

school of music
university of florida + college of fine arts

James Conely
Guest Artist

Sunday, September 24, 2017
2:00PM
University Auditorium

Program

Toccata on “How Firm a Foundation”

Claude Murphree
(1906-1958)

..... remembering a former UF long-time University Organist/Composer

Sonata II

Grave, Adagio
Allegro maestoso e vivace
Fuga: Allegro moderato

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

“Scherzo”

Albert Alain
(1880-1945)

..... A. Alain: a notable organist/organ builder/composer in his own right but perhaps better known as the father of the brilliant young composer, Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

“Danse Macabre”

Camille Saint-Saëns
(1835-1921)
Trans. Edwin H. Lemare
(1865-1934)

*“Zig et zig et zag, la mort en cadence Frappant une tombe avec son talon.
La mort a minuit joue un air de danse Zig et zig et zag, sur son violon.”*
[Ziggy, ziggy, zig - Death in rhythm strikes a tomb with his heel.
At midnight, Death plays a dance tune on his violin.]

And so begins Henri Cazalis’ poem that inspired Saint-Saëns to compose his “Danse Macabre”: At midnight Death tunes his violin by the “devil’s interval” – tri-tone pitches banned in Renaissance church music as dissonant and associated with the devil. Death draws out a haunting melody. Spirits rise from their tombs and begin to dance. Then there is an oblique reference to the Medieval Judgement Day chant “Dies Irae, Dies Illa” - day of wrath, day of dread! Wind swirls and howls around the spirits. The dance becomes ever more frenzied until suddenly the cock crows and the first light of dawn appears. Death eases his tune, the spirits scurry back to their graves, and all ends as quietly as it began.

“Rejoice”

Noel Goemanne
(1926-2010)

..... a celebratory finale

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For more information about the University Auditorium organ,
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About the performer

James Conely, adjunct instructor of piano and organ at Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Ala., received the Ed.D. in teaching college English correlated with music from Columbia University Teachers College studying with Thomas Richner. Previously he received B.A.E. and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Florida with piano study under Russell Danburg and organ later with Willis Bodine. Additional organ study was with David Bowman at Alabama State University. His concerts have included St. Malachy's Actor's Chapel and St. Thomas Church in New York, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC, the University of Colorado in Boulder, the Air Force Academy, UCLA, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, and other cities. A member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, he has received numerous ASCAP Annual Awards, especially for music composed for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and other professional theatre companies in Denver, Minneapolis, and New York. He holds the Colleague Certificate of the American Guild of Organists and is Treasurer of the Montgomery, Alabama A.G.O. chapter.