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SCOTT DETTRA

Biography

Hailed as a “brilliant organist” (*Dallas Morning News*), an “outstanding musician” (*The Diapason*), and described as a “prodigy” by *The New York Times* at age 13, Scott Dettra is acclaimed as one of America’s leading concert organ virtuosos. Mr. Dettra’s playing is praised for its clarity, rhythmic intensity, and musical elegance, and has been described by *The American Organist* as “music making of absolute authority and sophisticated expression.” He combines an active performance schedule with his position on the organ faculty of Southern Methodist University, and is organist of The Crossing, the multi-GRAMMY-winning professional chamber choir based in Philadelphia. Throughout 2022, Mr. Dettra is undertaking a 15-city national tour of the complete organ works of César Franck, in celebration of the composer’s bicentenary.

Recent and upcoming performances include appearances in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Washington, San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, San Diego, and Kansas City. Festival appearances include the Lincoln Center Festival, the Carmel Bach Festival, the Arizona Bach Festival, the Bermuda Festival of the Performing Arts, and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. He has been a featured performer at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Anglican Musicians, the Organ Historical Society, and the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and is in demand as a clinician and adjudicator for master classes, workshops, and competitions.

Mr. Dettra is featured on many compact disc recordings, including *The Anglo-American Classic Organ* (Gothic), *Majestus* (Loft), recorded at Washington National Cathedral, and *Tongues of Fire* (Pro Organo), recorded on the 325-rank instrument at West Point’s Cadet Chapel. Additional recordings may be found on the Gothic, Innova, Lyrichord, Pro Organo, and

Linn labels. In addition to commercial recordings, his performances have been broadcast numerous times on such radio programs as American Public Media's *Pipedreams* and *Performance Today*, the BBC's *Choral Evensong*, and *The New York Philharmonic This Week*.

An accomplished conductor, Mr. Dettra's ensembles have been featured on national radio broadcasts in the United States and the United Kingdom, and at conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. He has prepared choirs for performances with such ensembles as the National Symphony Orchestra, the Juilliard Orchestra, and the Dave Brubeck Quartet, and has also led and taught several courses for the Royal School of Church Music.

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Mr. Dettra began piano study at age 3 and organ study at age 8 as a student of his father, Lee Dettra, holding his first church organist position at the age of 9. He made his New York debut at Riverside Church at the age of 11. Mr. Dettra holds two degrees from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, where he was a student of Joan Lippincott, and has also studied organ and jazz piano at Manhattan School of Music.

Previous positions have included Organist of Washington National Cathedral, Director of Music at Church of the Incarnation in Dallas, and assistantships at the Washington Bach Consort, the Cathedral Choral Society, the American Boychoir School, St. Paul's, K Street in Washington; St. Mark's, Locust Street in Philadelphia; and Trinity Church, Princeton.

www.scottdettra.com

Current as of October 2022