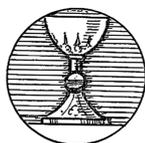


Church of Our Lady of Refuge

Brooklyn, New York



The Phantom of the Opera

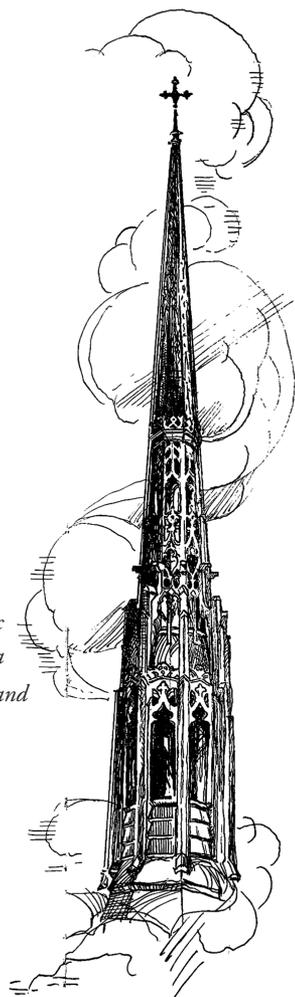
Todd Wilson, Organist

*Head of the Organ Department at The Cleveland Institute of Music
Organ Curator at Severance Hall, home of The Cleveland Orchestra
Director of Music and Worship at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Cleveland*

OCTOBER 17, 2014

at 7:30 PM

*olrbrooklyn.org/organ-recitals-in-new-york-city
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GEORGES BIZET**(1838 – 1875)***Fantasy on Themes from “Carmen,”* arr. E.H. Lemare (1866–1934)

JULES MASSENET**(1842 – 1912)***Meditation from “Thais”*

Please withhold any applause after the Massenet. The movie will follow immediately.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**(1925)**

Lon Chaney as The Phantom
Mary Philbin as Christine Daae
Norman Kerry as Raoul de Chagny

Film Score entirely improvised by Todd Wilson. No score is used. The music is created as Mr. Wilson watches the movie with you.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Lon Chaney stars as Erik, the Phantom, in what is probably his most famous and certainly his most horrifying role. Produced by Universal, the film was shot in 1923 and shelved for nearly two years. While many expected a disaster, the film was released in 1925 and turned out to be a rousing success.

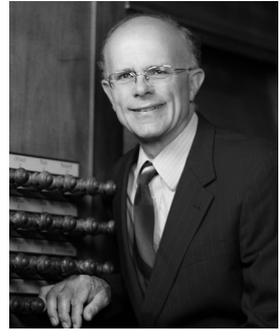
The story concerns Erik, a much-feared fiend who haunts the Paris Opera House. Lurking around the damp, dank passages deep in the cellars of the theater, he secretly coaches understudy Christine Daae to be an opera star. Through a startling sequence of terrors, including sending a giant chandelier crashing down on the opera patrons, the Phantom forces the lead soprano to withdraw from the opera, permitting Christine to step in. Luring Christine into his subterranean lair below the opera house, the Phantom confesses his love, but Christine is in love with Raoul de Chagny. The Phantom demands that Christine break off her relationship with Raoul before he'll allow her to return to the opera house stage. She agrees, but immediately upon her release from the Phantom's lair, she runs into the arms of Raoul and they plan to flee to England after her performance that night. The Phantom overhears their conversation and, during her performance, the Phantom kidnaps Christine, taking her to the depths of his dungeon. It is left to Raoul and a Secret Service agent to track down the Phantom and rescue Christine. *Paul Brenner, All Movie Guide*



Scenes from “The Phantom of the Opera”

TODD WILSON

Regarded across America and around the world as one of today's finest concert organists, Todd Wilson serves as Head of the Organ Department at The Cleveland Institute of Music, and Director of Music and Worship at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio. In addition, he is Curator of the Skinner Organ at Severance Hall (home of The Cleveland Orchestra), and House Organist for the newly restored Aeolian organ at the Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in Akron, Ohio.



Todd Wilson, photo by Sam Hubish

Mr. Wilson has been heard in concert in many major cities throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, including concerts at Symphony Hall (Birmingham, UK), Los Angeles' Walt Disney Concert Hall, Philadelphia's Verizon Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Dallas' Meyerson Symphony Center, Nashville's Schermerhorn Symphony Center, and Uihlein Hall in Milwaukee. He has also appeared with many leading symphony orchestras, including The Cleveland Orchestra, The Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Nashville Symphony, and The Slovakian Radio Symphony.

An active member of the American Guild of Organists, Mr. Wilson holds the Fellow and Choirmaster certificates, and has been a featured performer at many regional and national conventions of the Guild, including the national conventions in 1996 (New York City), 2008 (Minneapolis-St. Paul), and 2012 (Nashville).

Mr. Wilson is often asked to judge national and international organ playing competitions, and has many CD recordings on the JAV and Delos recording labels. An active interest in improvisation has led to his popular improvised accompaniments to classic silent films.

TODD WILSON & ACCOMPANYING SILENT FILMS

Todd Wilson keeps alive a famous tradition of live pipe organ accompaniments for silent films. The silent film was in its heyday in 1925 when Lon Chaney produced his silent classic "The Phantom of the Opera". Though now almost 90 years old, this masterpiece from the silent era still holds our 21st-century senses with its abundant drama and humor; and the famous unmasking scene still packs quite a wallop!

Mr. Wilson's improvised accompaniment assigns short themes to the primary characters and emotions, in the same manner as Wagner used leitmotifs in his operas. Though the fabric of Mr. Wilson's accompaniment is entirely original, he draws freely on themes from a variety of composers and musical sources, often employed with wit and humor. We hope you will find this evening's film a unique and entertaining multi-sensory experience!

QUESTION & ANSWER WITH TODD WILSON

Todd, how did you become interested in the pipe organ?

I grew up in Toledo, Ohio (home of *MASH*'s Klinger, and Tony Packo's Restaurant). At the age of 9 I was recruited for the Choir of Men & Boys at Trinity Episcopal Church, which had a wonderful Skinner Organ. I was quickly smitten with the thrilling sounds of that organ, and with the joy of singing great choral music. I was fortunate to have great teachers right from the beginning – people who fostered and focused that initial love of music.

Several noteworthy Skinner Organs are located in Toledo. Besides the organ at Trinity Church, there is a magnificent Skinner organ at Holy Rosary Cathedral (one of the uniquely beautiful cathedrals in the United States). A pivotal experience for me was hearing Maurice and Marie-Madeline Duruflé conduct and play Maurice's sublime Requiem in the mid-1960s at Rosary Cathedral.

Toledo is home to a fine symphony orchestra that plays concerts in The Peristyle Concert Hall at The Toledo Museum of Art – home to yet another Skinner Organ! Hearing great music on a weekly basis stoked the fires of my music enthusiasm all the way through high school.

UPCOMING RECITAL

An Evening of Composed Music & Improvisations

November 21, 2014 at 7:30pm

Thierry Escaich, Organist

Our Lady of Refuge Church

Father Michael Perry, *Pastor*

Father Rony Mendes, *Parochial Vicar*

Joseph Vitacco, *Chair of the Organ Committee*

James Konzelman, *Organ Curator*

Organ Restoration Collaboration between A.R. Schopp's Sons of Alliance, Ohio & Quimby Pipe Organs of Warrensburg, Missouri

Questions or Suggestions? Email joe.vitacco@olrbrooklyn.org

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Father Michael Perry | 2020 Foster Avenue | Brooklyn, NY 11210