



RED CEDAR ORGAN  
*Dedication Recital*

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022 | MSU ALUMNI MEMORIAL CHAPEL



College of Music  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY





## THE RED CEDAR ORGAN AT MSU'S ALUMNI MEMORIAL CHAPEL



The new “Opus 134” is a state-of-the-art, custom-made pipe organ affectionately dubbed the “Red Cedar Organ” because of where it sits inside the iconic MSU Alumni Memorial Chapel along the Red Cedar River. It is a beautiful instrument in a picturesque setting, and the MSU College of Music and MSU Residential Housing & Hospitality Services are pleased to host this special event to dedicate the new chapel centerpiece.

What began as a passion project for local community member Dick Northrup grew into an inspired effort to replace the original pipe organ deemed unsalvageable. A generous leadership gift from Wanda and Ed Eichler followed Dick’s tenacious fundraising efforts prior to his passing in early 2017. Combined with gifts from many others the new organ became a reality.

Today, community members, including the donors and their families, can be among the first to hear this magnificent instrument. It is the result of more than 20,000 total hours of work by Létourneau Organs of Quebec to design, build, install, and acoustically tune the instrument within the Chapel. The two-manual instrument has a large reed chorus, and digital 32-foot pedal stops to ensure versatile use and tonality. The pipes range in size from just over 16 feet to the smallest that is shorter than a pencil. The palette of sounds they make is designed to offer as much flexibility as possible.

MSU is thrilled to welcome guest artist Isabelle Demers to perform on the newly installed Red Cedar Organ. She is the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ at Baylor University and performs at cathedrals and concert halls worldwide. Her virtuosity and ambitious programming will provide the perfect introduction to this beautiful instrument, one which is exceptionally versatile for the College and the community, including weddings, funerals, memorial services, and student recitals.





## ORGAN DEDICATION RECITAL PROGRAM

## GUEST ARTIST ISABELLE DEMERS



### Welcome

James Forger, dean, MSU College of Music  
MSU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.

(3:00 p.m. recital)

### from *Cantata*, BWV 146

Sinfonia

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)  
Trans. Marcel Dupré

### from *12 Études pour les pieds seulement*

No. 5 in A Minor: Moderato  
No. 2 in C Major: Adagio  
No. 7 in A Major: Allegro

Charles-Valentin Alkan  
(1813-1888)

### Sonate No. 1, Op. 91

Allegro agitato  
Berceuse mariale  
Carillon-Toccata

Rachel Laurin  
(b. 1961)

### INTERMISSION

### from *St. Paul*, Op. 36

Overture

Felix Mendelssohn  
(1809-1847)  
trans. W.T. Best

### Symphonie en ré mineur, FW 48

II. Allegretto

César Franck  
(1822-1890)  
trans. Calvin Hampton

### Symphonie No. 1, Op. 14

IV. Allegro vivace  
VI. Final

Louis Vierne  
(1870-1937)

A reception will immediately follow the 3:00 p.m. recital.

*Generously sponsored by Ed and Wanda Eichler, George Orban and Rae H. Ramsdell, and Lorie Seitz Barbieri and Chuck Barbieri, in loving memory of Midge Seitz (MSU '52).*

*The 3 p.m. recital is digitally broadcast on Livestream by the MSU College of Music in partnership with the MSU Alumni Office. Performances from this event will also be available at [YouTube.com/musicMSU](https://www.youtube.com/musicMSU). Interviews and highlights from this recital will air later on "Pipe Dreams," a national radio program hosted by Michael Barone.*

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. Her 2010 recital for the International Society of Organbuilders-American Institute of Organbuilders convention "left the entire congress in an atmosphere of 'Demers fever'." That same year, her performance at the Washington D.C. national convention of the American Guild of Organists caused the standing-room-only audience to call her back to the stage five times.



She has appeared in recitals throughout Europe, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Canada. Highlights include performances at the Maison Symphonique (Montreal, Québec), the Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg, Germany), City Hall (Stockholm, Sweden), the Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing, China), and St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey (London, UK).

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, the International Society of Organbuilders, the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society.

She has released three CD recordings on the Acis and Pro Organo labels. In 2018, she appeared as a solo organ accompanist in an Acis recording of Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem* with the Baylor University Choir, recorded at Duruflé's church in Paris.

A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is currently the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University, Waco, Texas. In August 2022, she will begin her tenure as Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University, Montréal, Québec. Isabelle Demers is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.





## A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE RED CEDAR ORGAN

When first learning of the effort begun by Dick Northrup to replace the pipe organ in the MSU Alumni Memorial Chapel, Ed and Wanda Eichler realized that they could help make the chapel a spectacular space. The idea of a new organ specially designed for this beautiful, sacred building was especially enticing for the organ music enthusiasts.

The Eichlers made the leadership gift that enabled the installation of a new organ in the ivy-covered chapel. In all, \$1.3 million went into the renovations and organ. This includes the Eichler gift as well as contributions from Dick and Mary Jane Northrup and many others.

From the start, the organ project was an alignment of visions. The Eichlers, the College of Music, and College representatives like Professor of Music and Associate Director of Choral Programs Jonathan Reed, knew that an excellent organ versatile enough for weddings, funerals, and concerts, would be a key component of revitalizing this special space that has stood along the Red Cedar River since 1952.

From woodworkers to electricians to musicians and acousticians, this project took a great amount of hard work and persistence, especially as all involved navigated through the effects of the global pandemic. Today's special performances herald the opening of a stunning update to this beautiful space, a chapel that honors the memory of all MSU alumni who have lost their lives in service of our country.

Ed and Wanda Eichler, other donors, designers, musicians, and workers who made today possible deserve our sincere thanks for their efforts. What once was a space with mere potential is now a reality: a venue for recitals, chamber concerts, choral and brass performances, and numerous learning opportunities, all supported by a new organ that raises the standard of musical excellence.



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