

Damin Spritzer, Organist

Praised for “enormous sensitivity and musicianship” by the *AAM Journal*, and hailed as “elegantly assured” by the *Dallas Morning News*, Damin Spritzer has performed organ recitals from coast to coast and will have her international performance debut at the Cathédrale Sainte-Croix d'Orléans, France on the 13th of July, 2014. Dr. Spritzer's performances are notable for programs that champion unknown romantic works for organ, and she collaborates as often as possible with other instruments such as harp, trombone, orchestra, and choir. She designed and performs an educational concert about the organ that has been featured as a “Best Bet for Children” in the *Dallas Morning News*. Recent recital appearances include the 2012 *Piccolo Spoleto Festival* in Charleston, South Carolina; the University of Houston 2012 Conference on *Historical Eclecticism: Organ Building and Playing in the 21st Century*; recitals in Kentucky, California, Arkansas, New York, Oregon, Georgia, and numerous appearances in Texas, including the Meyerson Symphony Center and the *Big XII Trombone Conference* in Lubbock. She was a featured artist at the AGO Regional Convention in Austin, TX in July of 2013, giving both a recital and a separate lecture on the life and music of R. L. Becker (1882-1956), on whom she wrote her doctoral dissertation. In October of 2011 she was a guest lecturer at the University of Michigan 51st Annual Conference on Organ Music, and gave a similar lecture and performance about Becker's music in Louisville, KY in May of 2012. She has written an extended preface for a forth-coming multi-volume critical edition of Becker's organ works (Wayne Leupold Editions, Volume I to be released in conjunction with the 2014 June National American Guild of Organists Convention).

Upcoming performances for the 2014-2015 calendar year include Methuen Memorial Music Hall (Massachusetts), New York City, Dallas (Texas), Orléans, France, Oklahoma City, and Chicago.

In April of 2011, she released a world premier commercial recording of the music of René Louis Becker. Recorded in Pithiviers, France in 2010 at the newly renovated historic Cavaillé-Coll organ of the church of Saint-Salomon-Saint-Gregoire de Pithiviers, the disc has received glowing reviews. The 2011 September/October issue of *Choir & Organ* magazine gave the disc a full five stars, writing further that “Damin Spritzer serves both instrument and music well, alert to the music's lyrical mien and harmonic muscle, negotiating the III/49 machine with an easy command of drama and a real feeling for Becker's melody-led, cleanly-executed music...A second volume is eagerly awaited.” The *AAM Journal* wrote, “The music comes alive under her touch!...This recording is a delight...” And a review from *Classical Music Sentinel* praised the recording, saying “...Damin Spritzer drives the music along with plenty of forward momentum which adds a singing quality to the melodic lines and an assured rhythmic movement to the toccatas and marches...the final glorious chord of the *Marche Triomphale* will make you glad you're alive.” The recording is available from numerous sources, including Raven Recordings (www.RavenCD.com).

Her second volume of Becker's organ music, again for Raven Recordings, was recorded in Orléans, France, in April of 2013 at the Cathédrale Sainte-Croix d'Orléans and will be available in 2014.

Dr. Spritzer has had the honor of being heard on Michael Barone's nationally-syndicated "Pipedreams®" radio broadcast on several occasions, including the following programs: *Historical Eclecticism in Houston*, *Prayers and Alleluias*, *Twenty-Somethings*, *Merriment at the Meyerson*, and the "Pipedreams: Live!" performance at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Texas in 2005. Tracks from her first CD for Raven have also been broadcast on *With Heart and Voice®* out of Rochester, New York (program 1309, *Psalms of Lament*, *Psalms of Reflection*), on RVM radio in Montreal, Quebec, in the Netherlands on HET ORGELUUR op GROOTNIEUWSRADIO 1008 AM, in interview and broadcast on the Catholic Channel, SiriusXM 129, radio talk and music show, *Sounds from the Spires*, with Dr. Jennifer Pascual, Director of Music at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in New York, and on WRR 101.1 in Dallas, Texas.

Her Doctor of Musical Arts degree was received from the University of North Texas, studying with Jesse Eschbach, and she is also a graduate of two more of the finest music schools in the country, having received her Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York with David Higgs and her Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, studying with Haskell Thomson and David Boe. Her organ teachers have included Gerre Hancock, Joel Martinson, Karel Paukert, and Delbert Saman. She is currently the Sub-Dean (2013-2014) of the Dallas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and has previously served as a member of their Executive and Recital Committees. Additionally, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Leupold Foundation, which is dedicated to the preservation of pipe organ music and culture.

Recently appointed as Visiting Professor of Organ at the University of Oklahoma for Fall 2014, she served with the music staff of University Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas as Associate Director of Music and Organist from 2009 to 2014. From 2000 until 2008, she held the similar position at Saint Rita Catholic Church in Dallas, and previously held positions in Atlanta, GA, Rochester, NY, and near Oberlin, Ohio.