

Friends of the Kotzschmar Organ presents

ORGELFEST17

THE KOTZSCHMAR ORGAN SUMMER SERIES

MONICA CZAUSZ

MONICA CZAUSZ, Organist

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 • 7:30 pm

Merrill Auditorium • Portland, Maine

Allegro, Choral and Fugue in D Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy
(1809-1847)

Passacaglia on a theme by Dunstable John Weaver
(b.1937)

Dialogue of the Mockingbirds Rachel Laurin
from Three Short Studies, Op. 68 (b.1961)

Capriccio John Ireland
(1879-1962)

INTERMISSION

“Blithely Breezing Along” Stephen Paulus
from Baronian Suite (1949-2014)

Stèle pour un enfant défunt Louis Vierne
from Tryptich, Op. 58 (1870-1937)

Phantasie über den Choral “Wachet auf, ruft uns
die Stimme,” Op. 52, No. 2 Max Reger
(1873-1916)



MONICA CZAUSZ is in her fifth year of study with renowned Professor Ken Cowan at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music in Houston, Texas, where she is pursuing the five-year combined Bachelor of Music and Master's Degree program in Organ Performance. Since September of 2015 she has been serving as Cathedral Organist at Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) in Houston, Texas, under the leadership of acclaimed director Robert Simpson. She has been recognized as one of the top 20 organists under 30, for her "superior accomplishments, leadership, creativity, and innovative thinking" and

was featured in the May 2016 issue of *The Diapason*. She has received first prize in numerous competitions, including the 2015 American Guild of Organists Regional Competition for Young Organists (Region VII: Southwest), 2015 Schweitzer Competition in the Young Professionals' Division, 2013 William C. Hall, 2012 L. Cameron Johnson, and 2011 Oklahoma City University Competitions.

Monica performed at the 2016 AGO National Convention in Houston Texas, both for Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral, and as a "Rising Star," where she gave "a fabulous performance that displayed artistic mastery far beyond her years" according to *The American Organist*. She also performed at the 2016 Organ Historical Society National Convention in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, where she "played with great flair" (*The American Organist*). In 2015, she was featured at the OHS National Convention in Western Massachusetts, the AGO Regional Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, and the East Texas Organ Festival in Kilgore, where *The Tracker* reported, "this young lady just blew us all away." Last summer she accompanied the Christ Church Cathedral Choir on tour to England where they fulfilled residencies at the Cathedrals of St. Paul's (London), Durham, and Bristol. She recently performed for "Pipedreams Live!" at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas and at other major venues including Broadway Baptist Church of Fort Worth, St. John the Divine in New York City, the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, and Trinity Church on Copley Square. She has additionally performed at the recent invitation of the Columbus, Richmond, Tulsa, Austin, and Brazos Valley (Texas) chapters of the AGO. Over the summer of 2017, she will be featured at the Regional Convention of the AGO in Dallas, the joint AGO/RCCO Convention in Montreal, and the OHS National Convention in Minnesota. Monica's performances have been broadcast on Pipedreams, WRTI Philadelphia, 91.7 Houston, and KTRU Rice Radio.