

STEPHEN THARP

“Stephen Tharp had the riskiest billing, closing out the (2014 Boston AGO National) Convention in the only recital before the entire gathering. Tharp responded with the performance of a lifetime..... the whole thing so dazzlingly executed as to emboss itself upon the memory.”

-Choir & Organ

Stephen Tharp, described as having “performed colorfully, rousing and splendid” by *The New York Times*, is recognized as one of the great concert organists of our age. Having played over 1600 concerts across more than 60 tours worldwide, Stephen Tharp has built one of the most well-respected international organ careers in the world. He is listed in *Who’s Who in America* and *Who’s Who in the World*, and is the recipient of the 2011 International Performer of the Year Award by the New York City chapter of the American Guild of Organists, considered by many to be the highest honor given to organists by a professional musicians’ guild in the United States. In 2015 he was given the Paul Creston Award which recognizes artistic excellence in church music and the performing arts.

His list of performances includes such distinguished venues as the Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg; the Philharmonie, Berlin; the Gewandhaus, Leipzig; St. Bavo, Haarlem; St. Eustache, Paris; the Tonhalle, Zürich and Victoria Hall, Geneva; the cathedrals in Berlin, Frankfurt, Köln, Mainz, München, Münster, Passau and Speyer; Monaco Cathedral; Dvorak Hall, Prague; the Hallgrímskirkja, Reykjavik, Iceland; The Hong Kong Cultural Centre; the Opera House, Sydney, Australia; The Meyerson Symphony Center, Dallas; Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles; The Kimmel Center, Philadelphia; The Riverside Church, New York City; Rice University, Houston; and the Symphony Center, Chicago.

He has given master classes at Yale University; the Eastman School of Music; Rice University, Houston; Westminster Choir College; the Cleveland Institute of Music, Bethel University (St. Paul, MN); the Hochschulen für Musik in Trossingen, Stuttgart and Bochum (Germany); for chapters of the American Guild of Organists, and served as a member of the jury for the 2018 Chartres International Organ Competition.

Inspired at the age of 13 by the opportunity to play for Aaron Copland, Stephen Tharp remains an important champion of new organ music and continues to commission and

premiere numerous compositions for the instrument. The first such piece was Jean Guillou's symphonic poem *Instants*, Op. 57, which Tharp premiered at King's College, Cambridge, England in February 1998. Works have subsequently been dedicated to him by Samuel Adler, George Baker, David Briggs, Thierry Escaich, Eugenio Fagiani, Henry Martin, Philip Moore, Anthony Newman and Martha Sullivan. Stephen Tharp was commissioned by Cologne Cathedral, Germany to compose for Easter Sunday, 2006 his *Easter Fanfares*, as well as *Disney's Trumpets – based on a riff by David Bowie*, premiered in February 2011 for the organ at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles.

For over 25 years, Stephen Tharp has amplified his solo career to include concerto performances, playing works by Barber, Copland, Dupré, Escaich, Leighton, Jongen, Paulus, Piston, Sowerby, etc. with ensembles such as The Chicago Symphony Orchestra; The New York Philharmonic; The Orchestra of St. Luke's (NYC); The Tonhalle Orchestra, Zürich; the Kraków Philharmonic; The Hong Kong Philharmonic, and others. As a chamber musician, Tharp has performed on organ, piano and harpsichord with artists such as Thomas Hampson, Itzhak Perlman, Jennifer Larmore, Rachel Barton Pine, the American Boychoir (James Litton, conductor), the St. Thomas Choir (John Scott, conductor), and at Carnegie Hall, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and at Lincoln Center. His solo organ recordings can be found on the labels Acis Productions, JAV Recordings, Aeolus, Naxos, Organum and Ethereal, and are also available online. His commercial release *The Complete Organ Works of Jeanne Demessieux* on Aeolus Recordings, received the 2009 *Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik*, Germany's premier critic's prize for recordings.

Stephen Tharp earned his BA degree, magna cum laude, from Illinois College, Jacksonville, IL and his MM from Northwestern University, Chicago, where he studied with Rudolf Zuiderveld and Wolfgang Rübsam, respectively. He has also worked privately with Jean Guillou in Paris. He is currently the Artist-in-Residence at St. James' Madison Avenue (Episcopal) in New York City.

For more information and booking, see www.stephentharp.com.