

MICHEL BOUVARD **Biography**

Over the past thirty years, **Michel Bouvard** has enjoyed a remarkable double career as concert artist and professor of organ. Recognized internationally as one of the most engaging French interpreters, he is regularly invited to perform upon the most beautiful historic organs throughout Europe, as well as in the great concert halls of Asia and prominent venues of North America. He has given more than 1,000 concerts in more than 25 countries. Within the past several years he has performed in some of the greatest cultural centers of the world, including New York, Tokyo, Madrid, Montréal, Milan, Rio de Janeiro, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Brussels, St. Petersburg, Seoul, London, Leipzig, New Orleans and San Francisco. In 2016 he had the honor of playing the opening recital of the national convention of the American Guild of Organists for several thousand attendees in Houston, Texas.

Michel Bouvard's discography has garnered international acclaim. One of his first recordings, dedicated to the organ music of François Couperin (Sony 1992), has recently been re-released and named one of *Les Indispensables* ("indispensable recordings of the year") by the magazine Diapason.

Michel Bouvard is indebted to his grandfather, organist and composer Jean Bouvard, student of Louis Vierne, for inspiring in him in his vocation. Michel received his early musical theory and musicianship classes at the Paris Conservatory while studying organ and improvisation with André Isoir. In Paris he also studied with the renowned organists of St. Severin: Jean Boyer, Francis Chapelet and Michel Chapuis. In 1983 he won the first prize in the international organ competition of Toulouse, marking the début of his career. Appointed in 1985 by Xavier Darasse to succeed him in directing the organ class at the Toulouse Conservatory, he pursued Darasse's vision of partnership and collaboration with the city and region by organizing concerts, organ tours, master-classes, and the international organ

competition with colleague Jan Willem Jansen. These efforts culminated in 1996 in the creation of the international organ festival *Toulouse les Orgues* which Mr. Bouvard directed for seven years, and the establishment of the *Centre d'Études Supérieures de Musique et de Danse de Toulouse (ISDAT)*, a highly selective graduate-level organ program for organists wishing to study on the wealth of historic organs in the Toulouse region.

In 1995, Michel Bouvard was named Professor of Organ at the Paris Conservatory (CNSM de Paris) with his friend and colleague Olivier Latry. Together they have developed a unique collaborative method of pedagogy, attracting the finest young international organists with varying career goals to the program. In 2013 he was invited to join the organ faculty of the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, New York, as a professor in residence for the fall semester. He held similar teaching residencies at Yale University in November 2015 and at the National University of the Arts in Tokyo in 2016.

Michel Bouvard has been the titular organist of the renowned Cavaillé-Coll organ of the Romanesque Basilica of St. Sernin in Toulouse since 1996. In 2010 he was named one of the four principal organists of the Chapel Royal at the Château in Versailles.

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