

THE HARRAH SYMPHONIC ORGAN

A Dream Comes True

The dedication of The Harrah Symphonic Organ is the realization of a dream for many members of Forrest Burdette United Methodist Church. Several members of the congregation and the United Methodist Women of Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church had for several years desired to have a pipe organ in the sanctuary.

In 1997, Allen Harrah began attending Forrest Burdette. Mr. Harrah expressed a desire to build a memorial pipe organ at Forrest Burdette. The United Methodist women were sure that God had brought this blessing to our church as an answer to many prayers. At the request of the United Methodist Women, Mr. Harrah made a proposal to the trustees in the year 2000 to build a combination Pipe and Digital organ. The proposal included remodeling the chancel area to accommodate the pipes, the organ console and also to enhance the acoustics of the music area.

The United Methodist Women took on the task of being the primary fundraisers for this project. They were not only successful, but raised an amount in excess of their original commitment. All gifts have been given to the Glory of God, in recognition of His blessings and in hopes that this church and the community at large will enjoy the fruits of this project in the years to come. It is fitting to "Give God the Glory - For the Things He Has Done."

The remodeling work was concluded in October of 2000. Mr. Harrah designed the console and chose R. A. Colby, Inc. of Johnson City, Tennessee to build the console in June, 2001. The Walker Technical Company of Zionsville, Pennsylvania was chosen to supply, install and voice all the digital components of the organ. Mr. Harrah handcrafted the balance of the organ. He had several loyal volunteers who provided many hours of labor in the installation. Approximately three years of his life are invested in this organ in addition to a lifetime of knowledge.

The organ is a six manual and pedal organ with 456 draw knobs. It has 2600 actual pipes and more than 20,000 digital pipe notes. It is the largest draw knob console in the world. The digital reproduction of sounds in this instrument brings to life the great works and sounds created by various pipe artisans, living and dead. This creates a pallet of sounds that seldom exists in a single instrument. The use of computers provides the ability to graft the best of all pipe organ parameters together, making the reproduced sounds of various builders work together in one magnificent instrument. This organ is an example of the melting pot of nations with German, French, English and American schools of organ building in concert together.

Psalm 150

Hallelujah!
Praise God in his holy house of worship,
praise him under the open skies;
Praise him for his acts of power,
praise him for his magnificent greatness;
Praise with a blast on the trumpet,
praise by strumming soft strings;
Praise him with castanets and dance,
praise him with banjo and flute;
Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum,
praise him with fiddles and mandolin.
Let every living, breathing creature praise GOD!
Hallelujah!

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

The WelcomeDr. Dan A. Hogan
The InvocationMr. Don Gatewood
The Birth of This OrganMr. Allen Harrah
The Litany of Dedication
Leader:Dr. Dan A. Hogan

Leader: *We present these instruments of music to be dedicated to the glory of Almighty God, and for service in this church and community. It is good to give thanks to the Lord.*

People: *To sing praises to thy name, O Most High*

Leader: *To declare Thy steadfast love in the morning*

People: *And thy faithfulness by night*

Leader: *To the music of the flute and the harp*

People: *To the melody of the lyre*

Leader: *For thou O Lord hast made me glad by thy work*

People: *At the work of thy hands I sing for joy*

Leader: *Let us pray. Our father, whom the generations have worshiped with concord of sweet sound: be pleased to accept these instruments as a means of praising thee. Grant that their music may be a blessed benediction upon all who worship here. Vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to all musicians who shall be lifted Godward by their voices, that there may come at times the sweep of hallelujahs from the heavenly hosts, and the whispers of thy voice from thine eternal grace. Amen*

Leader: *Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name, evermore praising thee and saying:*

All: *Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts: Heaven and earth are full of thy glory! Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High! Amen.*

Leader: *Let us rejoice in the Lord and worship with His great gifts in music.*

The Kurzweil synthesizer and sequencer supporting the organ is dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Rev. Charles S. Thompson, Jr. and in honor of Mrs. Alma Thompson

PROGRAM

Introduction of Guest Artist.....*Allen Harrah*

Symphony No. 5*Charles-Marie Widor*
First Movement

Aria*Charles Callahan*

Prelude and Fugue in D Major *J. S. Bach*

Aria (from Orchestral Suite in D) *J. S. Bach*
arr. by Virgil Fox in collaboration
with Robert Hebble

Fantasy in F Minor, K. 608.....*W. A. Mozart*

Intermission

Praise to the Lord Almighty*Choral Prelude*

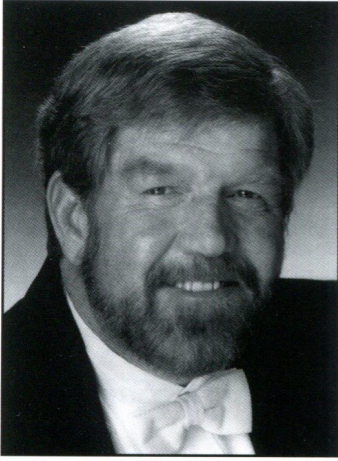
Naiades*Louis Vierne*

Londonderry Air.....*Traditional*
arr. Robert Hebble

Choral-Improvisation sur le "Victimae Paschali"*Charles Tournemire*

*Please join us immediately following the concert at a reception in
Fellowship Hall honoring Mr. Harrah and Mr. Morris.*

Richard Morris, Guest Artist



Richard Morris is one of a very small number of organists to have appeared as soloist in Carnegie Hall. Other prestigious New York concert halls which have hosted his phenomenal performances include Town Hall and Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall. He has also performed on four occasions at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., including the special concert series celebrating the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter. He is head of the Organ Department at Clayton College & State University, and is the Organist-in-Residence at Spivey Hall. In November of 1992 and August of 1996, Mr. Morris performed live broadcasts on National Public Radio's Performance Today on the Ruffatti organ at Spivey Hall. He has recorded for Klavier Records, New World Records, Crystal Clear Records (direct-to-disc with the Atlanta Symphony Brass and Percussion Ensemble), T&F Records, Gothic Records and R&R Records.

Richard Morris began his performing career in his native Atlanta at the age of twelve as piano soloist with the Atlanta Pops Orchestra, performing the Greig Piano Concerto at the Fox Theatre before an audience of 5,000 people, and was twice soloist in the Atlanta Symphony Youth Concerts during his high school years. He received his Bachelor's Degree in piano at Rollins College under Thomas Brockman, and also studied the organ with Catherine Crozier. Grants from the French government enabled him to study in France with the late Nadia Boulanger. Following his studies in France, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Academy of Music in Vienna as a pupil of Richard Hauser. Upon his return to this country in 1965, he earned the degree of Master of Divinity from Nashotah House Seminary in Wisconsin and spent several years in the parish ministry.

He began his career as a concert organist in 1963, largely through the influence and encouragement of the late Emilie Spivey and Virgil Fox, with whom he coached repertory. For the past 25 years, Morris has performed an average of 50 concerts a season for Columbia Artists and the Community Concert Associations of the United States and Canada, as well as for national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, and as soloist with orchestras throughout the country. Morris served as consultant on the tonal design of Spivey Hall's Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ. He is Organist/Choirmaster at St. Peter and St. Paul Episcopal Church in Marietta, Georgia.

Mr. Morris' latest release, recorded at the Bel Air Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles in February of 1997, contains tracks recorded with the world's largest digital/pipe combination organ. The CD contains J.D. Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 541*, Franz Liszt's *Fantasia and Fugue on B-A-C-H* and Charles Callahan's *Aria*. Reviewed by Andrew Quint in the January/February 1998 edition of *Fanfare Magazine*, the recording was lauded as "exemplary" and Mr. Morris in particular "is a supremely musical player...(who) can handle himself in the more flamboyant corners of the organ literature."

The Harrah Symphonic Organ and the Community

The Harrah Symphonic Organ is a gift presented by the Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church and Mr. Harrah to both the church and the community. Allen Harrah, Forrest Burdette Church and The Museum in the Community will cooperatively present a concert series annually performed by acclaimed artists from throughout the United States.

Frederick Swann will perform the opening concert in the series on November 9, 2003 at 3:00pm. Mr. Swann currently holds the office of National President of the American Guild of Organists, is Organist Emeritus of the Crystal Cathedral and of the First Congregationalist Church of Los Angeles, and Organ Artist-in-Residence at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, California.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions and support by the following:

The appearance of Richard Morris is made possible through a generous contribution from the Putnam County Bank.
The United Methodist Women
Photos of the organ by C. McDaniel & Co. Professional Photographers
Floral decorations by Hurricane Floral
Work photos by Rusty Raines

About the Designer & Builder

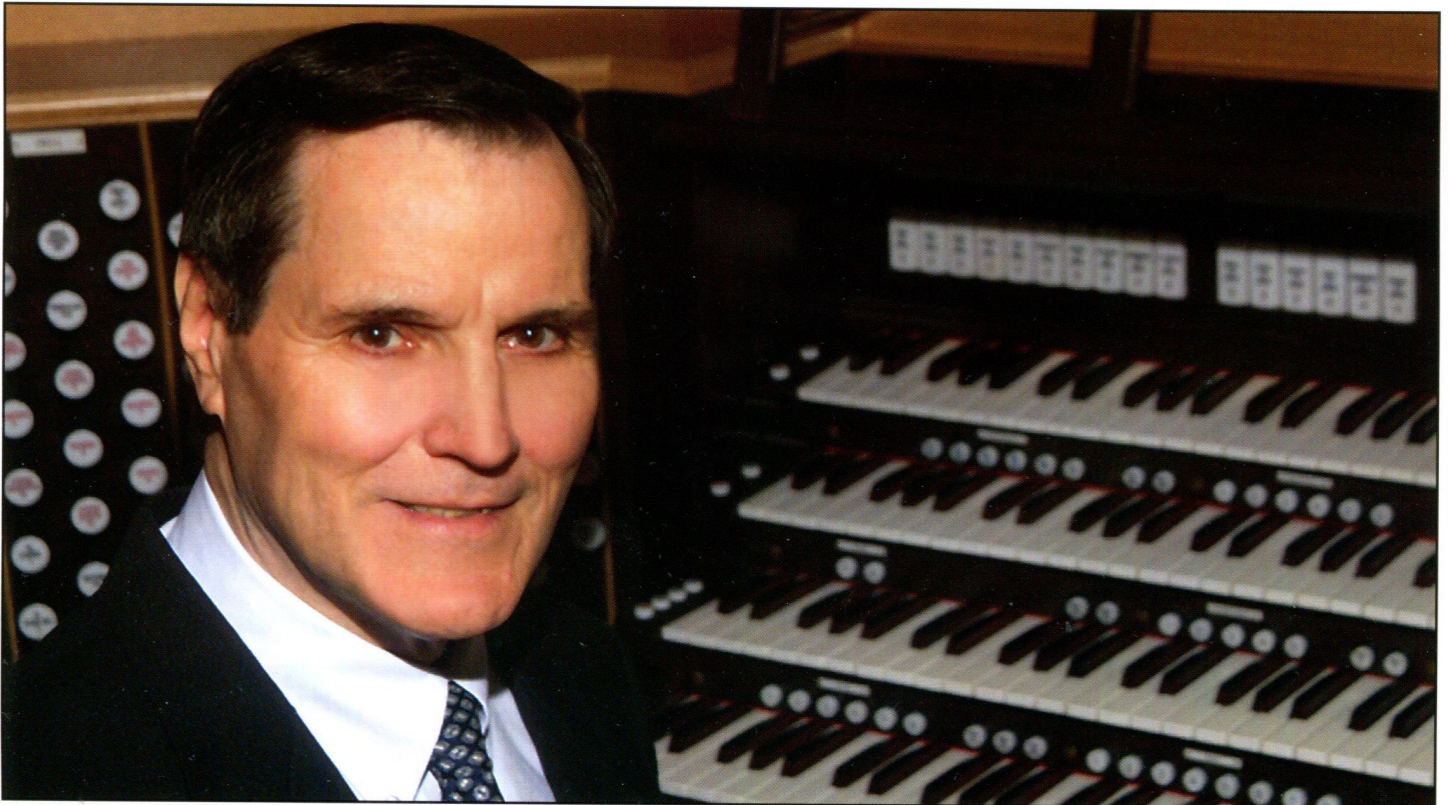
Allen Harrah is a native of Charleston West Virginia. He is a graduate of Stonewall Jackson High School and the University of Alaska. He is a past President of Rodgers Organ Company. He has spent most of his adult life in the music business, serving in a number of different capacities ranging from sales to company ownership and has served on a number of different boards of directors. He also spent two years in the United States Army where he was a commissioned Lieutenant.

At the age of 13 he became fascinated with organs. An old church organ was being discarded, so he asked if he could have it and the journey began. His love for organs has ranged from tinkering, to directing operations, to building. Mr. Harrah built the first commercially successful combination organ in 1972. In the late 70's he founded the Harrah/Van Zoeren Pipe Organ Company.

After becoming president of Rodgers Organ Company, he convinced CBS to purchase the Harrah/Van Zoeren company and incorporate it into the Rodgers Company. Later he negotiated with the 2nd Baptist Church of Houston to build a mammoth pipe organ for their new sanctuary. At that time it was one of the largest pipe organs to be built in one stage.

In his early work with combination organs he used Ruffatti pipes and chests and modified Rodgers electronics. These two installations are still in active use. One is the Emily Spivey Residence organ and the other is located in the Doraville Presbyterian Church, Doraville, Georgia. He left the organ business briefly to work with Emily Spivey in establishing the Walter and Emily Spivey Foundation, which was responsible for the building of Spivey Hall on the campus of Clayton State College, Morrow, Georgia. Spivey Hall is now an internationally recognized performing arts center. He has also served as consultant on a number of major organ installations in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Mr. Harrah's significant contribution of his artistic ability, his time and financial resources to the Glory of God at Forrest Burdette Memorial United Methodist Church are deeply appreciated.



Allen Harrah

