

# *Duke University Chapel*



*Organ Recitals 2014-2015*

## DAVID HELLER

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Sunday, October 19, 2014

5:00 p.m.

**David Heller** has risen to prominence as an outstanding performer and pedagogue in the United States. *The American Organist* has described him as “an eloquent performer” and his playing as “an excellent demonstration of outstanding music making.” He currently serves as Professor of Music and University Organist at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. An active recitalist, Dr. Heller has performed extensively throughout the United States and internationally, and his recordings have been issued on the Calcante and Pro Organo labels. His program on the Aeolian organ will include works by Howells, Reger, Barber, Craig Phillips, and others.

## STEPHEN SCHNURR

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Sunday, November 9, 2014

5:00 p.m.

**Stephen Schnurr** (Trinity '87) returns to his alma mater as part of the “Alumni Series” in a recital on the Aeolian organ. Now Director of Music for Saint Paul Catholic Church in Valparaiso, Indiana, he has performed throughout the United States, as well as in Germany, England, Northern Ireland, and Poland. He has also presented recitals for nine national conventions of the Organ Historical Society. Recently, Steve was appointed Editor-at-Large for *The Diapason*, one of the two prominent American organ journals. His program at Duke this season will feature music by Mendelssohn, Rheinberger, and Vierne.

## CHRISTOPHER JACOBSON

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**Sunday, January 25, 2015**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Christopher Jacobson** was appointed Chapel Organist and Divinity School Organist at Duke University in the summer of 2014. Previous positions have included Associate Organist at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Columbia, South Carolina, and Assistant Organist at Washington National Cathedral. He has won prizes in several organ competitions and presented organ recitals in North America, Europe, and Australia. One reviewer noted that, “demonstrating excellent technique and mature interpretation, Christopher Jacobson presented one of the strongest recitals of the convention” (*The American Organist*). “Kit” will present his first recital in Duke Chapel on the Aeolian organ.

## MARIE RUBIS BAUER

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**Sunday, March 1, 2015**  
**5:00 p.m.**

**Marie Rubis Bauer**, who has been praised for her “rhythmic drive and musical panache” (*Choir and Organ*), has performed as an organist and harpsichordist throughout the United States and in Europe. She has been a featured performer and/or conductor on seven CDs, including a solo recording of organ music by Wake Forest composer Dan Locklair. Currently she serves as the Archdiocesan Director of Music and Cathedral Organist at Saint Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha, Nebraska, as well as founding artistic director of the Omaha Bach Festival and Omaha Baroque. Her recital at Duke, presented on the Brombaugh and Flentrop organs, will include music by early Italian and German composers plus works of Bach and Distler.

# ROBERT PARKINS

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Sunday, March 22, 2015

5:00 p.m.

**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 described as “stylistically informed and musically exciting . . . fresh and spontaneous, transforming the music from museum artifacts to living works of beauty” (*The Diapason*). This season’s recital will feature “German Organ Music of Three Centuries,” including music by Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Reger, and others. Performed on the Flentrop organ, this will be the final program in the Duke Chapel Organ Recital Series until 2016-2017.



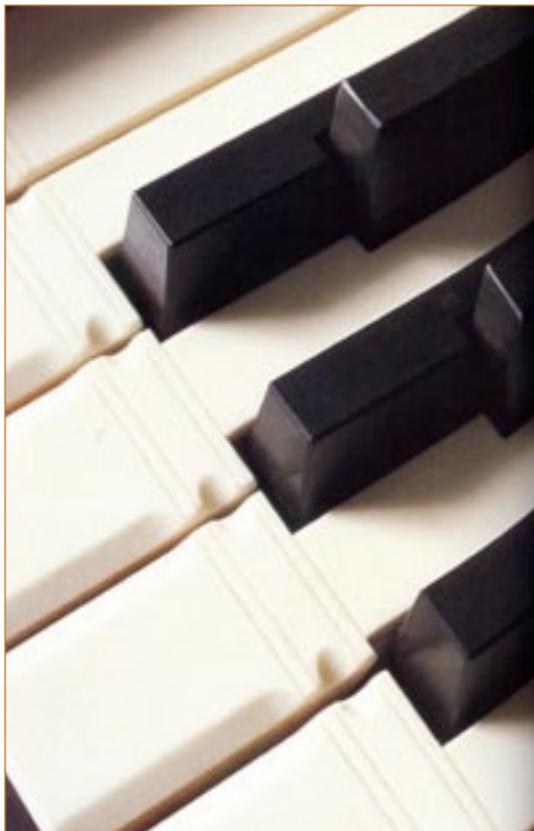
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## Duke Chapel

Built during the years 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) 684-2572 or visit [chapel.duke.edu](http://chapel.duke.edu).

*(Please note that the parking garage next to the Bryan Center may charge an extra fee during certain special events.)*



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## 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 2014-2015 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).

## Recordings of the Organs

CD recordings featuring the Flentrop, Brombaugh, and Aeolian organs include *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), *Brahms: Complete Organ Works* (Naxos 1994), and *Early Iberian Organ Music* (Naxos 1993).



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## The Flentrop 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.



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## The Aeolian 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 was replaced by a new one in similar style, built by Richard Houghten as part of the renovation.



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## 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.



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