

## FULL BIO

ISABELLE DEMERS

Concert Organist

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There is no shortage of organists who make their instruments roar; and while her power was never in question, Demers made the instrument sing.”

(Peter Reed, *Classical Source.com*, England, 2016)

With playing described as having “bracing virtuosity” (Chicago Classical Review) and being “fearless and extraordinary” (Amarillo-Globe News), organist Isabelle Demers has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe for her spell-binding performances. Her recital for the joint International Society of Organbuilders – American Institute of Organbuilders convention in 2010 so enchanted the audience that she “left the entire congress in an atmosphere of ‘Demers fever’.” Her concert at the 2010 national convention of the American Guild of Organists, in Washington, D.C., was received with great acclaim not only by critics, who deemed it “one of the most outstanding events of the convention” (*The American Organist*), but also by the standing-room-only audience, which called her back to the stage five times.

She has appeared in recital at the cathedrals of Cologne and Regensburg in Germany, St. Paul’s Cathedral and the Royal Festival Hall in London, the Royal Opera House of Muscat, Oman, Melbourne Town Hall (Australia), Auckland Town Hall (New Zealand), as well as major universities and concert halls in the United States, among them Davies Hall (San Francisco), Disney Hall (Los Angeles), the Kimmel Center (Philadelphia), the Wanamaker Organ (Philadelphia), Yale University, and the Eastman School of Music, Benaroya Hall (Seattle), Spivey Hall (Georgia), and the Spreckels Pavillion (San Diego). Highlights of her 2015-16 season include performances at Overture Hall (Madison, WI), Stambaugh Auditorium (Youngstown, OH), the Cincinnati Museum Center, a return engagement at the Royal Festival Hall, as well as the dedication of the new organ at Beijing’s South Cathedral. In the summer of 2016 she appeared in recitals in Canada, Germany, Great Britain, and China.

Ms. Demers is in continual demand by her fellow colleagues as witnessed by repeat performances for regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (Minneapolis, 2008; Washington D.C., 2010; Indianapolis, 2015; Houston, 2016), the joint convention of the Institute of Organ Builders and International Society of Organbuilders (Montréal, 2010), and the Royal Canadian College of Organists (Toronto, 2009; Kingston, Ontario, 2016).

Her debut recording on British label *Acis* was met with critical acclaim. On a recent broadcast of *Pipedreams*, presenter Michael Barone featured the Fugue from Reger's *Op. 73*, describing it as "a masterful score, here masterfully played," and Isabelle Demers as, "definitely a talent to

watch, to hear" The RSCM's *Church Music Quarterly* awarded the "exciting, expressive and successful" recording its highest recommendation for its "profound and searching" performances. *Fanfare Magazine* proclaimed the "superbly produced" and "clear, tightly focused recording" with its "brilliantly played program." Her second disc, featuring the organ works of Rachel Laurin, was released in June 2011, and her recording of Max Reger's *Seven Chorale-Fantasias* in November 2012. Her fourth CD, *Bach, Bull, and Bombardes* (Pro Organo), was released in May 2013, and includes works of Bach, Bull, Reger, Widor, Tremblay, Mendelssohn, Daveluy, and Thalben-Ball. Currently in production is a recording of the restored Skinner organ at Rockefeller Chapel-University of Chicago (Raven).

A native of Québec and a graduate of the Juilliard School, Ms. Demers is Organ Professor and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University in Texas.

Isabelle Demers is represented exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

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