



ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS  
**INTERNATIONAL  
ORGAN  
COMPETITION**

PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS

# Elizabeth B. Stephens 2024 International Organ Competition Final Round

## FINALISTS

Adam Chlebek, USA  
Gabriel Dissenha, Brazil  
Mitchell Miller, USA  
Magdalena Moser, Austria  
Manuel Piazza, Canada  
Aleksanteri Wallius, Finland

## PRELIMINARY ROUND JUDGES

David Briggs (Chair)  
Dr. Oliver Brett  
Chelsea Chen

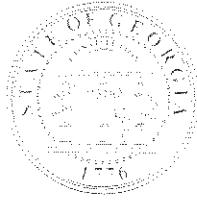
## FINAL ROUND JUDGES

David Briggs (Chair)  
Julie Coucheron  
Lynne Davis  
Dr. Isabel Demers  
James O'Donnell



**PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Wednesday, June 19, 2024, 1:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 9:00 PM



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp  
GOVERNOR

June 19, 2024

Greetings,

It is an honor to extend warm regards to the attendees of the second Elizabeth B. Stephens International Organ Competition. The State of Georgia is proud to host this globally acclaimed event, named for a proud daughter of Andrew's Chapel, on the 100th anniversary of her birth.

I applaud Peachtree Road United Methodist Church and the family of Betty Stephens for helping to make a tangible difference in the lives of dozens of applicants worldwide— especially the six young finalists visiting from Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, and other parts of the United States. I have no doubt that their Final Round performances will leave a lasting impact on all in attendance.

Thank you to all those involved in organizing this wonderful competition, and I send my best wishes for a successful event. God Bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Kemp".

Brian P. Kemp



ANDRE DICKENS  
MAYOR



## CITY OF ATLANTA

55 TRINITY AVE, S.W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0300

TEL (404) 330-6100

June 19, 2024

Greetings:

As the 61<sup>st</sup> Mayor of Atlanta, I am pleased to welcome attendees of the *2<sup>nd</sup> Bi-Annual Elizabeth B. Stephens International Organ Competition* at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church.

Atlanta has a storied history of passionate support of our arts community and a rich tradition of sacred music throughout this city. Arts education initiatives are flourishing throughout our schools, colleges, universities, and houses of worship, and we're proud to host this event in our city.

This Bi-Annual International Organ Competition, founded in 2022, offers resources and support for young organists worldwide. Dozens of applicants participated in the initial Recorded Round earlier this year. Now, the six finalists from Austria, Brazil, Canada, Finland, and the United States are here to perform their Final Round recitals on the Great Mander Organ at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church.

On behalf of the people of Atlanta, thank you for working to establish a place of worship that welcomes and supports all Atlantans as well as the members of our artistic community. I offer my best wishes to the competitors and attendees for a memorable experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Dickens", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mayor Andre Dickens



## FINAL ROUND REPERTOIRE

### Adam Chlebek

*Rhapsody in c-sharp minor, Op. 17, No. 3*

Herbert Howells  
(1892–1983)

*Praeludium in e minor (the Great)*

Nicolaus Bruhns  
(1665-1697)

*The Revd. Mustard His Installation Prelude*

Nico Muhly  
(b. 1981)

*Suite pour Orgue, Op. 5*

Maurice Duruflé  
(1902- 1986)

*Prelude*

*Sicilienne*

*Toccata*

### Gabriel Dissenha

*Concerto in d minor, BWV 596*

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)  
(After Vivaldi)

*Improvisation on provided theme*

*Master Tallis's Testament from Six Pieces for Organ*

Herbert Howells  
(1892-1983)

*Introduktion und Passacaglia from Monologe, Op. 63*

Max Reger  
(1873-1916)

### Mitchell Miller

*Fantasia and Fugue in G major, Op. 188*

Ch. H. H. Parry  
(1848-1918)

*Praeludium in g minor, BuxWV 148*

D. Buxtehude  
(c. 1637-1707)

*6 Studies in Canonic Style, Op. 56*

R. Schumann  
(1810-1856)

*V. Nicht zu schnell*

*VI. Adagio*

*6 Fugues on the Name BACH, Op. 60*

R. Schumann  
(1810-1856)

*II. Lehaft*

*Sonatine pour les étoiles*

V. Aubertin  
(b. 1970)

*Très lent*

*Première Symphonie*

*IV. Final*

J. Langlais  
(1907-1991)



## Magdalena Moser

*Apparatus Musico-Organisticus*  
*Toccata decima*

Georg Muffat  
(1653-1704)

*Concerto in d minor, BWV 596*

J.S. Bach  
(1685-1750)  
(After Vivaldi)

*Adagio and Allegro, KV 594*

W.A. Mozart  
(1756-1791)

*4 Kleine Choralvorspiele*

*No. 3 O, wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen*

Franz Schmidt  
(1874-1939)

*Symphonie No. 4 („Die Romantische“)*

*III. Scherzo*

Anton Bruckner  
(1824 -1896)  
(transcribed for organ  
by Schmögner/Moser)

## Manuel Piazza

*Overture to St. Paul*

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)  
(transcribed by William Thomas Best)

*Psalm Prelude, Set 1 No. 1*

Herbert Howells  
(1892-1983)

*Fuge und Kanzone, Op. 85 No. 3*

Sigfrid Karg Elert  
(1877-1933)

*6 Studien in kanonischer Form, Op. 56*

*IV. Innig*

Robert Schumann  
(1810-1856)

*Prélude et fugue sur le nom d'Alain, Op. 7*

Maurice Duruflé  
(1902-1986)

*Sonata for Organ, Op. 28*

*I. Allegro maestoso*

Edward Elgar  
(1857-1934)

## Aleksanteri Wallius

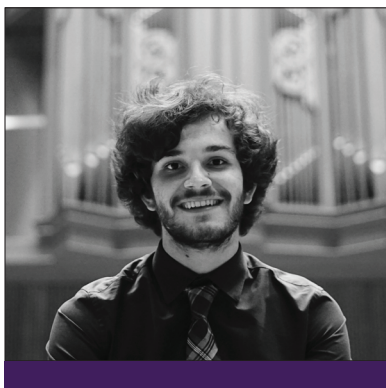
*Azul*

Veli Kujala  
(b. 1976)

*Sonata in b minor*

Franz Liszt  
(1811-1886)  
(arr. Rothkopf/Wallius)

## ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS INTERNATIONAL ORGAN COMPETITION FINALISTS 2024



**Adam Chlebek** is a student at the Eastman School of Music, where he is pursuing a Master of Music in Organ Performance in the studio of Nathan Laube. A Polish-American from Chicago, IL, he earned second prize at the 2022 Taylor Organ Competition and has performed throughout the United States and Poland. Chlebek has participated in masterclasses with organists Janette Fishell, William Porter, and Arvid Gast. In 2022, he served as the first Sacred Music Intern at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Adam is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he studied organ with Jonathan Moyer; there he also focused on choral singing and conducting. In the past, he has sung in the Oberlin Musical Union, under the direction of Gregory Ristow, and Collegium Musicum, under the direction of Steven Plank; and has studied choral conducting with Jodi Kerchner and Ben Johns. He is currently a member of the Christ Church Schola Cantorum in Rochester, under the direction of

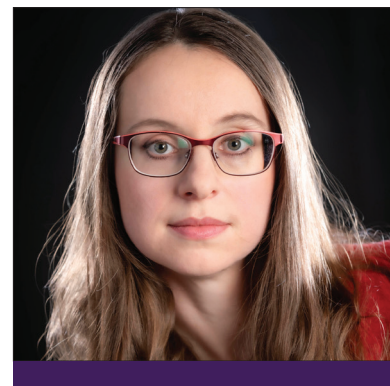
Stephen Kennedy. Adam is an avid jazz pianist; he has participated in Oberlin's Performance and Improvisation Ensemble, where he has performed with Jamey Haddad, Jay Ashby, and Becca Stevens. He is also the keyboardist for The Surrealists, a psych-rock band based in Evanston, IL. Adam currently serves as the Director of Music at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Rochester, New York.

**Gabriel Dissenha** was born in 1997 in Curitiba, Brazil. He started playing piano at the age of 13 and organ at the age of 19. At present he is pursuing a Master's degree in organ with teachers Sietze de Vries and Erwin Wiersinga in Groningen. He finished his studies in church music (organ under Ulrich Walther) in Graz, Austria, with distinction. Before that he had private lessons in harmony, counterpoint, and piano in Brazil. He was a prizewinner at international music competitions; among others: 1st prize at the 33rd Rosa Mística Latin American Piano Competition (Curitiba, Brazil); first prize at the Martha-Debelli Organ Competition (Graz); special prize for the best interpretation of baroque music at the Tariverdiev Organ Competition (Kaliningrad, Russia); and the 3rd prize at the Kropfreiter Organ Competition (St. Florian, Austria). He took part in several masterclasses with renowned teachers, including Nathan Laube, Ludger Lohmann, Pieter van Dijk and Michel Bouvard. In addition to this, he has a YouTube channel in which he posts his own compositions in historical styles, mainly that of J. S. Bach.



**Mitchell Miller** is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at the Eastman School of Music in the studio of Nathan Laube. Mitchell was also in Prof. Laube's class at the HMDK Stuttgart, where he received his Konzertexam certificate with highest honors in 2022, as well as both a Masters in Organ and Masters in Historical Keyboard Instruments, which he began in the studios of Ludger Lohmann (organ) and Jörg Halubek (harpsichord) after receiving the prestigious J. William Fulbright Grant in 2017. In 2021, Mitchell received one of three prizes for "Best Overall Interpretation" in the St. Alban's International Organ Competition and he maintains an active concert schedule, having performed in 10 countries in the US and Europe. He currently serves as the Minister of Music at Church of the Ascension in Rochester, NY. Parallel to his musical activities, Mitchell has fostered a passion for wine, earning both the Level 2 and Level 3 Award in Wines from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust (WSET), one of the most well-respected certifying bodies in the beverage industry.

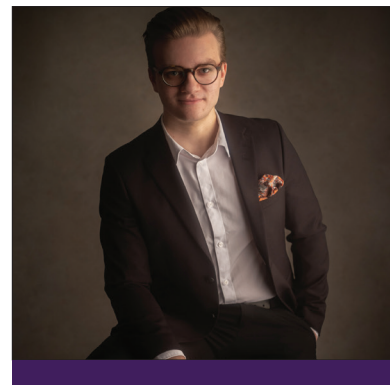
**Magdalena Moser** was born in Leoben, Austria. Since 2016, she has studied organ with Ulrich Walther at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz. She was awarded several prizes at international organ competitions, among them the Judith-Weir-Prize and the Douglas-May-Award at the International Organ Festival in St Albans (2023 and 2021), 1st prize in the JS Fest Competition in Turku, 2021, 1st prize in the university-internal Martha Debelli competition in Graz, 1st prize at the International Franz Schmidt Organ competition in Vienna, 2020, and 2nd prize at the International Organ competition in Korschbroich, 2019. Magdalena was awarded scholarships from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna and from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, from whom she received an Appreciation Award for outstanding achievements in 2021. She attended master classes with Theo Jellema, Erwin Wiersinga, Naji Hakim, Hannfried Lucke, Peter Planyavsky, Wolfgang Zerer, Christian Schmitt and Jean-Baptist Dupont. Currently, she studies composition and music theory at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna and teaches organ, improvisation and vocal accompaniment at the conservatory in Graz.



**Manuel Piazza** is the Assistant Director of Music at St. Thomas's Anglican Church (Toronto), where he accompanies the High Mass and Evensong choirs and directs the parish's new children's choral program, The St. Thomas's Choristers. Manuel completed his Bachelor in Organ Performance at the University of Toronto, studying with John Tuttle. He has also performed in masterclasses led by Olivier Latry, William Porter, Stefan Engels, David Briggs, James O'Donnell, Ben van Oosten, Jürgen Essl, Wolfgang Zerer, Christophe Mantoux, Olivier Penin, Frédéric Blanc, and Isabelle Demers. After graduating, he was the organ scholar at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall (UK), where he played for Evensong under the direction of Christopher Gray, and performed with ensembles such as the London Sinfonia. After returning to North America, he won first prize in the 2021 RCCO National Organ Playing Competition. In May 2022, he graduated with an MM from the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, where he studied organ repertoire with Martin Jean and improvisation

with Jeffrey Brillhart. Other mentors have been Walden Moore, David Hill, and Colin Lynch. Other awards include the Godfrey Hewitt Memorial Scholarship, the Mary Baker Scholarship in Organ Accompanying, the Julia R. Sherman Memorial Prize for excellence in organ playing, the Aidan Kavanagh Prize for Academic Achievement, and the Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation Prize.

**Aleksanteri Wallius** is a master's student of organ performance at the Sibelius Academy. His teachers include Markku Hietaharju, Markku Mäkinen and Martin Schmeding. He is the First Prize winner of the 23rd International Wiesbaden Organ Competition. He is also a finalist of the prestigious Longwood Gardens Organ Competition. Wallius regularly performs as a soloist and as a part of choirs or various ensembles, including performing as a soloist with the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra (ERSO). He has performed at all significant Finnish organ festivals and given concerts in several European countries. Among Wallius's teachers in masterclasses have been Thierry Escaich, Olivier Latry, Nathan Laube, David Briggs, Jean Guillou, Ton Koopman, Jean-Baptiste Monnot, and Thomas Trotter. His particular interest lies in the 19th-century French symphonic organ music and in creating and performing arrangements. In the autumn of 2020, he performed all six organ symphonies by Louis Vierne in one day at Turku Cathedral. In recent years, he has been involved in premiering contemporary music compositions. Since October, Wallius has been studying under professor Martin Schmeding at the Leipzig University of Music as part of an exchange program.





# ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS INTERNATIONAL ORGAN COMPETITION JUDGES 2024

## PRELIMINARY JUDGES



**David Briggs** was a chorister at Birmingham Cathedral from 1970-73. His voice was only average (he only had one solo in three years!) but he had perfect pitch so could always come in on the right note. In 1973 David won the BBCTV piano competition, Major Minor and was awarded a full Scholarship to Solihull School. Here he learned the piano, violin, viola and organ, and soon became an expert in avoiding Rugby by hiding inside the pipes of the Chapel organ.

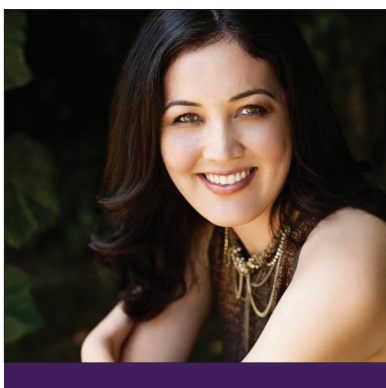
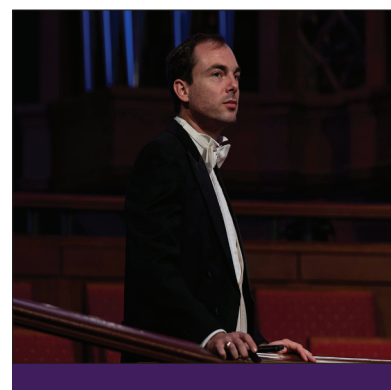
David studied the organ, harmony and counterpoint with the then Chapel Organist Colin Edmundson, a former Domus Scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford. Within a period of 5 years, there were 4 schoolboy FRCO's at Solihull - something of a record. David gained both his ARCO and FRCO while at school, winning all the prizes and the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians in the latter in January 1980. He also studied with Richard Popplewell, the Queen's Organist, traveling every week to the Chapel Royal at St James' Palace for lessons. David has been based in North America since 2003, living first in New York, before relocating to Ipswich, Massachusetts (2007-12) and Toronto, Canada (2012-17).

Since 2017 he has been the Artist in Residence at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, in New York - the world's largest Gothic cathedral. David is recognized as one of the world's most renowned improvisers. He has taught improvisation techniques at Cambridge University for two decades and, as well as studying with Jean Langlais in Paris (1984-6), has made a huge in-depth study of the improvisations of the late Pierre Cochereau, Organist of Notre-Dame de Paris (1955-84). He spent eleven years transcribing many of his most famous improvisations from Notre-Dame, many of which have been published by Editions Chantaine and United Music Publishers. David is also prolific as a composer, and his works (over 60 in number) are published by Chestnut Music. His music has been recorded by Trinity College, Cambridge, York Minster, the Vasari Singers, Euphony and the Northern Chamber Orchestra.

**B**orn in the UK in 1985, **Oliver Brett** has held positions at King's College Cambridge, Westminster Cathedral, Durham Cathedral and St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. He holds a bachelors and masters degree from the University of Cambridge and a doctorate from the Eastman School of Music. His teachers have included Sarah Baldock, David Sanger, Thomas Trotter, David Briggs, Dame Gillian Weir and David Higgs. As a recitalist he has performed at venues across five continents and performed with orchestras including the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra and the Academy of Ancient Music. Last year he founded the Peachtree Road Music Academy, which offers individual music tuition on all instruments to all ages. Later this year he will be releasing a CD recording on the Mander organ of PRUMC to celebrate the church's centenary.

He currently serves as associate organist and choirmaster at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta, GA. He is also the Assistant Conductor and Organist for the Georgia Boy Choir. In October 2017, Oliver was awarded second prize and the Royal Canadian College of Organists' Prize at the Canadian International Organ Competition. In 2019, he was a prize winner at the Tarverdiev International Organ Competition in Kaliningrad, Russia.

As a recitalist, Oliver has performed across five continents. Whilst organ scholar of King's College, Cambridge, he was heard by millions worldwide when he played for the 2006 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. He has performed in venues such as the Concertgebouw, Amsterdam; the Royal Albert Hall, London; the Seoul Arts Centre in South Korea; the Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore; and performed with orchestras such as the Philharmonia, Britten Sinfonia, Florilegium, the Armonico Consort and the Academy of Ancient Music.



**C**helsea Chen has performed with numerous ensembles including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Singapore Chinese Orchestra (a traditional Chinese instruments ensemble) and the Lou Harrison Festival Rutgers Orchestra at Trinity Wall Street in Manhattan. Highlights of the past season included solo concerts at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, CA and Overture Hall in Madison, WI, as well as a joint performance with the brass of the Philadelphia Orchestra at Girard College in Philadelphia, PA. Upcoming engagements include solo concerts at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and at St. Jacobi in Hamburg.

Chelsea originally hails from San Diego, where her formative music teachers were organists Leslie Robb (St. Paul's Lutheran, San Diego) and Monte Maxwell (US Naval Academy, Annapolis) and pianists Baruch Arnon (New York City), Jane Bastien and Lori Bastien Vickers (San Diego). She studied under Paul Jacobs and John Weaver at The Juilliard School in New York, where she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She also won the John Erskine Prize for academic and artistic achievement, awarded to one graduate per year. After college she moved to Taiwan under a Fulbright scholarship, whereupon she collected folk songs and wrote organ solo and chamber music. She returned to the U.S. to study with Thomas Murray in the Artist Diploma program at Yale University.

Ms. Chen has recorded multiple CDs: *Reveries* (2011), *Live at Heinz Chapel* (2005), *Eastern Treasures* (2010), *Live at Coral Ridge* (2014), and *Explorations for Cello and Organ* (2018). Her playing has been aired on CNN.com, "Pipedreams" from American Public Media, Hawaii Public Radio, and Taiwan's Good News Radio. Committed to new music, she has premiered works by composers throughout the world including Ola Gjeilo (Norway/USA), Yui Kitamura (Japan/USA), Paul Desenne (Venezuela), Roderick Gorby (USA), Vincent Rone (USA), and Viviane Waschbüsch (Germany). Her compositions are available exclusively from Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

Chelsea was Artist-in-Residence at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church from 2013-2017, and currently lives with her husband and son in Zürich, Switzerland. Learn more about her at [chelseachen.com](http://chelseachen.com).

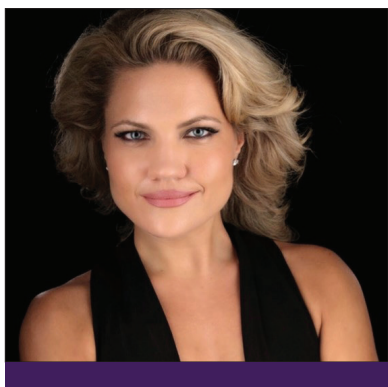


## FINAL ROUND JUDGES

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**B**orn in Oslo, Norway, Julie Coucheron began playing the piano at age four. She earned her Bachelor and Master's Degree with first class honors from the Royal Academy of Music in London. At a young age, Ms. Coucheron had already established an international career, winning awards and prizes in Norway, Italy, Germany, UK and in the United States. Ms. Coucheron has worked with musicians such as Claude Frank, Emanuel Ax, Chee-Yun Kim, Christopher O'Riley, Steve Miller Band, Yo-Yo Ma, and Elton John, and has toured Europe, America, South America and Asia, performing in halls like Verizon Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Ms. Coucheron has performed with the Norwegian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Oslo Philharmonic; Jena Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Philharmonic, DeKalb Symphony Orchestra and the Ukrainian Symphony Orchestra in Kiev. Ms. Coucheron regularly performs at festivals such as the Oslo Chamber Music Festival, Bergen International Music Festival, Amelia Island Music Festival, Madison Chamber Music Festival, Juneau Jazz and Classics and at La Jolla Summer Fest. She is Artistic Director of the Fjord Cadenza festival in Norway, the Kon Tiki Chamber Music Festival in Oslo, Norway and Georgian Chamber Players in Atlanta, GA. In addition, Ms. Coucheron also performed during the 2003 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, and at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London.

Ms. Coucheron enjoys a close collaboration with her brother, the Concertmaster of the Atlanta Symphony, David Coucheron, and together they have released two recordings, 'Debut' and 'David and Julie' on the Naxos label.

In addition to her busy concert schedule, Ms. Coucheron is a sought after teacher and pedagogue. In August 2014, she was appointed Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University in Atlanta, Georgia, one of the top 50 state schools in the United States. Ms. Coucheron has given masterclasses and taught at schools such as the New England Conservatory, Emory University and Mercer University.

Ms. Coucheron enjoys a various and wide range of styles and repertoire emerging from her highly trained classical background to the more contemporary and popular music. Recent collaborations include performances with the Steve Miller Band and Elton John.

**T**hough American by birth, Lynne Davis's career has been richly steeped in French music, culture, and style. Her career was launched by taking First Prize at the 1975 St. Albans International Organ Competition (England) - the eighth organist to receive that honor. As a leading international concert artist and master teacher, she has performed in nearly every cathedral in France, in numerous major European cities, and coast to coast in North America. She has been invited to be a performer and lecturer at two national conventions and several regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, and as a jury member of Chartres, Dallas, St. Albans, Taraverdiv (Russia), and Canadian International organ competitions.

For over thirty years, Lynne Davis made France her home, having married Chartres International Organ Competition founder Pierre Firmin-Didot. The couple played a major role in the French organ music scene, initiating among other things the 1992 exhibition, award-winning recording and book of "Les Orgues de Paris". Her unique living and working experience and lineage of study in France makes her an authority in all French organ repertoire. She holds France's Certificat d'Aptitude de Professeur d'Orgue, has served as organ professor at the Conservatory of Music in Clamart (1990-2006) and at the French National Regional Conservatory in Caen (1997-2006). Ms. Davis then returned to the United States and joined the faculty of the Wichita State University School of Music, holding a full professorship as the Robert L. Town Distinguished Professor of Organ. She is producer and artistic director of the Rie Bloomfield Organ Series - Distinguished Guest Artists and the Wednesdays in Wiedemann series. Her three CD recordings and 65 videos on the WSU Marcussen organ continue to receive critical and popular praise.

Ms. Davis graduated from the University of Michigan as a student of Robert Clark and continued her studies in France with Marie-Claire Alain then with Jean Langlais and Maurice and Marie-Madeleine Duruflé. In 2011 at Wichita State University, she received the Excellence in Creativity Award and organized the American Alain Festival to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jehan Alain, as well as being awarded the distinction of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. 2012 saw her receiving the medal of the city of Wichita from Mayor Carl Brewer and the Burton Pell award from the Wichita Arts Council. Her translation from French to English of the book on Jehan Alain by Aurélie Decourt-Alain is to be published in 2024-25. Lynne Davis is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.



## FINAL ROUND JUDGES

With playing described as having “bracing virtuosity” (Chicago Classical Review) and being “fearless and extraordinary” (Amarillo-Globe News), **Isabelle Demers** has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe.

She has appeared in recital throughout Europe, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada, including at the Cathedrals of Cologne and Regensburg (Germany); the ElbPhilharmonie (Hamburg); the Royal Festival Hall, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey (London); City Hall (Stockholm); the Royal Opera House of Muscat (Oman); the Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing, China); Victoria Hall (Singapore); Melbourne Town Hall (Australia); Auckland Town Hall (New Zealand); Disney Hall (Los Angeles), Davies Hall (San Francisco), the Meyerson Symphony Center (Dallas), the Kimmel Center, and the Wanamaker Organ at Macy's (Philadelphia); and the Maison Symphonique (Montréal).

Dr. Demers is in continual high demand by her colleagues as witnessed by performances for numerous regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Institute of Organ Builders and International Society of Organbuilders, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society. She has released multiple CD recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels. Her latest CD, recorded at Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel, was released in January 2020, and includes works of Reger, Laurin, Dupré, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, and Macmillan.

A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University (Montréal, Québec). She was formerly the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).



One of the most celebrated concert organists, choral conductors, and liturgical musicians of our time, **James O'Donnell** served for more than a decade as Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral and for more than two decades as Organist and Master of the Choristers (Director of Music) at Westminster Abbey. During his tenure at Westminster, O'Donnell directed the music for many nationally and internationally significant occasions, including the historic 2010 service attended by Pope Benedict XVI and the 2011 wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton (Duke and Duchess of Cambridge) and conducted the Choir of Westminster Abbey in many broadcasts, concerts, and tours.

As an organist, O'Donnell has performed in some of the most prestigious concert halls, cathedrals, and churches in the world and has appeared as a soloist with such celebrated ensembles as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, and BBC Concert Orchestra. As a conductor, he has worked with the Academy of Ancient Music, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, English Chamber Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, BBC Singers, English Concert, and the Yale Schola Cantorum. He is Music Director of the London-based period instrument orchestra St. James' Baroque. O'Donnell has made more than 50 organ and choral recordings, several of which have garnered such prestigious awards as Gramophone's Record of the Year and Best Choral Recording.

O'Donnell was President of the Royal College of Organists from 2011 to 2013. He has been awarded Fellowships from the Royal College of Music and the Royal School of Church Music, and Honorary Membership in the Royal Academy of Music. In 1999, Pope John Paul II bestowed on O'Donnell the title of Knight Commander of the Order of St. Gregory.

O'Donnell serves as Professor in the Practice at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music and the Yale School of Music, where he teaches graduate-level organ majors and other students in sacred music and directs a newly established professional liturgical vocal ensemble. His connection to Yale dates back to November 2010, when he was artist-in-residence. O'Donnell is also Visiting Professor of Organ and Choral Conducting at the Royal Academy of Music in London, having served that institution as Professor of Organ from 1997 to 2004.

O'Donnell held a junior scholarship at the Royal College of Music and was Organ Scholar of Jesus College, Cambridge, where he is now an Honorary Fellow. He studied with Peter Hurford, Nicolas Kynaston, and David Sanger and graduated with First Class Honors in Music from the University of Cambridge in 1982.

# ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS INTERNATIONAL ORGAN COMPETITION

## THE ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS INTERNATIONAL ORGAN COMPETITION WAS ESTABLISHED BY

Pike and Connie Stephens  
Press and Shirley Stephens  
Sally and Mel Westmoreland  
Matt Westmoreland  
Tripp Westmoreland  
Marie Westmoreland  
Mariah Stephens



Sally Westmoreland  
*Chair, Competition Advisory Board*



Scott H. Atchison  
*Artistic Director*

### ORGAN COMPETITION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Sally Westmoreland, Chair  
Lisa Beale  
Holly Hanchey  
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Eleanor Ratchford  
Suzanne Shull  
David Webster  
Allen Yee

### PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MINISTRY OF MUSIC STAFF

Scott H. Atchison, *Director of Music and Organist*  
Dr. Oliver G. Brett, *Associate Organist and Choirmaster*  
Dr. Robin Hensley, *Assistant Organist*  
Kathy Fletcher, *Director of Youth and Children's Music*  
Ruth Sommerville, *Music Administrator*







ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS  
**INTERNATIONAL  
ORGAN  
COMPETITION**



# ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS

Elizabeth Blount Stephens was born in Andrews Chapel, Georgia, approximately 70 miles south of Atlanta, on June 19, 1924, and passed away on January 8, 2020, in Atlanta. Piano and organ were her passions and talent, and she became the organist at the Thomaston Methodist Church early in her teens until she and her new husband, Charles Preston Stephens, moved to Panama with the Coca-Cola Export Corporation in August of 1946.

Over the next sixteen years Betty and Press moved from Panama to Brazil, to Chile, to Peru, and finally to Venezuela, each time discovering the American church they joined was in need of an organist or an organist/choir director. Every time she would humbly take on the role with the caveat it was to be only until they found the new staff member, but her tenure always lasted until they moved to a new country with their three children. She brought a level of excellence and sophistication to the music programming in those sanctuaries the likes of which congregants had never heard or seen before. Her children, Pike, Press, Jr. and Sally, as a result of Betty's passion for high quality music, sang in every choir at every age.

Returning to the United States in 1961, Betty found herself the organist and choir director at the Darien Methodist Church in Connecticut where she spent hours each day practicing preludes and postludes for Sunday services. In 1972, four years before Press's retirement from Coke, Betty and Press moved back to Georgia and settled in Buckhead where Betty resided until her death. Of course, following her long career as a "temporary/full time" organist, she became an assistant organist at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, playing Chapel services for over twenty-five years before finally retiring at the age of seventy-five.

A true champion of all organists throughout the world, she would often be seen at organ recitals and festivals in each of the cities of her residencies abroad as well as in her prolific, world-wide travels from 1946 through 2014. Almost every Sunday afternoon when she was in Atlanta, Betty would be at the organ recital before the Evensong service at the Cathedral of St. Phillip.

In addition to being a committed member of American and Methodist churches across the hemisphere, she led the Community Concert Association in Darien, joined the Board of Directors of the fledgling Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta becoming one of the longest serving Board members in their history, and served on the Board of the Georgian Chamber Players for several terms. Her philanthropy benefited those organizations as well as the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the High Museum of Art, and the Alliance Theatre. Betty said on many occasions, "If Atlanta is going to become a world class city, it must have a strong arts community". It is with great admiration and pride that the Stephens family brings to Peachtree Road United Methodist Church the Elizabeth B. Stephens International Organ Competition.

**The Organ Competition Advisory Board gratefully acknowledges  
the staff and members of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church  
for the use of their facilities this week and for their gracious hospitality.**



PEACHTREE ROAD  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE GREAT ORGAN

## MANDER ORGANS LONDON

### 106 STOPS, 135 RANKS

PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ATLANTA GEORGIA

## CHANCEL EAST END DIVISIONS 2002

### GREAT ORGAN (North case, mid-level, unenclosed)

Double Open			
Diapason	16	61 pipes	F
Open Diapason I	8	61 pipes	F
Open Diapason II	8	61 pipes	F
Stopped Diapason	8	61 pipes	
Harmonic Flute	8	61 pipes	
Cone Gamba	8	61 pipes	
Principal	4	61 pipes	
Octave	4	61 pipes	
Open Flute	4	61 pipes	
Twelfth	2 2/3	61 pipes	
Fifteenth	2	61 pipes	
Seventeenth	1 3/5	61 pipes	
Mounted			
Cornet III	2 2/3	111 pipes	
Fourniture V	2	305 pipes	
Cymbal IV	2/3	244 pipes	
Trombone	16	61 pipes	
Trumpet	8	61 pipes	
Clarion	4	78 pipes	
<i>Tremulant</i>			

### CHOIR ORGAN (North case, upper-level, enclosed)

Open Diapason	8	61 pipes	
Chimney Flute	8	61 pipes	
Viola Pomposa	8	61 pipes	
Viola Celeste	8	61 pipes	
Principal	4	61 pipes	
Koppel Flute	4	61 pipes	
Nazard	2 2/3	61 pipes	
Fifteenth	2	61 pipes	
Recorder	2	61 pipes	
Tierce	1 3/5	61 pipes	
Larigot	1 1/3	61 pipes	
Sharp Mixture IV	1	244 pipes	
Cor Anglais	16	61 pipes	
Cremona	8	61 pipes	
<i>Tremulant</i>			

### SWELL ORGAN (North case, lower-level, enclosed)

Bourdon	16	61 pipes	
Open Diapason	8	61 pipes	
Gedackt	8	61 pipes	
Salicional	8	61 pipes	
Voix Celeste	8	61 pipes	
Flauto Dolce	8	61 pipes	
Unda Maris	8	61 pipes	
Principal	4	61 pipes	
Wald Flute	4	61 pipes	
Fifteenth	2	61 pipes	
Flageolet	2	61 pipes	
Sesquialtera III	2 2/3	183 pipes	
Plein Jeu V	1 1/3	305 pipes	
Contra Fagotto	16	61 pipes	
Harmonic Trumpet	8	66 pipes	
Hautbois	8	61 pipes	
Vox Humana	8	61 pipes	
Harmonic Clarion	4	78 pipes	
<i>Tremulant</i>			

### PEDAL ORGAN (South case)

Double Open			
Diapason	32	12 pipes	
Subbass	32	12 pipes	
Open Diapason	16	32 pipes	F
Open Wood	16	32 pipes	
Bourdon	16	32 pipes	
Lieblich Bourdon	16	32 pipes	
Principal	8	32 pipes	F
Bass Flute	8	32 pipes	
Fifteenth	4	32 pipes	
Open Flute	4	32 pipes	
Mixture V	3 1/5	160 pipes	
Contra Bombarde	32	12 pipes	
Bombarde	16	12 pipes	
Bassoon	16	32 pipes	
Trumpet	8	32 pipes	
Clarion	4	32 pipes	
Schalmei	4	32 pipes	

### SOLO ORGAN (South case, upper-level, unenclosed)

Bombarde	16	61 pipes	
Bombarde	8	66 pipes	
Clarion	4	78 pipes	
Tuba	8	66 pipes	
Chimes		21 tubes	
Trompette Royale	8	61 pipes	
(West End Gallery)			

### COUPLERS

Swell to Great, Choir to Great,  
Solo to Great  
Swell to Choir, Solo to Choir  
Great to Pedal, Swell to Pedal,  
Choir to Pedal, Solo to Pedal  
Recit Shutters on Choir Pedal  
Great and Pedal Combinations Coupled

The organ is playable in its entirety from both consoles.

## GALLERY WEST END DIVISIONS 2008

### GRAND ORGUE

Bourdon	16	61 pipes	
Montre	8	61 pipes	F
Flûte à Cheminée	8	61 pipes	
Gamba	8	61 pipes	
Prestant	4	61 pipes	
Cor de Nuit	4	61 pipes	
Octavin	2	61 pipes	
Cornet III	8	111 pipes	
Fourniture V	1 1/3	244 pipes	
Trompette	8	61 pipes	
Cromorne	8	61 pipes	
Clarion	4	61 pipes	
<i>Tremulant</i>			

### PÉDALE

Montre	16	32 pipes	F
Bourdon	16	32 pipes	
Quint	10 2/3	32 pipes	
Principal	8	32 pipes	
Flûte	8	32 pipes	
Octave	4	32 pipes	
Bombarde	16	32 pipes	
Trompette	8	32 pipes	
Chalmeau	4	32 pipes	

### RÉCIT EXPRESSIF

Salicional	8	61 pipes	
Céleste	8	49 pipes	
Bourdon	8	61 pipes	
Principal	4	61 pipes	
Flûte à Fuseau	4	61 pipes	
Nazard	2 2/3	61 pipes	
Doublette	2	61 pipes	
Quarte de Nazard	2	61 pipes	
Tierce	1 3/5	61 pipes	
Mixture IV	1 1/3	244 pipes	
Basso	16	61 pipes	
Trompette	8	61 pipes	
Hautbois	8	61 pipes	
<i>Tremulant</i>	8	61 pipes	

Trompette Royale 8 61 pipes

### COUPLERS

Récit to Grand Orgue  
Grand Orgue to Pédale  
Récit to Pédale

### CHANCEL ORGAN CONTROL

Chancel General Pistons On

F – Pipes in case façade



# ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS INTERNATIONAL ORGAN COMPETITION

— JUNE 25, 26, 27, 2026 —

1st prize (\$12,000) • 2nd prize (\$6,000) • 3rd prize (\$3,000)

**Six finalists will be brought to Atlanta**

All details will be released online including repertoire requirements and entry details in early September, 2025.

Recorded round applications will be accepted in February, 2026.

Candidates will be notified of the result of the recorded round in March, 2026.

For more information, visit **[prumc.org/organ-competition](https://prumc.org/organ-competition)**

**PEACHTREE ROAD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

3180 Peachtree Road NE • Atlanta, Georgia 30305

404.266.2373 • [prumc.org](https://prumc.org)







ELIZABETH B. STEPHENS  
**INTERNATIONAL  
ORGAN  
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