

## **TODD WILSON** **Biography**

Regarded across America and around the world as one of today's finest concert organists, Todd Wilson serves as head of the Organ Department at The Cleveland Institute of Music, and is also Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio and Curator of the E.M. Skinner pipe organ at Severance Hall (home of The Cleveland Orchestra).

Previously, Mr. Wilson served as Director of Music and Organist at The Church of the Covenant (Presbyterian), Cleveland, Ohio for nineteen years, and from 1989 through 1993 was Head of the Organ Department at Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music in nearby Berea, performing in their annual Bach Festivals. He also served as Organist and Master of the Choristers at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, New York. In New York, he taught on the faculties of Adelphi and Hofstra Universities and was organist of the George Mercer School of Theology.

Todd Wilson has been heard in recital at many major venues throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, including Symphony Hall (Birmingham, UK), Westminster Abbey (London, UK), St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin (Ireland), Los Angeles' Walt Disney Concert Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Dallas' Meyerson Symphony Center, Philadelphia's Verizon Hall, Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center, Milwaukee's Uihlein Hall, Washington National Cathedral, St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City, and the 21,000-seat Mormon Conference Center in Salt Lake City. He also was a recitalist for Austrian Radio in Vienna, and in January 2005 he presented his first solo recital in Tokyo, Japan.

Mr. Wilson has appeared with many symphony orchestras around the world including the Cleveland Orchestra for whom he serves as Organ Curator, the Los Angeles Philharmonic

for whom in 2004 he was featured organ soloist on the first orchestra subscription series concerts featuring the new Walt Disney Concert Hall organ, the Nashville Symphony, the Slovakian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Naples (Florida) Philharmonic, and with members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

His latest CD, "The Organ Music of Gerre Hancock" is on the Raven label and was recorded at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue New York City. Other recordings feature a live recital of American music from the National Cathedral in Washington, DC on the JAV label, and "Live from Severance Hall": a concert of music for trumpet and organ with Michael Sachs, Principal Trumpet of The Cleveland Orchestra. Other CDs on the JAV label are "Music for Cello and Organ" with his daughter, Rachel (released in September, 2003), "George Thalben- Ball and Friends" (released July 2001), and "Frank Bridge and Friends" featuring the complete organ works of Frank Bridge (released June 2000). He plays a variety of Christmas music on "A Joyous Celebration," the inaugural recording (2001) of the recently restored E. M. Skinner organ in Cleveland's Severance Hall, which is available from The Cleveland Orchestra. Mr. Wilson's CDs for Delos International include: the Complete Organ Works of Maurice Duruflé; the Widor "Symphonie Romane" plus works by Jongen, Langlais, Bonnet, Demessieux and Dupré; "In a Quiet Cathedral," a two-disc collection of meditative organ music. "Double Forte," a recording of duo organ works recorded with David Higgs. Earlier recordings include a Disques du Solstice recording of Tournemire organ works on the organ of Chartres Cathedral, and works by Duruflé, Guillou and Robinson at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York City (Gothic).

Mr. Wilson received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, where he studied organ with Wayne Fisher and piano with John Quincy Bass. Further coaching in organ repertoire was with

Russell Saunders at The Eastman School of Music. An active member of the American Guild of Organists, Mr. Wilson holds the Fellow and Choirmaster certificates from that institution, and won the S. Lewis Elmer Prize for the highest national exam score in 1982. He has been a featured recitalist at many Guild conventions including national conventions in 1996 (New York City), 2008 (Minneapolis, MN) and 2012 (Nashville TN).

He has won numerous competitions, including the prestigious French Grand Prix de Chartres, the Fort Wayne Competition, the Strader National Scholarship Competition and the national competition sponsored by the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. A sought-after adjudicator, Mr. Wilson has been a member of the jury for many of the world's most prestigious competitions; most recently at the 2014 Pipeworks International Organ Competition in Dublin, Ireland. He has also served on juries for The Nürnberg Competition (Germany), the Dallas Competition (USA), the Royal College of Organists' Performer of the Year Competition (UK), the Calgary International Organ Festival and Competition (Canada), the St. Alban's International Organ Festival (UK), the Grand Prix de Chartres and the Toulouse Festival Competitions (France), the American Guild of Organists National Young Artists Competition, and the Ft. Wayne Competition (USA). He currently serves as Conference Director for the Montreat Conference on Worship and Music in Sewanee Tennessee. Previously he served as organ clinician at the Evergreen Conference (for Episcopal church musicians) in Colorado, at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, and for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. He has also directed and served on the faculty for many Pipe Organ Encounters for the American Guild of Organists.

Having grown up in the men and boys choir of Trinity Church in Toledo, the choirs and music of the Anglican tradition have been an influential part of Mr. Wilson's musical life. During 1978-79 he served as a visiting assistant in music at Canterbury Cathedral in England

under Dr. Allan Wicks. At the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Mr. Wilson directed one of the longest-running choirs of men and boys in continuous existence in the United States. Mr. Wilson frequently presents workshops on English choral and organ music, as well as on service playing. An active interest in improvisation has led to his popular improvised accompaniments to classic silent films.

*Current as of April 2018*

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