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LÁSZLÓ FASSANG **Biography**

As winner of the world's most prestigious organ competitions and awards, **László Fassang** is one of the most versatile organists of his generation. His activities focus on teaching and performing classical organ literature, and to this end he performs all over the world, teaching and giving public lectures, in the course of which he aims to teach his pupils and audiences about the incredible versatility of the organ and the richness of its literature. He also considers the preservation and professional maintenance of historical pipe organs to be important and he plays an active part in doing so.

As an improvising artist with exceptional abilities as a keyboard player, his interest spreads from the harpsichord to the fortepiano, and from the piano all the way to the Hammond organ. In addition to performing in classical chamber formations, he regularly participates in world music and jazz performances.

Mr. Fassang graduated with distinction from both the Liszt Academy of Music and the Paris Conservatoire. In 2000 he took a year away from his studies to serve as resident organist of the Sapporo Concert Hall in Japan. Prominent among his competitive triumphs are the 2002 Calgary Gold Medal for improvisation and the interpretation Grand Prix and the audience prize of the 2004 Chartres competition.

Mr. Fassang currently teaches organ at the Liszt Academy in Budapest, Hungary. He also teaches keyboard improvisation at the Paris Conservatoire (CNSM) in France where he succeeded Philippe Lefebvre. He previously taught at the San Sebastian College of Music in Spain.

In 2012 Mr. Fassang was recognized with the Prix Gramofon (Hungary), and in 2006 his accomplishments were acknowledged with the Liszt Ferenc Prize awarded by the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture, and the Prima Prize awarded by the National Association of Entrepreneurs..

Alongside his pedagogical activities Mr. Fassang serves as Artistic Director of the organ concert series at the Palace of Arts in Budapest (Müpa-Budapest). He also frequently serves on

juries for international organ competitions, including The Michael Tariverdijev Organ Competition, Kaliningrad (2011). ION Nürnberg (2011 and 2016), Grand Prix de Chartres (2012), The Silbermann Competition, Freiberg (2015), and in 2017 he will serve on the Tokyo, Musashino Organ Competition selection round, and the St Albans Organ Competition in the United Kingdom.

Next season Mr. Fassang is involved in a special project with composer/conductor Péter Eötvös for which Mr. Fassang has been selected by Mr. Eötvös to participate in the creation of his new organ concerto, *Multiversum* (2017) for pipe organ, Hammond organ and orchestra. In this work Mr Fassang will play the Hammond organ solo part. The World premier of this work will take place in October 2017 in the Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg with the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra conducted by Péter Eötvös, followed by a concert tour which will include Köln Philharmonie, Brussels Bozar, Müpa Budapest, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Paris Philharmonie, Genf Victoria Hall (with Orchestra Suisse Romand) and Soeoul Philharmonie.

As a concerto soloist Mr. Fassang has performed with several orchestras and conductors, including The Budapest Festival Orchestra conducted by Barnabás Kelemen, The Hungarian State Choir conducted by Zoltán Kocsis, The Hungarian Radio Orchestra conducted by Gergely Madaras, The Miskolc Philharmony Orchestra conducted by László Kovács, The Danubia Orchestra conducted by Domonkos Héja, and Budapest Strings.

Performances by Mr. Fassang are especially interesting because of his improvisational skill and his ability to demonstrate the versatility of the organ through the incorporation of jazz and folk music influences. He also frequently performs collaborative concerts with French jazz-saxophonist Vincent Lê Quang, Hungarian folksinger Bea Palya, and bagpipe player Balázs Szokolay Dongó.

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