

The University of Florida Organ Studio  
In Concert  
Saturday, April 27, 2013  
5:00PM  
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Savannah, Georgia

*Program*

Carillon

William Mathias  
(1934-1992)

Shawn Thomas

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THE CHORALE PRELUDE

Thanksgiving:

Prelude on Nun danket alle Gott

Robert Kreutz  
(1922-1996)

Michelle Klima

Lent:

Herzliebster Jesu

Helmut Walcha  
(1907-1991)

Caitlin Pearse

Nicene Creed:

Wir glauben all' an einen Gott, BWV 680

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

Shawn Thomas

Spiritual:

Deep River

Adolphus Hailstork  
(b. 1941)

Mitchell Stecker

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FROM THE FRENCH SCHOOL

Fanfare

Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens  
(1823-1881)

Michelle Klima

Prelude, Fugue, and Variation

César Franck  
(1822-1890)

Matt Gender

Suite Gothique  
Introduction  
Menuet

Léon Boëllman  
(1862-1897)

Mitchell Stecker

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Liberty Bell March

John Phillip Sousa  
(1854-1932)

Matt Gender

### *About the University of Florida organ studio*

**Matt Gender** is continuing his study as a senior in the organ department with Dr. Laura Ellis at the University of Florida. His research interests include the art of organ improvisation, organ architecture, impressionism, and French organ repertory. He first studied organ with Dr. Terry Yount from Rollins College and has been playing the organ for six years; and is an active member in his local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. He has studied improvisation with Herbert Buffington and David Briggs, and has attended 3 Pipe Organ Encounters, and served on the planning committee for the Gainesville Pipe Organ Encounter. Matt enjoys teaching students about the historic instrument that resides in the University of Florida's University Auditorium. Matt hopes to educate any curious mind about the organ and its lovely music and pursue a graduate program in church music or organ performance.

**Michelle Klima** is a sophomore at the University of Florida pursuing a Bachelor of Music Education with emphasis in organ. She is a native of St. Petersburg, Florida, and graduated simultaneously with a High School Diploma from Northeast High School and an Associate of Arts degree from St. Petersburg College in 2011. While in St. Petersburg, her interest in sacred choral and organ music was inspired by the many musical opportunities available to her: she was highly involved in the Music Ministry at Holy Family Catholic Church and, during her senior year of high school, served as the assistant director of the Children's Choir. She was also involved in St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral Choirs and the St. Petersburg Community Chorus. In Gainesville, Michelle serves on the executive board of the Gainesville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, sings with the Florida Schola Cantorum, and is an organ scholar at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. In her free time, she enjoys fashion, writing, and cooking.

**Caitlin Pearse** is a dual-instrumental student studying Voice as a primary and organ as a secondary instrument at the University of Florida. She transferred from St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, FL, where she also studied voice and took up organ as

a secondary instrument on recommendation of her then voice professor Dr. Marilyn Michael. She studied organ under Mr. Paul Dixon while at St. Petersburg College. She is relatively new to the organ, but has enthusiastically taken to the "king of instruments".

An active church and school chorister for most of her life, until transferring to UF, Caitlin held the Soprano soloist and section leader position at Christ United Methodist Church in downtown St. Petersburg while receiving a generous scholarship donated by the congregation. She also has experience with piano, having had a number of years of private study under Mrs. Lili Fest. Caitlin is currently studying organ under Dr. Laura Ellis and voice under Dr. Brenda Smith. She is particularly interested in early and Baroque music, as well as sacred music and oratorio, and has performed solos in such works as Handel's Messiah and Saint-Saëns' Oratorio de Noël.

**Wagner Schulz** is a fourth-year student at the University of Florida, pursuing a Dual Bachelor's in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, as well as a Minor in Organ Performance. He began playing the organ at the age of 9 under the instruction of Beth Hunter and Don Rolander in Clearwater, FL, where he has been an active member in the American Guild of Organists. Having attended many Pipe Organ Encounters, Wagner has played various organs across the United States, as well as having many opportunities to play pipe organs in France, Austria, and Italy. In Gainesville, Wagner was the Associate Organist at First Presbyterian Church from 2009 to 2011, where he has played at various concerts and the Annual Choral Festival. Outside of music, Wagner has a Pilot's License, and hopes to build his own airplane someday.

**Mitchell Stecker** is in his third year at the University of Florida, studying Music in Combination with Linguistics. Though having had a love of the pipe organ since he was very young, he only began his organ study in the summer of 2011. Since that time, he has become an active member of the Gainesville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and attended its national convention in Nashville this past July.

Mitchell is a member of several other musical groups at UF and in the Gainesville area, including the University of Florida Carillon Studio, and works as organ scholar at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, participating in the liturgy by playing the organ, singing in the Holy Trinity Choir and playing in the handbell ensemble. In his free time, he enjoys discovering and collecting world music, following UF athletics, reading, and studying foreign languages.

**Shawn Thomas** is a second year student at the University of Florida pursuing a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance. In May 2011, Shawn received a BA in History, and a BM in Organ Performance from the University of West Florida, in Pensacola. His organ professor at UWF was Dr. Lynne A. Lauderdale. While at UWF, Shawn participated in the UWF Singers, Madrigals, and Symphonic Band. In 2008 and 2010, Shawn performed on piano and harpsichord with the UWF Chamber Music Ensemble in monthly recitals at Pensacola's historic Old Christ Church. He has performed two solo recitals at the First Baptist Church of Pensacola in November 2009 and April 2011.

A life-long resident of the Florida Panhandle, Shawn was very active in the Pensacola chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), and served on the executive committee from 2009-2011. Thomas performed in recital with several colleagues celebrating the "International Year of the Organ" at Pensacola's First United Methodist

Church in October 2008. From January 2008 to July 2011, Mr. Thomas was employed as organist and church musician at Gulf Breeze Presbyterian Church in Gulf Breeze, Florida. Shawn is the organ studio graduate assistant, and associate organist at First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville. He also serves as Sub-dean of the Gainesville Chapter of the AGO.

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