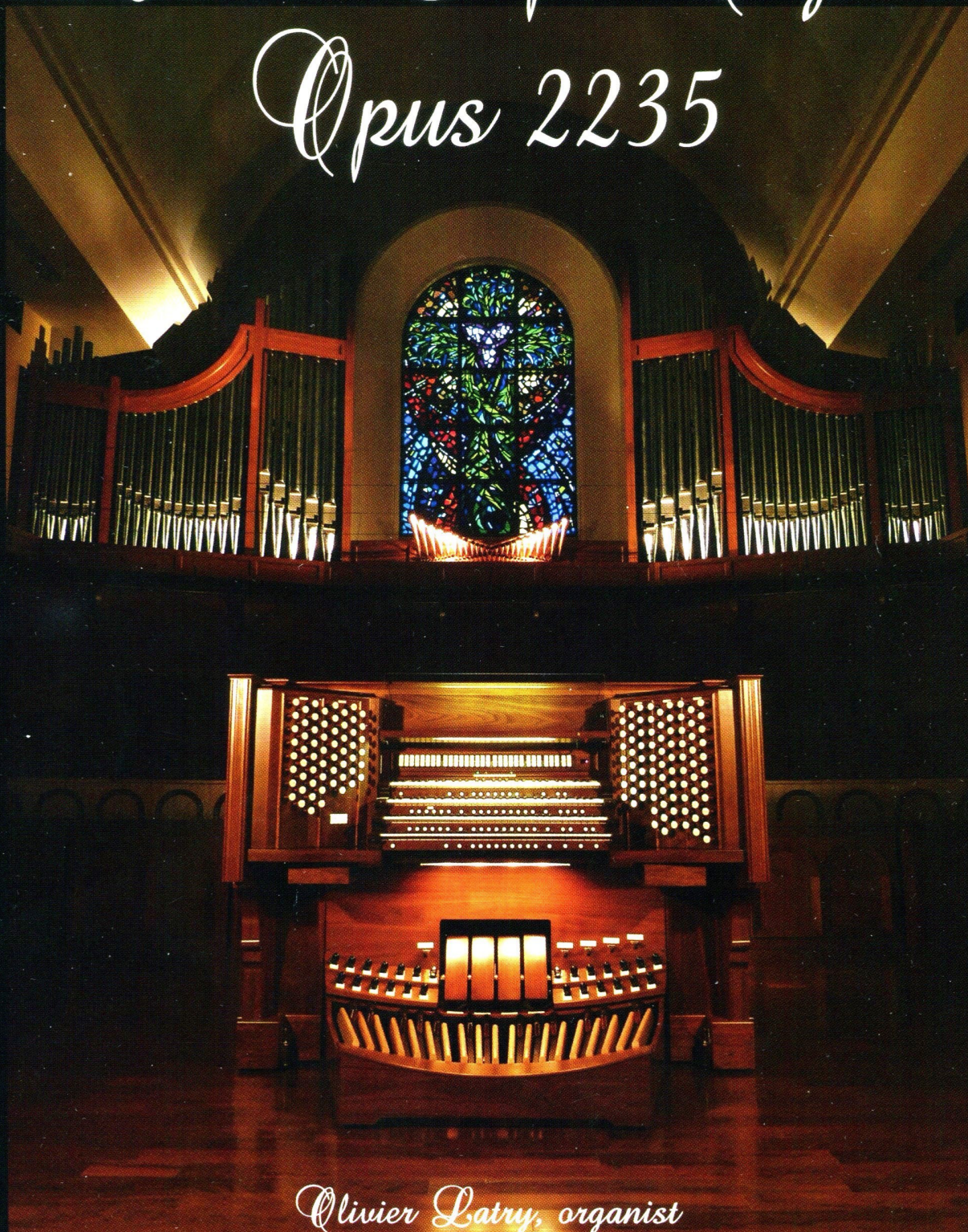


The Dedication Concert
Reuter Pipe Organ
Opus 2235



Olivier Latry, organist

Christ United Methodist Church
Plano, Texas - September 26, 2010



Welcome

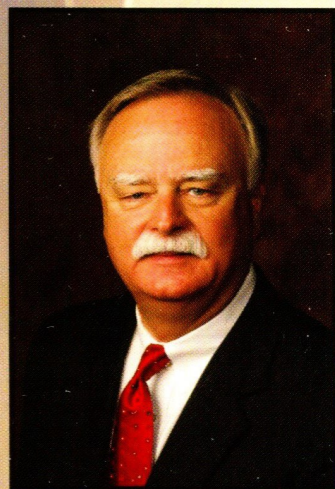
When I came to CUMC in 1983 the dream of a concert size pipe organ had already been planted by Pat Messick and our other musicians. That dream was partly fulfilled by the building of the Schudi Pipe Organ in 1991 for the Glencliff location. It was a wonderful instrument which served us well, but in terms of scale it could not fulfill the vision of a truly inspirational instrument that would attract great musicians both locally and internationally.

That vision is now a reality with the new Reuter Pipe Organ. With 90 ranks and over 4200 pipes, it is truly an instrument that matches the beauty of the CUMC sanctuary and windows. It will help to continue and enhance the great music and arts tradition at our church as evidenced by tonight's concert with one of the world's leading concert organists.

We are indebted to many, many people whose dedication, generosity, and hard work made the Reuter Organ possible, including the entire Building Committee whose support for this project never wavered. But there are two people without whom this project would never have even been initiated: Pat Messick, our incomparable Director of Music for over thirty years, and our organist Bart Ghent, whose passion for this project led him to spend hundreds of hours perfecting details large and small.

Tonight we celebrate in CUMC fashion. Let the music begin!

Reverend Don Underwood
Senior Pastor



Organ Committee

The Organ Committee was honored to represent Christ United Methodist Church in the selection of a pipe organ for our new sanctuary. We are delighted with the magnificent look and sound of our new Reuter organ which will enhance the worship experience and inspire our congregation for generations to come. On this special occasion, we would like to thank the members of our committee for their dedicated service and for making this an enjoyable, rewarding experience for all.

Carol and John Stevenson
Organ Committee Co-chairmen

Organ Committee Members

Bart Ghent	John Lanius
Pat Messick	Lynne Randall
Janis Reid	Kori Richards
Darlene Solomon	Carol Stevenson
John Stevenson	Hal Warner
Paul Wood	

The Reuter Pipe Organ Opus 2235 is the culmination of thirty-seven years of music in the history of this church, thirty-two of which I have been blessed to be a part. In the spring of 2007 the organ committee met for the first time and began to decide on a builder for a pipe organ in the new sanctuary. The first "outing" was a day to hear several local, new organs to get a sense of size, sound, price and satisfaction. While unable to go with the group that day to hear these instruments, as they each reported back I realized what a great group we had assembled for this project. Each person was thorough and opinionated about what they had heard - what they liked, what they didn't like and what they felt we needed for our new sanctuary. This led to several out-of-state trips to hear organs of various builders, including several built by the Reuter Pipe Organ Company in Lawrence, Kansas.

I first became interested in their organs after meeting Jason Alden, the regional representative for the company, who actually lives in Plano. Jason made a quick, emergency service call for us to work on the Schudi Pipe Organ in the previous sanctuary. His pleasant, professional manner and timely attention to our problem impressed me and I wanted to know more about the company he represented and the organs they were building.

The committee made additional trips to hear Reuter organs, and Bart Ghent went to Chicago to hear two new installations. Bart even played one organ over his cell phone for me to hear because he was very pleased with the instrument and liked the sounds he was hearing. As the committee continued to meet, we gradually came to the consensus that Reuter should build our new organ. After this decision, the process has been nothing but sheer pleasure and a great experience.

The company, with JR Neutel as president, has been attentive and encouraging of our ideas and was always eager to answer questions, offer advice and worked diligently to build the organ we wanted and needed. They truly have gone "above and beyond" in working with our church on this project. A trip to the factory in Lawrence last summer was especially enjoyable as Bart and I met all the different workers who took such personal pride in "their" part of building our organ. Whether they were designers, wood workers, metal workers, or other craftsman and artists, it was very impressive how each was so proud to do their part. In fact, the entire organ was built in this factory that has been family-owned for over seventy-five years.

I want to thank Don Underwood for his unwavering support for a pipe organ in this new sanctuary. Thank you to Duncan Webb and the Building Committee for making the organ part of our overall building project and especially for their determination to fund the instrument as part of the Living the Legacy Campaign with special designated funds from members of the congregation and generous gifts from outside the church.

Thanks to John and Carol Stevenson for chairing the Organ Committee and seeing us through so many meetings, trips and decisions. Also, thanks to the members of the committee for their dedication and hard work these past three years. It has been such a pleasure and we enjoyed many fun times.

And finally, a special thank you to Bart Ghent who has spent hours researching, listening to recordings, learning the craft of building a pipe organ and being a guiding light for all of us throughout this project. His enthusiasm and excitement for this new organ is a delight to anyone who hears him play or talk about it.

For over a thousand years, pipe organs have been "instruments of praise" leading Christians in the worship of God through music. Our prayer is that this organ joins that great time-honored tradition as it leads this congregation in worship each week, celebrates marriages, honors those at funerals and memorial services and delights us in concerts and recitals for many years to come. ***Soli Deo Gloria!***

Patrick A. Messick
Director of Music Ministries



The journey to find the "best" pipe organ for Christ UMC began more than 3 years ago when it was decided by our congregation to build a new sanctuary. We discussed various builders, styles of instruments, the approximate size needed and what we thought the instrument should do for our church and community. Above all, we agreed that this instrument should be versatile enough to lead music in any worship service, whether for hymn accompaniment, anthems, orchestra arrangements or solo organ pieces. We felt that if the instrument was successful in this regard, it would also be successful as a solo instrument for use at weddings, memorials services, organ recitals and a wide variety of musical activities.

The leadership of Don Underwood, Pat Messick, John and Carol Stevenson, and our Organ Committee members in educating the congregation on the type of instrument they would receive, the costs involved, and the benefits of a quality pipe instrument made me confident we were on the path to a significant instrument.

After considering many builders, both local and across the United States, we chose the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kansas. Throughout the building process they impressed us with their integrity, artistry, superb quality, and the ability to listen to our wishes while guiding us in the right direction. It has truly been the partnership between our Organ Committee at Christ UMC and their company that has resulted in the fantastic instrument you will hear tonight.

This instrument is truly a labor of love on many fronts. Because our congregation understands the impact a quality pipe organ has on worship, especially during hymn singing, they have supported this project from its inception through their gifts, prayers and even physical labors during installation. How great to see members of the church, young and old, carrying in pipes to the sanctuary!

Over the course of several "progress check" visits to the Reuter factory, I met the artisans who created our organ. The pride they take in everything done and in the history Reuter has behind their organs is impressive. However, they are definitely not stuck in the past because right next to the metal lathe from the turn of the century that shaves down the hand-poured pipe metal there is a computer driven router for the most exacting wood working in lumber they hand-selected and cured in their building.

In December 2009 I travelled to Lawrence, Kansas to actually play a good portion of our organ, Opus 2235, in their set-up room. All of the many thousands of mechanical parts were brought together to create the musical instrument that will give life to our music at Christ Church. Once I arrived there, the switch was flipped to turn on the blower to give "breath" to the pipes - and what glorious sounds they made! I could only imagine what this instrument would sound like in its new home in Plano!

Physical installation began under very cold and dusty conditions where the Reuter team labored 12 hours a day for a week to get the first pipes installed so construction of the building could continue. The second round of installation was in a better environment, but still a challenge because construction of the building continued as they worked - not the norm for organ builders! The Reuter team was professional and enthusiastic throughout while maintaining quality as their driving force.

When the time came for voicing the organ in June, the true artistry of Reuter began to shine! While specifications were drawn up two years ago with the assistance of Jason Alden and JR Neutel, President of Reuter, it was time for Bill Klimus, Reuter's Vice President and Artistic Director, to blend those unique pipes with the weird sounding stop names into a symphony of sound that makes a great pipe organ. With years of experience as both organ builders and accomplished organists, Bill and his skilled assistants adjusted every single pipe for volume, tone, speed of speech and stability. This process has already taken well over a month of on-site voicing with even more work to be done in the future.

As you will hear this evening, there are glorious sounds in this instrument! From the almost inaudible soft shimmer of the strings, the "firm foundation" of the Principal stops, and the singing quality of the flutes to the fiery reeds, they have created a musical instrument out of wood, metal and plastic that goes well beyond the sum of its parts. For all those involved, it was a labor of love... for music, for creating a beautiful and unique instrument for our church, and for providing an organ that will be here to praise God through music for many generations to come.

Bart Ghent
Associate Director of Music and Organist

Olivier Latry

Olivier Latry, titular organist of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, is one of the world's most distinguished organists. He was born in 1962 in Boulogne-sur-Mer, France, and began his study of piano at age 7 and his study of the organ at age 12; he later attended the Academy of Music at St. Maur-des-Fossés, studying organ with Gaston Litaize. From 1981 until 1985 Olivier Latry was titular organist of Meaux Cathedral, and at age 23 he won a competition to become one of the three titular organists of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris. From 1990 until 1995 he taught organ at the Academy of Music at St. Maur-des-Fossés, where he succeeded his teacher, Gaston Litaize. Since 1995 he has taught at the Paris Conservatory, where he has succeeded Michel Chapuis.

In addition to concerts and teaching, Mr. Latry has made his mark through recordings on the BNL label in France, which include music of Bach, the complete organ works of Maurice Durufé, Louis Vierne's Symphonies 2 and 3, Widor's Symphonies 5 and 6, and a recording of works by Litaize. With Deutsche Grammophon he has recorded "In Spiritum," a recording devoted to the organ works of César Franck, "Midnight at Notre-Dame," a recording of transcriptions for the organ, and the complete organ works of Olivier Messiaen. Recent releases include a disc of works for organ and orchestra with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Christoph Eschenbach on the Ondine label featuring the Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 "Organ", the Toccata Festiva by Samuel Barber, and the Concerto for Organ and Orchestra by Francis Poulenc. He is also featured on a recording of the Jongen Symphonie Concertante and the Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 "Organ" with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Liège on the Cypres label.



A recipient of numerous awards and honors, Olivier Latry received the Prix Del Duca (Institut de France - Académie des Beaux-Arts) in 2000, the 2006 Honorary Fellowship from the North and Midlands School of Music (UK), and the 2007 Honorary Fellowship from the Royal College of Organists (UK). In April of 2009 he was named International Performer of the Year by the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and in June 2010 he received an honorary Doctor of Music degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Not wishing to specialize in a particular repertoire, Olivier Latry would like to be an ambassador of seventeenth to twenty-first century French organ music, hence his equal devotion to the art of improvisation. Today he is counted among the most noted "improvisateurs" in the exceptional French tradition from Charles Tournemire to Pierre Cochereau. He has performed in more than forty countries on five continents, appearing most often in the United States. He made his first American tour during the fall of 1986, and has subsequently made annual tours to the U. S., playing recitals in major cities coast to coast as well as throughout Canada. In addition, he has made special trips to appear for regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists as well as for inaugural recitals of new instruments and for major music festivals and summer schools (Westminster Choir College, McGill University and the San Anselmo Organ Festival). In one major project Mr. Latry performed three complete cycles (six recitals each) of the organ music of Olivier Messiaen to great acclaim in Paris, New York City and London, to celebrate Messiaen as one of the greatest composers of the 20th century. He then went on to record Messiaen's complete organ works for Deutsche Grammophon. In 2006 he was the featured soloist for the opening of the new Dobson organ at Verizon Hall in Philadelphia where he performed for three sold-out audiences in gala concerts with the Philadelphia Orchestra under the direction of Christoph Eschenbach, which were also recorded and are available on the Ondine label.

Mr. Latry has a particular interest in contemporary music and has premiered works of Xavier Darasse, Claude Ballif, Thierry Pecout, Vincent Paulet, Thierry Escaich, and Jean-Louis Florentz. He has also co-authored a book on Olivier Messiaen: *L'oeuvre d'orgue d'Olivier Messiaen*, Olivier Latry and Loïc Mallié (Carus-Verlag 2008).

During the fall of 2010 Mr. Latry is based in the United States serving as Visiting Professor of Organ at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music; a result of a unique teaching exchange between the Paris Conservatory of Music and the Oberlin College, which will also send resident Oberlin College Professor of Organ, James David Christie to teach at the Paris Conservatory for the semester. While in the USA, Mr. Latry will also perform a series of concerts which will include performances in Salt Lake City UT, Norfolk VA, Plano TX, Denver CO, Los Angeles CA, Seattle WA, Chicago IL, La Crosse WI, Oberlin OH, Rochester NY, and San Francisco CA.