



Utah Valley Pipe Organ Encounter
Thursday, July 23, 2026, 7:30pm
Choral Hall, BYU Music Building
Isabelle Demers, organ

<i>Allegro Vivace, from Symphonie #5 op. 42 #1</i>	Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
<i>Allegro Vivace, from Symphony #5 op. 107</i>	Félix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), transcribed by Demers
<i>Prelude and Fugue in D Major BWV 532</i>	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue in e-flat minor</i>	Healey Willan (1880-1968)
<i>Marial Lullaby, from Sonata #1 op. 91</i>	Rachel Laurin (1961-2023)
<i>Variations on a Theme by Paganini</i>	Sir George Thalben-Ball (1896-1987)

With playing described as having “bracing virtuosity” (Chicago Classical Review) and being “fearless and extraordinary” (Amarillo-Globe News), Canadian-American organist Isabelle Demers has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe for her exhilarating performances. Her recital for the joint International Society of Organbuilders-American Institute of Organbuilders convention so enchanted the audience that she “left the entire congress in an atmosphere of ‘Demers fever.’” In 2010, her performance for the national convention of the American Guild of Organists, in Washington, D.C., was received with unbridled 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 of her colleagues which called her back to the stage five times.

She has appeared in recital throughout Europe, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, China, and from coast to coast in the United States and Canada, including at the Cathedrals of Cologne and Regensburg (Germany); the ElbPhilharmonie (Hamburg); the Berlin Philharmonie; the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, St. Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey (London); City Hall (Stockholm); the Royal Opera House of Muscat (Oman); the Forbidden City Concert Hall (Beijing, China); Victoria Hall (Singapore); Melbourne Town Hall (Australia); Auckland

Town Hall (New Zealand); Disney Hall (Los Angeles), Davies Hall (San Francisco), Meyerson Symphony Center (Dallas), Kimmel Center, the Wanamaker Organ (Philadelphia); and the Maison Symphonique (Montréal). She was a featured performer at the 2023 BBC Proms held at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Ms. Demers is in continual high demand and held in exceedingly high esteem 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; Hartford, 2013; Austin, 2013; Indianapolis, 2015; Houston, 2016; Seattle, 2022; Phoenix 2025), the joint convention of the American Institute of Organ Builders and International Society of Organbuilders (Montréal, 2010), the Royal Canadian College of Organists (Toronto, 2009; Kingston, Ontario, 2016; Guelph/Kitchener 2025), the Organ.Historical Society (Vermont, 2013; Minnesota, 2017; Milwaukee 2025), and the Association of Anglican Musicians (Minnesota, 2024). She is also a highly sought-after juror for the major international organ competitions around the world.

Her debut recording on Acis label was met with critical acclaim. On a recent broadcast of Pipedreams, radio host 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 as a "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. She also appears as solo organ accompanist in a recording of Maurice Duruflé's Requiem with the Baylor University Choir, recorded at Duruflé's church, St. Étienne-du-Mont, in Paris. Her solo CD, recorded at Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel, was released in January 2020, and currently in preparation is a double-CD devoted to the works of Raymond Daveluy and Rachel Laurin.

A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University (Montréal, Québec) and, from 2025-2027 the visiting professor of organ at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo. She was formerly the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University (Waco, Texas). Dr. Demers became a dual Canada-U.S. citizen in 2021.

Isabelle Demers is represented in the United States exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

Pipe Organ Encounters is an educational outreach program of the American Guild of Organists. Major funding for Pipe Organ Encounters is provided by the Associated Pipe Organ Builders of America. Additional support is provided by the American Institute of Organbuilders, the Jordan Organ Endowment, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Permanently endowed AGO scholarships are provided by the New Organist Fund.