great Organ* (Pro Organo), recorded on the newly-restored organ at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City; *Works of Franz Liszt (JAV)*, recorded on the Michael Quimby organ at First Baptist church in Jackson Mississippi; and *Ken Cowan Plays Romantic Masterworks* (Raven), recorded on the 110-rank Schoenstein organ at First Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. Cowan also joined organist Justin Bischof in the 1999 world-premiere recording of American composer Aaron Miller's Double Concerto for organ, recorded with the Zurich Symphony Orchestra on the Kleuker organ in the Tonhalle, Zurich, Switzerland (Ethereal Recordings). Many of Mr. Cowan's recordings and live performances have been regularly featured on the nationally distributed radio show *Pipedreams* from American Public Media.

A native of Thorold, Ontario, Canada, Mr. Cowan received the Master's degree and Artist Diploma from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, studying organ with Thomas Murray. Prior to attending Yale, he graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia where he studied with John Weaver. Following initial studies with his father, David, his principal teacher during his high school years was James Bigham, Music Director at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, in Buffalo, NY.

In 2012 Mr. Cowan joined the keyboard faculty of the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University, where he is Professor of Organ and head of the organ program. He is additionally Organist and Artist-in-Residence at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston, TX. Previous positions have included Associate Professor of Organ at Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, NJ, where he was awarded the 2008 Rider University Distinguished Teaching Award, and Associate Organist and Artist in Residence at Saint Bartholomew's Church in New York City.

DALE NICKELL completed his Bachelor of Music degree, Cum Laude, at Colorado State University where he studied organ with Joel Bacon and piano with Janet Landreth and received the Wendel Diebel Music Performance Award for outstanding musical contribution to the school's performing ensembles and concerts in 2017. While in Fort Collins, Dale served as the organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church on the Phelps Op. 1 (44 ranks). He is currently pursuing graduate studies in organ with Nathan Laube at the Eastman School of Music where he also studies improvisation with William Porter and sings in the Schola Cantorum at Christ Church. Dale has performed in masterclasses with Olga Kern, Ken Cowan, James David Christie, Edoardo Belotti, Christophe Mantoux, Renee Anne Luprette and Gail Archer. He is the Organ Scholar at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Rochester and works as an organ builder with Parsons Pipe Organ Builders.

**ORGAN WEEK ALL STARS
KEN COWAN, MICHAEL UNGER,
DALE NICKELL, AND JOEL BACON**

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS,
ORGAN RECITAL HALL

JUNE 20, 2019, 7:30 P.M.

Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue in D minor, BWV 903

**J. S. BACH (1685–1750)
arr. MAX REGER (1873–1916)**

Reverie

William Grant-Still (1895–1978)

Humoresque, Op. 77 (Hommage à Marcel Dupré)

RACHEL LAURIN (B. 1961)

L'Envoi

GEORGE BAKER (B. 1951)

Ken Cowan, organ

INTERMISSION

from Cinquième Ordre

FRANÇOIS COUPERIN (1668–1733)

La Logivière, Allemande
Courante
Les Ondes

Michael Unger, harpsichord

Concerto for Two Keyboards

Josef Blanco (ca. 1775–1811)

Joel Bacon and Michael Unger, harpsichord and organ

Prelude and Fugue in E-Flat Major, BWV 552

J. S. BACH

Dale Nickell, organ

OTHER ORGAN WEEK EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Monday, June 17, 1:30 p.m. — Michael Unger,
“Harpsichord and Baroque Improvisation” (UCA 158)**

Michael Unger, Assistant Professor of Organ and Harpsichord at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, will discuss how a spirit of improvisation can inform one's approach to Baroque keyboard playing. Demonstrating at the harpsichord, Michael will show how much music is to be found beyond the notes on the page!

**Tuesday, June 18, 11 a.m. — Ken Cowan,
“Organ Masterclass” (First Presbyterian Church)**

Ken Cowan, Professor of Organ at Rice University, will give an open masterclass. Organists wishing to participate are asked to email Joel.Bacon@colostate.edu with information about their piece.

**Tuesday, June 18, 1:30 p.m. — Jim Steinborn,
“The Organ of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and its Restoration” (St. Luke's Episcopal Church)**

Jim Steinborn, organbuilder, discusses the significance of the Phelps Organ, op. 1, at St. Luke's Episcopal church, and describes the process of its recent restoration through photos and videos. This fascinating project involved a team of specialists from around the country committed to preserving one of the region's most beautiful instruments.

**Wednesday, June 19, 11:00 a.m. — Dale Nickell,
“Pedal Technique for Everybody” (UCA Organ Recital Hall)**

Dale Nickell, graduate student in Organ Performance at the Eastman School of Music, offers tips on improving one's pedal technique. Participants are welcome at every level of playing; just remember to bring your organ shoes!

Wednesday, June 19, 3 p.m.— Canadian Brass Masterclass (UCA Griffin)

The world-famous Canadian Brass will present a masterclass with student brass players from CSU. This class is open to non-brass players as well, and is sure to inspire all kinds of musicians towards better artistry!

**Thursday, June 20, 12:30 p.m. — Jim Steinborn,
“Lawrence Phelps and Three Fort Collins Organs” (UCA 158)**

Jim Steinborn, organbuilder, talks about the legacy of Lawrence Phelps, the world-famous organbuilder responsible for building three pipe organs in Fort Collins. The lecture will incorporate material from the Lawrence Phelps Archive (housed in CSU's Morgan Library), including letters, drawings, blueprints. It will conclude with a demonstration of CSU's newest pipe organ: a Phelps practice organ gifted by Harry and Phyllis Ferguson.

Thursday, June 20, 4:00 p.m. — Organ Week Student Recital (UCA Organ Recital Hall)

Join us for a recital featuring the teenagers participating in this year's Organ Week. After a week of learning all about the organ and taking lessons with great artists and teachers, they get a chance to perform what they've studied!