

James Mellichamp



USA

Sunday 3 September 2017
4.45 pm

Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral

James Mellichamp

With a performance career spanning more than forty years, James F. Mellichamp has made prominent appearances as an organist throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. His concerts have included solo recitals at such notable venues as the Washington Cathedral, Berlin Cathedral, Dijon Cathedral, the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, and Westminster Abbey.

As an organ consultant, he has been responsible for the design of over fifty organs for churches and colleges in the United States. He is also the author of articles related to organ design and construction published in various musical periodicals.

Since 1982 Dr. Mellichamp has been a faculty member at Piedmont College, an independent university in Georgia, where, as Professor of Music, he maintains an active studio of young organists. After years of service as Dean of the College, and later Vice President-Provost, he was named President of the College in 2012.

He received a Baccalaureate degree in organ performance from Huntingdon College in Alabama; a Diploma from the Hochschule für Musik in Herford, Germany; and the Doctor of Music degree from Indiana University.

Paeon

Ernest Tomlinson (1924 - 2015)

Ernest Tomlinson, noted English organist and composer, was a boy chorister at Manchester Cathedral and later received his undergraduate degree from Manchester University. Tomlinson was a Fellow in the Royal College of Organists and also a member of the Composers' Guild of Great Britain. *Paeon* (Triumphal Song) was composed in 1958. It is typical of English cathedral music for the organ and features some of the instrument's wonderful solo stops.

Cantilène (Op. 29, No 2)

Gabriel Pierné (1863 - 1937)

One of the greatest French organists of the nineteenth century was Cesar Franck. His pupil, Gabriel-Henri-Constant Pierné, who also studied with Durand and Massenet, succeeded him as organist at the Church of St. Clotilde in Paris. The *Cantilène* is from a group of three pieces for organ published in 1893. It features a captivating melody – rendered on the Swell Trompette – which plays against an arpeggiated accompaniment.

Romance sans paroles (Op. 7, No 8)

Joseph Bonnet (1884 - 1944)

Joseph Bonnet, like Widor, studied with Lemmens and was also a student of Alexandre Guilmant. He combined a career as an international performer and organist at the Church of St. Eustache in Paris. This lovely "Romance without Words" is one of his lighter, scherzo-like works.

Psalm Prelude

Craig Phillips (born 1961)

One of the most prolific composers of music for organ and choirs is the contemporary American musician, Craig Phillips. He has been a member of the music staff for the past 25 years at All Saints Episcopal, Beverly Hills. His works, featured in churches across the United States every week, have been critically acclaimed. He was named the American Guild of Organists Distinguished Composer for 2012 and he joins an illustrious list which includes such honorees as Virgil Thomson, Ned Rorem, Daniel Pinkham, and Stephen Paulus. The *Psalm Prelude* represents an expressive paraphrase of the opening verses of Psalm 40: "I waited patiently upon the Lord; he stooped to me and heard my cry... He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord."

Allegro risoluto

from *Symphony No 2* (Op. 20)

Louis Vierne (1870 - 1937)

Louis Vierne, a blind organist and prolific composer, was from 1900 until his death in 1937 organist at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. Vierne brought the genre of organ symphony, or great sonata, to its peak. In these compositions the late romantic French organ, with its gigantic orchestral sound qualities, substitutes for the symphony orchestra. The *Symphony No 2* in E Minor, opus 20, was composed during 1902-1903 and is the first symphony written by Vierne in cyclic form. The work was dedicated to his friend, Charles Mutin, noted French organ builder. The first movement, *Allegro risoluto*, uses two contrasting themes – the first theme is rhythmic and detached and the second theme is more hymnic in nature.

Members of the audience are kindly requested to switch off all mobile phones and alarms, and are reminded that photography and sound recording are not permitted at any time.

Sunday Organ Recitals rely on the generous support of both our performers and our audiences. Today's retiring collection directly supports and safeguards the musical heritage of St Paul's, celebrated the world over. To this end, we recommend a donation of £5, and thank you in advance for your contribution.