Duke University Chapel

Organ Recitals 2012-2013
Duke Chapel Recital Series Update

CANCELLED: David Arcus, September 16, 2012
The opening recital by David Arcus, originally scheduled for Sunday, September 16, at 5:00 p.m. has been cancelled. The Chapel will be closed September 10-21 for emergency repairs.

Douglas Cleveland  Sunday, October 21, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
Parker Kitterman  Sunday, November 11, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
David Arcus  Sunday, January 27, 2013, 5:00 p.m.
Jonathan Biggers  Sunday, February 24, 2013, 5:00 p.m.
Robert Parkins  Sunday, March 24, 2013, 5:00 p.m.
Douglas Cleveland

Sunday, October 21, 2012
5:00 p.m.

Douglas Cleveland is “a brilliant performer with a prodigious technique” (*Albany Times Union*). Formerly on the faculty at Northwestern University, he now teaches at the University of Washington. He first rose to international prominence in 1994, when he won first prize in the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition. Since then Douglas Cleveland has dazzled audiences throughout the world with his “keyboard wizardry.” His recital at Duke will be presented on the Flentrop organ.
Parker Kitterman is Director of Music and Organist at historic Christ Church in Philadelphia. After graduating from Duke University with a degree in Music and English (Trinity ’01), he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study in Belgium. He was also a finalist in the Tokyo and Toulouse international organ playing competitions. Kitterman returns to Duke as part of the “Alumni Series” in a recital on the Flentrop organ.
David Arcus

Sunday, January 27, 2013
5:00 p.m.

David Arcus’s playing has been praised for its display of “exalted pomp and spirit, and a genuine affection for his listener” (Fanfare). In addition to serving as Associate University Organist and Chapel Organist at Duke, he is also the Divinity School Organist and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Sacred Music. His program in this year’s series, performed on the Flentrop organ, will feature music from the German Baroque, including works by Scheidemann, Reincken, Bach, and Bruhns.
Jonathan Biggers

Sunday, February 24, 2013
5:00 p.m.

Jonathan Biggers, hailed as “one of the most outstanding concert organists in the United States,” will present a recital on the Aeolian organ. He currently holds the prestigious Edwin Link Endowed Professorship in Organ and Harpsichord at Binghamton University in New York. Biggers has appeared as a recitalist or soloist with orchestra in hundreds of concerts throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. One critic wrote of him, “Were there more performers like this, the organ would be far less a minority interest.” On Saturday, February 23, at 11:00 a.m., Jonathan Biggers will offer a workshop on “Creative Hymn Playing” in the Chapel chancel (free and open to the public).
Robert Parkins is the University Organist and a Professor of the Practice of Music at Duke. His recordings have appeared on the Calcante, Gothic, Musical Heritage Society, and Naxos labels, and his performances have been described as “fresh and spontaneous, transforming the music from museum artifacts to living works of beauty” (The Diapason). This season’s program, “The Art of Variation,” will include music by early Spanish, Italian, and German composers on the Brombaugh organ, plus works by Bach and Reger on the Flentrop.
About the Organ Recital Series
The Organ Recital Series at Duke University is sponsored by Duke Chapel. All recitals are on Sundays at 5:00 p.m. (unless otherwise indicated), and are free and open to the public. The 2012-2013 series is made possible through the generous support of the Marvin B. and Elvira Lowe Smith Memorial Fund, established by their daughter, Alyse Smith Cooper (WC ’30).

About Duke Chapel
Built in 1930-35, Duke University Chapel stands at the heart of West Campus. The building measures 291 feet long by 63 feet wide by 73 feet high, not including the tower; its 210-foot tower makes it one of the tallest buildings in Durham County, North Carolina. Seating about 1,600 people, Duke Chapel possesses 77 stained-glass windows depicting more than 800 figures, as well as three world-class pipe organs and a 50-bell carillon.

For directions to Duke Chapel and for other information about the recital series, call (919) 681-9488 or visit www.chapel.duke.edu. (Please note that the parking garage next to the Bryan Center may charge an extra fee during certain special events.)
The Benjamin N. Duke Memorial Organ

Built by Dirk A. Flentrop of Holland, the Benjamin N. Duke Memorial Organ was completed in 1976, and is located in the great arch separating the narthex and the nave. This tracker-action instrument contains more than 5,000 speaking pipes, controlled by four manual keyboards and pedal. There are two cases, connected only by the key action and the wind supply: the main case and the smaller Rugwerk division situated on the gallery rail. The main case rises approximately 40 feet above the gallery floor, and is made of solid mahogany painted in various hues and accented with gold leaf. The gallery that supports the organ is constructed of solid oak. Both tonally and visually, the Flentrop organ reflects the techniques of Dutch and French organ building in the 18th century.

At Mr. Flentrop’s suggestion, the acoustics of the Chapel were improved to provide an ideal environment for the organ. When the Chapel was first built, its acoustics were deliberately deadened through the use of special sound-absorbing stone tile. The absorptive tile was sealed, increasing the maximum reverberation time, and a time-delay speech-reinforcement system was installed to accommodate the spoken word.
The Kathleen McClendon Organ
Behind the façade pipes and carved oak screens, the Kathleen Upton Byrns McClendon Organ is lodged in chambers on both sides of the chancel. It remains Duke Chapel’s original organ, built and installed in 1932 by the Aeolian Organ Company of New York. This remarkable instrument was the last major organ made by Aeolian before it merged with the E. M. Skinner Organ Company, and is the firm’s only significant organ built for a church. Designed in the post-Romantic tradition with electro-pneumatic action, which was in fashion at the time of its construction, the organ is known for its extremes of dynamic expression and the orchestral voicing of its individual stops. The pipes visible from the nave only hint at the Aeolian’s size, for approximately 6,600 pipes are located in the large chambers. In 2008 the organ was completely reconditioned by Foley-Baker, Inc., and the original four-manual console has been replaced by a new one in similar style, built by Richard Houghten as part of the renovation.

The Brombaugh Organ
Located in a “swallow’s nest” gallery, the Brombaugh organ (1997) in the Memorial Chapel is modeled after Renaissance Italian instruments. Expanded somewhat to accommodate other schools of organ music as well, this two-manual and pedal instrument of nearly 1,000 pipes produces gentle, sparkling tone on very low wind pressure. The organ is tuned in meantone temperament (offering choices of e-flat/d-sharp and g-sharp/a-flat), the tuning system used for most keyboard instruments in the 16th and 17th centuries. Carved pipe shades are made from centuries-old Appalachian oak, while the Duke family crest is visible at the very top of the richly polychromed organ case.

Recordings of the Organs
CD recordings featuring the Flentrop, Brombaugh, and Aeolian organs are available in the Gothic Bookshop (Bryan Center), including: Organ Music of Frescobaldi (Calcante 2003), Iberian and South German Organ Music (Calcante 2001), German Romantic Organ Music (Gothic 1998), Organs of Duke Chapel (Gothic 1997), Brabms: Complete Organ Works (Naxos 1994), and Early Iberian Organ Music (Naxos 1993).