

## Dedication Recital

**March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**4:00pm**

The only organist ever to have won a Grammy Award (in 2011 for Messiaen's towering "Livre du Saint-Sacrement"), Paul Jacobs combines a probing intellect and extraordinary technical skills with an unusually large repertoire, both old and new. "Paul Jacobs is one of the great living virtuosos," praised Anne Midgette in the October 2, 2014 edition of *The Washington Post*, and in an article in *The Economist* (November 1, 2013) Mr. Jacobs was termed "America's leading organ performer." An eloquent champion of his instrument who argues that the organ for too long has been excluded from the mainstream of classical music, Paul Jacobs is known for his imaginative interpretations and charismatic stage presence. He has also been an important influence in the revival of symphonic music featuring the organ.

Heralded as "one of the major musicians of our time" by *The New Yorker's* Alex Ross, Paul Jacobs has transfixed audiences, colleagues, and critics alike with landmark performances of the complete works for solo organ by J.S. Bach and Messiaen, as well as works by a vast array of other composers. Mr. Jacobs made musical history at the age of 23 when he played Bach's complete organ works in an 18-hour marathon performance on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's death. A fierce advocate of new music, Jacobs has premiered works by Samuel Adler, Mason Bates, Michael Daugherty, Wayne Oquin, Stephen Paulus, and Christopher Theofanidis, among others. As a teacher he has also been a vocal proponent of the redeeming nature of traditional and contemporary classical music, which he fears is being diluted in a popular culture.



Paul Jacobs begins the 2016-2017 season with a recital at Lincoln Center's Paul Recital Hall, followed by orchestral engagements with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Montreal Symphony, the Kansas City Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra, where he will give the world premiere of Christopher Rouse's *Organ Concerto* and perform *Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony*. He will also join the Toledo Symphony for a performance of Michael Dougherty's *Once Upon a Castle*, a work he recorded in 2015 with the

Nashville Symphony Orchestra which will be released by Naxos in September 2016. Solo recitals include the Oregon Bach Festival, El Paso Pro Musica, and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at Alice Tully Hall.

In the 2015/16 season, Mr. Jacobs and world-renowned dramatic soprano Christine Brewer toured the program of their Naxos album "Divine Redeemer," with appearances at Lincoln Center's "White Lights" Festival, at Disney Hall in Los Angeles, Symphony Hall in San Francisco, the St. Louis Cathedral-Basilica, and Spivey Hall in Atlanta, GA. At the Pacific Symphony, Mr. Jacobs curated and performed at a multi-day organ festival in February 2016. Mr. Jacobs performed recitals throughout the United States, including at the Kennedy Center and Denver's Cathedral of St. John, and he appeared with orchestras including the Indianapolis Symphony and the Lexington Philharmonic. In summer 2016, Mr. Jacobs returned to the Oregon Bach Festival, where he is the director of the Festival's Organ Institute.

Prodigiously talented from his earliest years, at 15 young Jacobs was appointed head organist of a parish of 3,500 in his hometown, Washington, Pennsylvania. Mr. Jacobs would go on to make musical history at the age of 23 when he played J.S. Bach's complete organ works in an 18-hour marathon performance on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's death. He has also performed the complete organ works of Olivier Messiaen in marathon performances throughout North America, and recently reached the milestone of having performed in each of the fifty United States. In addition to his recordings of Messiaen and Daugherty on Naxos, Mr. Jacobs has recorded organ concerti by Lou Harrison and Aaron Copland with the San Francisco Symphony and Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas on the orchestra's own label, SFS Media.

Mr. Jacobs studied at the Curtis Institute of Music, double-majoring with John Weaver for organ and Lionel Party for harpsichord, and at Yale University with Thomas Murray. He joined the faculty of The Juilliard School in 2003, and was named chairman of the organ department in 2004, one of the youngest faculty appointees in the school's history. He received Juilliard's prestigious William Schuman Scholar's Chair in 2007.