



UF PIPE ORGAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Chelsea Chen
Guest Artist Recital
Thursday, September 4, 2025
7:20 p.m.
University Auditorium

Program

Sinfonietta (2002)	Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)
Prelude and Fugue in D Major, BWV 532	J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
The Girl with the Flaxen Hair transcribed by Léon Roques	Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Arabesque No. 2 transcribed by Léon Roques	
Taiwanese Suite (2003) Hills in the Springtime Moonlight Blue Mountain of Youth	Chelsea Chen (b. 1983)
Naïades from <i>Pièces de fantaisie</i>	Louis Vierne (1870-1937)
Prelude and Fugue in B Major, Op. 7, No. 1	Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)
The Swan from <i>Carnival of the Animals</i> transcribed by Alexandre Guilmant	Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
Finale from "Organ" Symphony No. 3 transcribed by David Briggs	

History of the Andrew Anderson Memorial Pipe Organ

A financial gift by Dr. Andrew Anderson, a St. Augustine physician, philanthropist, and associate of early Florida developer Henry Flagler, provided the funds for a pipe organ in the newly constructed University Auditorium. Tonal plans were prepared by William Zeuch of Boston's famous Skinner Organ Company, which built and installed the instrument in early 1925. The organ was first played publicly on June 7th, 1925, at the annual University Commencement Convocation. A musical landmark for its day, the organ was designed and voiced at the zenith of orchestral-imitative or "symphonic" organ design in this country, and is mentioned in such reference works as Orpha Ochse's *The History of the Organ in the United States* and Charles Callahan's *The American Classic Organ*. Claude Murphree, university organist from 1925-1958, performed over 550 concerts on this instrument and his Sunday afternoon recitals became a tradition on campus.

During World War II and immediately after, due to institutional economic conditions, the instrument itself was not given proper care. This University treasure was virtually buried behind layers of heavy velour curtains hung in front of the organ to allow theatrical presentations. When the Division of Music was established in 1948, however, immediate efforts were made to rescue the instrument.

Willis Bodine succeeded Murphree as university organist in 1959 and by the early 1960's the curtains were removed. Under Bodine's leadership, the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company began a program of mechanical renovation and tonal rehabilitation to repair the damage caused by the ravages of time and neglected maintenance. By 1976, renovation and air-conditioning of the building had been completed, but Aeolian-Skinner was no longer in business. In 1992 the M.P. Möller Organ Company continued the careful work of restoring the organ to its former excellence as a teaching and recital instrument.

Laura Ellis joined the UF faculty in 2003 to become the third university organist in the history of the institution. In the fall of 2014, the Reuter Organ Company located in Lawrence, KS, was contracted to provide tonal renovations to the instrument. Twenty-four new ranks of principal pipes were built to revise and enhance the Great, Swell, Positiv and Choir choruses. Reed pipes in all divisions were rebuilt or replaced. Other stops were re-scaled and wind pressures were adjusted. Finally, the entire instrument was re-voiced to achieve a new tonal balance, characterized by abundant fundamental tone and greater clarity. The newly renovated organ was heard for the first time during the *Phantom of the Opera*, presented by the College of the Arts in January 2015.

About the Performer

Chelsea Chen's dynamic playing has taken her to the far corners of the world. Her solo concerts offer a unique mix of traditional organ repertoire along with piano / orchestral transcriptions and contemporary music. The *Los Angeles Times* has praised her "rare musicality" and "lovely lyrical grandeur," and a compositional style that is "charming" and "irresistible."

Chelsea has performed with numerous ensembles including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Singapore Chinese Orchestra (a traditional Chinese instruments ensemble), and the Lou Harrison Festival Rutgers Orchestra at Trinity Wall Street in Manhattan. Highlights of the past year included solo concerts at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Hauptkirche St. Jacobi in Hamburg, and Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, as well as a joint performance with the brass of the Philadelphia Orchestra at Girard College in Philadelphia, PA.

Ms. Chen originally hails from San Diego, where her formative music teachers were organists Leslie Robb (St. Paul's Lutheran, San Diego) and Monte Maxwell (US Naval Academy, Annapolis) and pianists Baruch Arnon (New York City), Jane Bastien, and Lori Bastien Vickers (San Diego). She studied under Paul Jacobs and John Weaver at The Juilliard School in New York, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She also won the John Erskine Prize for academic and artistic achievement, awarded to one graduate per year. After college she moved to Taiwan under a Fulbright scholarship, whereupon she collected folk songs and wrote organ solo and chamber music. She returned to the U.S. to study with Thomas Murray at Yale University, where she earned an Artist Diploma. In 2009, Wayne Leupold Editions published her composition "Taiwanese Suite" to great acclaim.

Ms. Chen has recorded multiple CDs: Reveries (2011) at Bethel University, Live at Heinz Chapel at the 2005 Convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders, Eastern Treasures (2010) with violinist Lewis Wong, Live at Coral Ridge (2014), and Explorations for Cello and Organ (2018) with cellist Joseph Lee. Her playing has been aired on CNN.com, "Pipedreams" from American Public Media, Hawaii Public Radio, and Taiwan's Good News Radio. Committed to new music, she has premiered works by composers throughout the world including Ola Gjeilo (Norway/USA), Yui Kitamura (Japan/USA), Paul Desenne (Venezuela), Roderick Gorby (USA), Vincent Rone (USA), and Viviane Waschbüsch (Germany). Her compositions are available exclusively from Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

Ms. Chen was Artist-in-Residence at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church from 2013-17, and she currently lives with her husband and young son in Zürich, Switzerland. Learn more about her at www.chelseachen.com.

Join us for additional UF Pipe Organ Centennial Events this Fall

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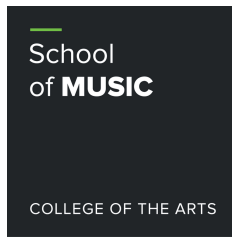
SAT 10.25.25 | 1:55 PM  
Pipe Organ Demonstration

FRI 10.31.25 | 7:20 PM  
HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR  
featuring  
SCOTT ZIEGLER  
organ studio alumnus

FRI 11.14.25 | 7:20 PM  
SHAWN THOMAS  
Alumni Recital Series

THU 11.20.25 | 7:20 PM  
UF Organ Studio  
Fall Recital

SUN 12.7.25 | 12:50 PM  
LAURA ELLIS  
Re-creation of a Claude Murphree  
Holiday Recital



To ensure an enjoyable concert experience for all, please refrain from talking and entering or exiting while musicians are performing. Food and drink are prohibited in all concert halls. Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. Thank you for your cooperation.

Program 004 in the School of Music Events Series of the 2025-2026 academic year.

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For more information about specific degrees and entrance requirements, please visit: [www.arts.ufl.edu/music/](http://www.arts.ufl.edu/music/).

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