

A photograph of Peter Richard Conte, a concert organist, sitting at an organ console. He is wearing a black suit jacket, a white shirt, and glasses, and is resting his chin on his hand. The organ console is filled with multiple keyboards, numerous stop tabs, and a pedal board with many wooden pedals. The text "Peter Richard Conte" is overlaid in a large, stylized, orange font with a blue outline. Below the name, the text "concert organist" is written in a smaller, orange, cursive font. At the bottom of the image, a quote from The Santa Fe New Mexican is displayed in white text on a blue background.

Peter Richard Conte

concert organist

“Standing ovation? Better call it a flying ovation.” *(The Santa Fe New Mexican)*

“A vibrant virtuoso performance.”

(The Trentonian, New Jersey)

“Splendid entertainment.”

(Tahoe Daily Tribune, Reno, Nevada)

“Music making of the highest order...rich in nuance and virtuosity...Bravo Peter Richard Conte!” *(The American Organist)*

“Conte’s *tour de force* playing brought the audience to its feet more than once for well-deserved ovations.” *(The Diapason)*

“It is no wonder that Peter Richard Conte is a favorite of audiences and that his CDs are so popular.” *(Newark Post, Delaware)*

“What a stunning success.” (Richard Cummins, Greene Memorial United Methodist Church, Roanoke, VA, presenter)

“Superb artistry in the lost art of organ transcription...To play that many lines with only ten fingers is technical wizardry, but to do it with feeling and magic is indeed rare. The combination is exciting and captivating.” *(American Record Guide)*

“He was nothing short of sensational.” (Karen W. Coup, American Theater Organ Society, presenter)

“A superb concert.” (Dr. Jack W. Jones, Royal Poinciana Chapel, Palm Beach, FL, presenter)

“Nothing less than perfection!” (Robert Bright, St. Anne’s Church, Washington DC)

“Absolutely magnificent—pure delight from beginning to end!” (Robert MacDonald, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth TX, presenter)

“A huge success.” (Bruce Dersch, Subiaco Academy, AR, presenter)



Peter Richard Conte is Grand Court Organist of the world famous Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia’s Lord & Taylor department store. When not touring, he performs on the six-manual, 28,000-pipe instrument twice daily, six days per week. The Wanamaker Organ is the largest fully-functioning musical instrument in the world; Mr. Conte was appointed Grand Court Organist in 1989, and is the fourth person to hold that title since the organ first played in 1911.

Mr. Conte is highly regarded as a skillful performer and arranger of organ transcriptions. He has been featured several times on National Public Radio and on ABC television’s “Good Morning America.” He performs extensively throughout the United States and Canada under the management of Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, and has given several concerts in England, including Saint Paul’s Cathedral, London. He has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra and with the Delaware Symphony.

Mr. Conte records for Dorian Recordings. His latest recording, ‘MAGIC’, is the first professional recording of the Wanamaker Organ in over 30 years, and features Conte’s own transcriptions of ‘Night on the Bare Mountain’ (Mussorgsky), ‘Sorcerer’s Apprentice’ (Dukas), ‘Overture to The Merry Wives of Windsor’ (Nicolai), ‘Cockaigne Overture’ (Elgar), and Wotan’s Farewell and Magic Fire Music’ (Wagner).

In addition to his concert career, Mr. Conte serves as Choirmaster and Organist of St. Clement’s Church, Philadelphia, where he directs a sixteen-voice professional choir in music of the Anglo-Catholic tradition. That choir has recorded several internationally-acclaimed compact discs on the Dorian label. Before going to St. Clement’s, Mr. Conte held a similar position at the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge, where he founded and directed the Chapel Choir of Men and Boys. That choir toured England in 1991, singing in residence at Saint Alban’s and Peterborough Cathedrals.

Peter Richard Conte is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists, has served on the executive board of its Philadelphia Chapter, and has presented guild workshops on transcriptions and improvisation. In 2002 he was a featured artist at the guild’s National Convention. Mr Conte holds the prestigious Performer’s Certificate in Organ from Indiana University where he studied with Larry Smith and Robert Rayfield. He also served as Associate Organist of the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City, New York, while studying with Robert Kennedy.

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