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JENS KORNDÖRFER

Biography

German American organist Dr. Jens Korndörfer is the Joyce O. Bowden Professor of Music and Associate Professor of Organ at Baylor University in Texas and is regularly invited to perform and teach at prestigious venues and festivals around the world.

Praised as “a virtuoso in the grand Romantic tradition” who creates “performances that are deeply musically satisfying as well as exciting” (The American Organist), highlights of Korndörfer’s performance career include Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, the Cadet Chapel in West Point, Duke University Chapel, the Cathedral-Basilica in St. Louis, the Montreal Bach Festival, the Cathedrals in Washington, Berlin, Paris, Salzburg, Oslo, and Moscow, Westminster Abbey in London, the Royal Chapel in Versailles, the Frauenkirche in Dresden, the Minster in Ulm, Suntory Hall and Metropolitan Art Space in Tokyo, Kyoto Concert Hall, and the Cultural Centre in Hong Kong.

Korndörfer’s repertoire reaches from the Renaissance to the 21st century, including transcriptions, and world premieres. Widely recognized as a “prodigious technician” (*La Presse*, Montreal), his “effortless and poetic playing” (Susan Landale) delight both organ aficionados and first-time visitors alike. In addition to frequently collaborating with other musicians, he has also performed with ensembles such as the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, and the Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini.

Since 2023, Korndörfer has been directing the organ program at Baylor University. In addition to teaching organ performance, service playing, and improvisation, he has also founded the annual National High School Organ Competition, organizes annual study trips (Paris in 2024, Boston in 2025, Germany in 2026) and performance opportunities at prestigious venues for his

studio (St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. John the Divine in New York, First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston), and directs Baylor's Summer Organ Camp.

Previously, he taught at Georgia State University (2017-23) and Agnes Scott College (2014-19). As "a leading professor of organ" (*The American Organist*), he is frequently invited as guest speaker and clinician at universities, concert halls, and chapters of the American Guild of Organists. Korndörfer has released five CDs on major instruments in France, Japan, Canada, and the USA. Most recently, his collection of ten festive hymn introductions and re-harmonizations was published by MorningStar Music.

At First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta (2012-23), Korndörfer directed the renovation and revoicing of the Klais/Schlueter sanctuary organ (IV/112). He successfully rebranded and expanded FPC's Concerts @ First series from 4 to 18 concerts per season, collaborated with major arts organizations in Atlanta, and raised awareness for minorities in the classical arts scene.

A top-honor graduate from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique in Paris, the Oberlin Conservatory, the Musikhochschule in Bayreuth, and McGill University in Montreal, Korndörfer's teachers include Olivier Latry, Michel Bouvard, James David Christie and Ludger Lohmann. In the 2005/06 season, he served as organist in residence at the Concert Hall Kitara in Sapporo, giving concerts all over Japan, teaching, and recording his first CD.

Korndörfer has won numerous prizes and awards, including from the Canadian International Organ Competition, the German Academic Exchange Service, the Oberlin Conservatory, and the Government of Quebec.

He is represented in North America by Karen McFarlane Artists. More information on Jens Korndörfer can be found at www.jenskorndorfer.com.

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