

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
403 South Jefferson Avenue – Saginaw, Michigan 48607

FREDERICK SWANN

Organ Dedication Recital

Friday
May 9, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Heraldings	Robert Hebble (b. 1934)
Symphonic Chorale – “Jesus, Lead the Way”	Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1879-1933)
Toccat a and Fugue in D Minor , BWV 565	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Folk Tune	Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)
Chorale No. 1 in E Major	César Franck (1822-1890)
Hymn No. 15 – “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” <i>(all stand and sing the hymn)</i>	<i>Lobe den Herren</i>
Lyric Rhapsody	Searle Wright (1919-2004)
<i>Improvisation on a familiar melody</i>	
Sonata, Op. 42 iii. Finale	Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Please purchase the commemorative program book “The Pipe Organ” for \$10.
Proceeds will underwrite the dedicatory events.

The Saginaw Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is sponsoring a reception
in Bradley House following the evening’s recital. Take part in this fellowship gala.

First Congregational Church welcomes the community to the formal dedication
of the restored and rebuilt Skinner organ on Sunday, May 18, 4:00 p.m.

Join the Chancel Choir, Exultate Deo, and other guest singers from the Great Lakes Bay Region.
Celebrate with beloved hymns, prayers, anthems, readings, organ solos, and a new poem by Marion Tincknell.
A reception will follow in Bradley House.



THE RECITALIST

Frederick Swann is past President (2002-2008) of the American Guild of Organists, an organization of over 20,000 members in chapters throughout the United States and several foreign countries. He is Organist Emeritus of the Crystal Cathedral and of the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, and Artist in Residence at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, California. Mr. Swann is also University Organist and Artist Teacher of Organ at the University of Redlands.

One reviewer noted that Mr. Swann has probably presided over more ranks of pipes and stopknobs than any other organist in history. This is perhaps true given the size and prominence of the instruments with which his career has been notably associated: Riverside Church in New York City (1957-1982); The Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove (1982-1998); and First Congregational Church of Los Angeles (1998-2001).

Mr. Swann holds degrees "with distinction" from Northwestern University and the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in New York. In addition to his prominent church positions, he was for ten years Chair of the Organ Department at the Manhattan School of Music and served on the faculties of Teacher's College of Columbia University and the School of Sacred Music at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Although officially "retired," Mr. Swann continues to perform on a reduced schedule of solo recitals and in concert with orchestras and choral groups. In the past few years he has presented recitals in major churches and concert halls in the United States, England, Germany, Australia, Korea, and Russia. In 2004 he was selected by the Los Angeles Philharmonic to perform the inaugural solo organ recital on the new organ in The Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Prior to that, he played the inaugural recitals on the organs in Orchestra Hall (Chicago) and Davies Hall (San Francisco).

Mr. Swann performed two preview recitals in 2008 on the William J. Gillespie Concert Organ in the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall at the Orange County Performing Arts Center, and has recorded the first compact disc on the major new Fisk instrument (released March 2009 by Gothic Records). His most recent recording, on the Casavant organ in Memorial Chapel at the University of Redlands, was released by Gothic Records in January 2010.

Mr. Swann is sought after as a leader of organ and church music workshops and has been retained frequently as a consultant for new pipe organs, including some of the largest and most prominent in the country. His many recordings, past and present, have assisted in making his name one of the best known throughout the music world.



THE ORGAN OF FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

William A. Johnson built a two-manual pipe organ speaking into the south transept in 1869. The instrument was made up of over 1,500 pipes. It was replaced prior to the 1890s, when First Congregational Church's organist performed Friday noonday recitals weekly for residents of East Saginaw's Jefferson Avenue district, a major thoroughfare in the city known as the lumber capital of the world.

In 1928 Ernest M. Skinner of Boston built a new organ, its Opus 751. After several alterations, it was restored and rebuilt 2012-2014 making use of period-sensitive methods and materials. The organ's main divisions are located on the building's central axis. Expressive Swell and Choir Organs are placed high above the sanctuary floor in the rear of the organ chamber. The Great and Pedal Organs fill the foremost positions near the grille. The Echo Organ is located in the east gallery and includes casework designed to harmonize with the sanctuary's architectural features. The movable four-manual Skinner replica console built entirely new is located on the sanctuary floor.

One of the Midwest's largest organ revitalization projects, the \$500,000 effort concerning Skinner Opus 751 solidifies the First Congregational Church's cultural commitment to the Cathedral District, Saginaw, and the Great Lakes Bay Region. Scott Smith Pipe Organs of Lansing, Michigan, supervised the project, their Opus 3 (4 manuals, 48 ranks), that includes artisans, craftsmen, and subcontractors from throughout the country.