



Twentieth Anniversary

ALBERT
SCHWEITZER
ORGAN
FESTIVAL
HARTFORD

Letter From The President

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Vaughn Mauren

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Albert Schweitzer said, “I cannot but have Reverence for all that is called life. I cannot avoid compassion for everything that is called life. That is the beginning and foundation of morality.” It was this spirit that led Bernard Surkis, a beloved member of First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, CT, to offer his novel water desalination system to Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Haiti. When Bernie died tragically in July 1996, David Spicer, the organist at First Church, chose to honor his wishes by arranging a meeting with Dr. Harold Robles, Founder and former President of the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities (ASI) in Wallingford. It was at this meeting that David learned of Harold’s interest in the organ and it was decided that ASI would select First Church to become the permanent home for an annual organ festival and competition to be known as the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival/USA. The inaugural event occurred on September 7, 1997. The competition began the following year.

With a mission to encourage and inspire excellence in organ performance by young emerging artists, David set out to nurture and build what today is one of the finest competitions for young organists in the United States. It’s structured with two divisions—high school and young professional—with competitors winning cash prizes to further their education and career development. This formula attracted a loyal following of organ enthusiasts, distinguished judges, and incredibly talented young organists. The ASOF/USA experience was impactful, especially hearing David Spicer play hymns!

When David was first diagnosed with cancer in April 2012, I knew the festival would not survive unless we found it a new home. With unanimous support of the First Church Board, David and I explored several options before enthusiastically

accepting an offer from John Rose to move the festival to the beautiful and historic Trinity College Chapel in Hartford with its magnificent Austin organ. Before David passed away on January 18, 2017, we secured his legacy by building an amazing Board of Directors, incorporating as a non-profit charity, reaching out to local foundations, and establishing or renewing partnerships with:

- Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac University
- Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
- Cathedral of Saint Joseph
- St. John’s Episcopal Church (parish church of the Austin family)
- Academy of Lifelong Learning at Trinity College
- Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists
- Austin Organs

On June 17, 2017, the Board unanimously appointed Vaughn Mauren as our new Artistic Director. We’ve rebranded the festival as ASOF Hartford and set our sights on becoming an annual destination event. However, three things will never change: our deep gratitude to David Spicer, our mission to encourage and inspire excellence in organ performance by young emerging artists, and our goal of raising public awareness to Albert Schweitzer as a musical scholar and organist and to his philosophy of Reverence for Life.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Bausmith
President

From the Artistic Director



IN SEEKING ADMISSION TO OUR
COMPETITIONS, COUNTLESS
YOUNG ORGANISTS HAVE
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GREATEST ART FORMS.

VAUGHN MAUREN

Since 1998, the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival has been a consistent and powerful force in the development of talented American organists. In seeking admission to our competitions, countless young organists have pushed themselves to improve their own playing and ultimately to perfect one of Western society's greatest art forms.

ASOF Hartford is also a major supporter of area musicians. For the 2017 festival alone, these artists include Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus, treble choristers from St. James's and St. John's Episcopal Churches, the professional choir at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, and the Trinity College Chapel Singers. We have also supported celebrated composer Philip Stopford by commissioning a new anthem in honor of our founder, David Spicer.

Yet for all that we do, we still live in a culture that increasingly devalues performing arts education, placing greater responsibility on private organizations like ASOF Hartford. Fortunately, as

we go into our third decade, we are poised to meet this challenge with an exciting change: the High School Division competition will be held on even years, starting in 2018, and the Young Professional Division on odd years, beginning in 2019. This will allow us to substantially increase the prize money for each division, thereby growing the number of applicants and the number of finalists we invite to compete in Hartford. We are confident that by raising competitiveness we will encourage more young organists and elevate the profile of our competition nationwide.

A debt of gratitude is owed to David Spicer and to all of you who have supported and will continue to support this organization into the years to come. The future looks brighter than ever! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Vaughn Mauren
Artistic Director

History of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford

The Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival features an annual national competition for young organists with winners receiving awards to further their music education. The purpose of the Festival is to enhance the area of organ education--both to support young people studying the organ and to increase general appreciation for organ music of the past and present.

In 2015, Trinity College Chapel became the official home of the Festival after eighteen years at the beautiful and historic First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, Connecticut, with its magnificent Austin pipe organ. John Rose, who retired in December after forty years as Organist and Director of Chapel Music at Trinity College, was one of the competition's first judges. "When David Spicer invited me to be a judge at the first Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Competition," Rose said, "I could hardly have imagined its ongoing successes and influence among young organists. When he inquired about the possibility of moving the ASOF Hartford to Trinity



Top: Church of Christ in Wethersfield, CT. Bottom: Trinity College Chapel



David Spicer, 1946-2017
Co-Founder

College, we were honored and enthusiastically opened our doors. The ASOF Hartford encourages exceptional young organists and is an important mission worthy of widespread support."

Christopher Houlihan, who is succeeding John Rose as the John Rose College Organist-and-Directorship Distinguished Chair of Chapel Music and who won the high school division during the 2003 Festival, said that, " The

ASOF Hartford is one of the most well known competitions for young organists in the country, and it is thrilling to see the festival thriving in its new home at Trinity College.

"THE ASOF HARTFORD ENCOURAGES EXCEPTIONAL YOUNG ORGANISTS AND IS AN IMPORTANT MISSION WORTHY OF WIDESPREAD SUPPORT."

JOHN ROSE

Competing in the 2003 high school division gave me an opportunity at a young age to challenge myself, to grow as a musician, and to meet other young organists with similar passions. I am honored to now serve as a board member and am looking forward to watching the festival blossom into its third decade."

This unique Festival provides young musicians the opportunity to benefit from the experience of recognized judges, compete for monetary awards for their work, advances their résumés, and develop close bonds with their peers.

The Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival in the Netherlands, founded in 1979 by Dr. Harold Robles, founder and former president of the Albert Schweitzer Institute, enabled many young European organists to become leaders in their field. The U.S. version, founded by Dr. Robles and David Spicer, energizes organ musicianship in North America. Area residents and others in the wider region greatly enjoy this annual exposure to the finest in organ music and organ playing.

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CHRISTOPHER
HOULIHAN

dedicated to the idea that Christianity and music, two of the greatest forces in our world, can effectively merge to wash away "the dust of everyday life" from our souls.

For this 20th Anniversary of the Festival, the ASOF Hartford Board of Directors commissioned Philip Stopford to compose a new setting of Psalm 150 in memory of David Spicer. The Trinity College Chapel Singers and treble choristers from St. James's and St. John's Episcopal Churches, West Hartford will sing the new anthem during the Closing Eucharist and Hymn Playing Competition.

David Spicer, who died on January 18, 2017, was

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

(1875-1965)

ALBERT SCHWEITZER was a physician, theologian, musician and philosopher. His writings on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) have been an invaluable resource and inspiration for organists and musicologists. Dr. Schweitzer founded a hospital at Lambaréné in French Equatorial Africa and served as a medical missionary for many years. Dr. Schweitzer supported his hospital in Africa with the money he earned from his professional engagements as an organist, lecturer and preacher. He received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1952. The Nobel Laureate's ethic of "reverence for life" emphasizes each human being's responsibility to all forms of life on our planet.

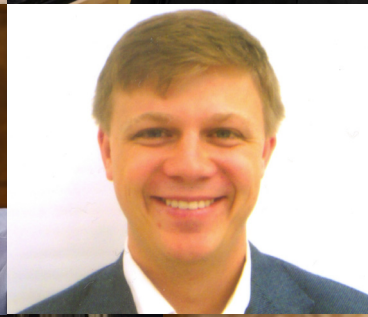
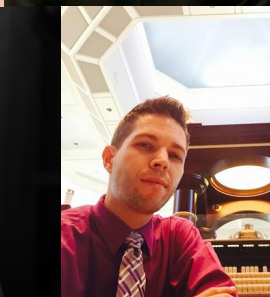
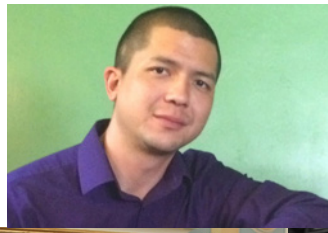
...THE TONES DO
NOT PERISH BUT
ASCEND TO GOD
LIKE PRAISE TOO
DEEP TO UTTER.

ALBERT SCHWEITZER, 1908



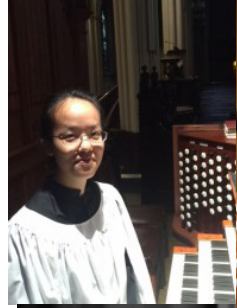
THE ASOF EXPERIENCE WAS TRANSFORMATIVE FOR ME AND FOR AS MUCH AS I APPRECIATED IT THEN, I HAVE AN EVEN GREATER APPRECIATION FOR IT NOW.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
2001 WINNER
HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION



ASOF HARTFORD WAS MY FIRST ORGAN COMPETITION, AND IT WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. DAVID SPICER AND THE FIRST CHURCH COMMUNITY WERE VERY WELCOMING, AND THE WEEKEND WAS WELL PLANNED.

BRENDA PORTMAN
2006 WINNER
YOUNG PROFESSIONAL DIVISION



PAST WINNERS



PARTICIPATING IN THE
SCHWEITZER FESTIVAL
WAS A WONDERFUL
EXPERIENCE.

COLIN MACKNIGHT
2016 WINNER
YOUNG PROFESSIONAL
DIVISION



From top left to bottom right: William Buthod, Monica Czausz, Dr. Nathan Davy, Andrew Hauze, Jonathan Ryan, Dr. Jason Roberts, Alcée Chriss III, Nicholas Quardokus, Dr. Adam Pajan, Paul Jacobs, Erik Meyer, Dr. Brenda Portman Nathan Laube, Tom Schuster, Simon Thomas Jacobs, Jacob Street, Ahreum Han, Bryan Dunnewald, Caroline Robinson, Mary Pan, Christopher Houlihan, Christopher Johnson, Christopher Holman, David Enlow, Adrian Binkley, Christian Lane, Joseph Russell, Christopher Ganza, Michael Gebhart, Katherine Johnson, Colin MacKnight, Samuel Gaskin, Scott Myers

The ASOF Hartford Community

The Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford is grateful to have a vast community of faith organizations, educational institutions, and skilled performers.

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH in Hartford is the home of the opening concert of the Festival. The 20th Anniversary of the Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford includes a concert with virtuoso performances by renowned concert organists and competition judges Diane Meredith Belcher, David Hurd, and Christian Lane.

The Chorus Angelicus, Gaudeamus and the Cathedral Schola Cantorum; Gabriel Löfvall, Conductor; Dr. Ezequiel Menéndez, Organist; soloists and guest instrumentalists will perform the Fauré Requiem in memory of David Spicer. A pre-concert exhibit includes memorabilia from the AlbertSchweitzerInstitute.

Operating independently as an autonomous institute on the campus of QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY, the ALBERTSCHWEITZERINSTITUTEFORGLOBALETHICS is a focal point for raising global awareness by promoting service, education, and scholarship. It involves those active in its areas of focus around the world, and provides faculty and students at Quinnipiac with opportunities for applied and experiential learning that derive from the continued pursuit and promotion of Schweitzer's legacy. The Albert Schweitzer Institute engages with global



Top: Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus performing at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Bottom: David Ives, Executive Director of the Albert Schweitzer Institute, with Leymah Gbowee, Liberian peace activist and Nobel Laureate. Image courtesy of the ASI.

actors and organizations, sponsors service-related activities abroad, and extends the study of Schweitzer's legacy in philosophy and practice.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH in West Hartford hosts the previous year's Competition Winners Recital. St. John's is an ideal location because of the parish's longtime relationship with Austin Organs, Inc. as many members of the Austin Family have been parishioners of St. John's. In the 1950s, Clarence Watters served as organist and choirmaster at St. Johns and as college organist and professor of music at Trinity College. He was largely responsible for the design of Trinity's organ, which shares French Romantic traits with the St. John's organ.

THE CHORUS ANGELICUS & GAUDEAMUS participated at the Festival in 2016. "We were approached by the late David Spicer, a musician with incredible drive and talent that really knew how to bring people together with an unbridled passion for music. Singing for a massive crowd of organists and church musicians of all latitudes was a true delight and inspiration for our organization.," says Gabriel Lofvall. "The choral pinnacle of the night was the



Above: Albert Schweitzer's Organ at the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac University.

Top right: G. Ingrid Faniel, Director of the Legacy of Spirituals Choir of Hartford and Festival Founder David Spicer

Right: St. John's Episcopal Church, West Hartford. Image by Mariana Evica.

Bottom: Legacy of Spirituals Choir.



Kyrie from Louis Vierne's exquisite masterpiece, his Messe Solennelle for choir and two organs. Ever since, that piece resonates deeply with our groups. We have been singing it over and over again."

LEGACY OF SPIRITUALS CHOIR from Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church Hartford performed at a previous festival led by Ingrid Faniel who said, "I look forward to the Albert Sweitzer Festival because we are graced with the awesome talent of the newest young organists in the country. What a blessing!"



Past Judges

2016

Isabelle Demers, Faythe Freeze, and Christopher Houlihan

2015

Diane Meredith Belcher, Peter Richard Conte, and John Walker

2014

Charles Callahan, Ken Cowan, and Diane Meredith Belcher

2013

Diane Meredith Belcher, David Hurd, and Cherry Rhodes

2012

Faythe Freeze, Cherry Rhodes, and Gordon Turk

2011

Michael Barone, Gregory D'Agostino, and Frederick Hohman

2010

Charles Callahan, David Enlow, and Frederick Hohman

2009

Frederick Hohman, Wilma Jensen, and John Weaver

2008

Frederick Hohman, Gerre Hancock, and Marilyn Mason

2007

Diane Meredith Belcher, Frederick Hohman, and Paul Jacobs

2006

Thomas Heywood, Frederick Hohman, and Marilyn Mason

2005

Benjamin Dobey, Frederick Hohman, and Katherine Pardee

2004

Frederick Hohman, Cherry Rhodes, and John Rose

2003

Colin Andrews, Frederick Hohman, and Janette Fishell

2001

Frederick Hohman, Cherry Rhodes, and John Walker

2000

Paul Fejko, Frederick Hohman, Katharine Pardee

1999

Frederick Hohman, Catherine Rodland, and John Weaver

1998

Diane Meredith Belcher, Frederick Hohman, and John Rose

American Guild of Organists Greater Hartford Chapter



The American Guild of Organists, Greater Hartford Chapter, congratulates the ASOF on its 20th anniversary! Your mission and ours happily intersect in that we both believe young organists need many types of support to encourage them on their important artistic journeys. The AGO does this in myriad ways; offering workshops, scholarships, competitions, and so much more. The ASOF Hartford has become a well-known national event for young organists to establish their artistic presence and receive substantial prize earnings. We are honored and pleased to sponsor ASOF Hartford and wish it great success in the years ahead!

Peter Niedmann
Dean, American Guild of Organists
Greater Hartford Chapter



Austin Organs, Inc.

Organ Architects and Builders Since 1893

John Turnell Austin left his home in England in 1891 bound for the United States. During the crossing he was robbed of all of his money. Arriving penniless he made his way to Detroit where he found organ building employment with the firm of Farrand and Votey. It was here that he began developing the ideas and designs that make the Austin Organ so unique. Beginning in 1893 he began building pipe organs based on his revolutionary system in the Clough and Warren shop also located in Detroit.

The fire that burned the Clough and Warren factory to the ground in 1898 was a tragedy for that firm but a bolt of good fortune for JTA and his brother. Investors in Hartford jumped at the chance to have a pipe organ company building instruments on the Austin system. After some twists and turns the fledgling company settled on Woodland Street in Hartford. John Austin's brother Basil G. Austin was in Alaska prospecting for gold when word arrived at the post for BGA to get himself to Hartford as the Austin Organ Company had been founded! (BGA's wondrous exploits are colorfully recounted in his justly famous book "The Diary of a Ninety-Eighter")

They would go on to build some of the largest instruments in the world and bring music to thousands of churches, synagogues, concert halls, schools, and homes. In the aftermath of the Great Depression the

company was reborn under the leadership of Frederick Basil Austin, nephew of John and Basil. He would revolutionize the company and steer it through many years of rapid change in the world of music.

We are proud to carry on their good work and take great pride in our stewardship of the firm they created.

Albert Schweitzer's contributions to the world are too many and too great to recount here, but even without his status as a Nobel laureate his legacy is secure as one of the great people of the 20th century. He brought his prodigious intellect to the field of music, and importantly here organs, organ building, and organ music. His "The Art Of Organ Building and Organ Playing in Germany and France" would help launch the revolution in organ building that required F.B. Austin's consummate leadership skills to navigate. Our landmark instrument at Trinity College is one of the organs born in this tsunami of change.

It is our great pleasure to partner with The Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival to encourage, nurture, and support the development of great artists to carry on the tradition of great music from fine pipe organs.

Sincerely,
AUSTIN ORGANS, INC.

a special thank you to our partners and sponsors

