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DAVID BASKEYFIELD **Biography**

David Baskeyfield is a passionate advocate for the pipe organ and its music. One of the instrument's leading performers today, his reputation has been built upon intelligent and informed interpretation, supported by astonishing facility, and conveyed above all with persuasive and exhilarating musicality.

“The youthful energy with which Baskeyfield negotiates the transitions is complemented by expressive maturity which, frankly, many musicians with considerably more years to their credit do not exhibit.” *Joseph Nensholme, Voix des Arts.*

His first album was recorded on the landmark Casavant organ of 1914 at St Paul's Church, Bloor Street, Toronto. At its installation the largest in Canada, the instrument combines elements of English and French voicing with an unusually developed palette of characterful orchestral voices; seeking to showcase these characteristics, the CD features music by Canadian, English and French composers. It was released on the ATMA Classique label to favorable review. An upcoming CD, of music by Marcel Dupré conceived with the American organ of the 1920s in mind, is to be recorded at the church of St Mary the Virgin, Times Square. It will be released in summer on the Acis label.

Mr. Baskeyfield specializes in the music of the French composers of the 19th and 20th centuries, and his approach to interpretation is complemented by a research interest in the design, construction and voicing of the 19th century instruments of France and England. However, his concert repertoire in general is varied and eclectic; a special affection for the Old Masters of the 17th century North German School in no way detracts from his interpretations of the music of the great 19th century virtuosos. He has occasionally given theatre organ recitals.

Baskeyfield read Law at Oxford; on the encouragement of David Higgs he crossed the Atlantic for graduate study at the Eastman School of Music. His dissertation explored the

boundary between written composition and improvisation among the Parisian organist-composers under Louis Vierne and Marcel Dupré. Between Oxford and Eastman he spent a year as organ scholar at the two Anglican cathedrals in Dublin, accompanying or directing their choirs of professional mixed voices, and men and boys. First prize winner at St Albans and the Canadian International Organ Competition, he has won an unusual number of organ playing competitions, with a knack for taking the audience prize; others include Miami, Mader and the AGO national improvisation competition.

Some recent recital engagements include Washington National Cathedral; the Basilica of the National Shrine; St Thomas, 5th Avenue; St John the Divine; Notre Dame, Montreal; King's College, Cambridge; St Albans Cathedral; Birmingham Town Hall; St Bavo; Chartres Cathedral and St Sulpice. Festivals, both as performer and teacher, include the Eccles Organ Festival; Baylor Midwinter Organ Conference; the Calgary Organ Festival and the East Texas Pipe Organ Festival, where he is delighted to have been invited to return this coming November for the fifth year in a row.

He has been broadcast a number of times on American Public Media's *Pipedreams*, as well as NPR's *With Heart and Voice* and, locally, as part of the daily playlist on the classical station WXXI. Among other things, he is enthusiastic about cooking, brewing, sports fishing and aquarium fish, in particular the cichlids endemic to the east African Rift Lakes, Malawi and Tanganyika. Ongoing projects include translation of writings by Dupré and Rolande Falcinelli—his protégée and successor as Professor of Organ at the Paris Conservatoire—held in a collection at the Sibley Music Library, training his English springer spaniel, and a comprehensive renovation of his new home; somewhat optimistic plans include the construction of a koi pond deep enough to last an upstate NY winter.

Revised January 2018