The St. Olaf College Department of Music

presents

"The General"

Biography

David Briggs, concert organist and composer, is Artist in Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City. Recently hailed by the New York Times as "one of our finest organists," David has built a world-wide reputation for making organ music exciting, inspiring, and accessible to a broad and diverse range of listeners, helping ensure that present and future generations will appreciate, be moved and even changed by, this supreme instrument.

David plays approximately 65 concerts each year, all over the globe. Recent engagements include the Royal Albert Hall, London; Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Paris; National Concert Hall, Madrid; Duke University Chapel, Durham, NC; Overture Hall, Madison, WI; and Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, CA. You can find his full schedule and biographical details at www.david-briggs.org.

In addition to performing an extensive repertoire spanning five centuries, David offers dazzling transcriptions of symphonic works, giving listeners the opportunity to experience the organ in a new way. These include transcriptions of compositions by Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Bruckner, Ravel and Bach. David has also transcribed Mahler’s Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth symphonies.

Described by Andrew McGregor of BBC Radio 3 as a "phenomenal improviser," David frequently improvises to themes provided by the audience. He also regularly performs accompaniment to classic silent movies of the 1920s, including King of Kings, Phantom of the Opera, Joan of Arc, Nosferatu, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, The General, and several Charlie Chaplin shorts. These concerts often bring in audiences ranging from age 5 to 95!

Following David's performance of Mahler 2 in Merton College Chapel, Oxford, an audience member wrote "I came away feeling inspired to lift my eyes from the humdrum and to set my sights on something greater, something beyond what is within reasonable reach." This reflects David's greatest desire to move and inspire the greatest number of people from all walks of life with the transcendent power of organ music.