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FREE “Organ Day” presented by @EnsembleArtsPhilly (Facebook/Instagram)/@EnsembleArtsPHL (Twitter/X) and @philorch is back for its 12th year on April 20! @philorch performs in the morning, plus @phila_ballet (Twitter)/@philadelphia_ballet (Instagram)/@philadelphiaballet (Facebook), @OperaPhila, “Fred” the Organ, silent film, and MORE!

Press Contacts:

Lauren A. (Woodard) Hall
484-832-1963 (cell)

lhall@ensembleartsphilly.org

Stephanie Williams

610-952-6836 (cell)

swilliams@philorch.org

**ENSEMBLE ARTS AND
THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA PRESENT
ORGAN DAY,
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024**

Audiences of all ages are invited to a FREE Philadelphia Orchestra concert featuring the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ, the largest mechanical pipe organ in a concert venue in the U.S.

PLUS, experience Philadelphia Ballet, Opera Philadelphia, and even lie onstage in Verizon Hall to feel the organ vibrations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, February 22, 2024) — Ensemble Arts and The Philadelphia Orchestra will present the 12th *Organ Day* on Saturday, March 23, 2024, a FREE, family-friendly event featuring the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ.

“*Organ Day* is a fantastic opportunity for the community to experience the vast array of artistic mediums presented in our venues, from orchestral music to opera, ballet to jazz, and so much

more,” said Matías Tarnopolsky, president and CEO. “The event, which is generously supported by the Wyncote Foundation, celebrates and showcases the versatility of the Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ, a majestic instrument in Verizon Hall.”

Organ Day kicks off at 11:30 AM with a FREE performance from the GRAMMY® Award–winning Philadelphia Orchestra, led by Assistant Conductor Austin Chanu with organist Paul Jacobs. Free tickets are required for this portion of the program; details are below. A small break from programming on the Verizon Hall stage will follow the Orchestra’s performance, during which the Lucas Brown Trio will play on the Plaza stage at 12:30 PM. Back in Verizon Hall at 1:20 PM, children are invited to touch and explore the organ with *Kids Play the Organ*, followed by the Gospel Fusion on the Organ program with organist Evelyn Simpson Curenton at 1:50 PM.

The day continues with a Philadelphia Ballet performance on the Verizon Hall stage at 2:30 PM, accompanied by Erik Meyer. After a small break, organists Dr. Jay Fluellen and John Walthausen will play together at the same time in a Multi-Player Organ Performance at 2:55 PM. Organist Christian Schmitt will then perform a solo recital at 3:05 PM, followed by the Opera Philadelphia Chorus with conductor Elizabeth Braden and organist Meghan Meloy Ness at 3:45 PM. The FREE day of activities wraps up with Saint Mark’s Church Boy & Girl Choir with choirmaster Dr. Robert Lehman and organist Dr. Thomas Gaynor at 4:35 PM; the return of a silent film screened with live organ accompaniment as organist Luke Stasiunas performs to Laurel and Hardy’s 1927 *Leave ‘em Laughing* at 5:15 PM; and the popular “organ pumps” at 5:45 PM, during which guests are invited to leave their seats and lie on the stage of Verizon Hall, feeling the powerful vibrations of the organ.

The day will be cohosted by Tyrone Whiting and Michael Barone. Full schedule and repertoire are below.

The Fred J. Cooper Memorial Organ, Dobson organ Op. 76, is located inside Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “Fred” ranks as the largest mechanical-action concert hall organ in the United States with 6,938 pipes, four blowers, 300 levels of memory, 111 stops, and a total weight of approximately 32 tons. The largest pipes are made of wood and are about 32 feet tall, while the smallest metal pipes are similar in size to a slender drinking straw. It is the culmination of more than six years and 52,000 hours of planning, construction, and voicing.

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ORGAN DAY

Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts
Saturday, March 23, 2024 | 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM

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BELOW IS A SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES FOR ORGAN DAY. For the most up-to-date information, please visit www.ensembleartsphilly.org. Additional information will be announced at a later date.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

The Philadelphia Orchestra with conductor Austin Chanu and organist Paul Jacobs

Widor Toccata, from Organ Symphony No. 5

Handel First and second movements from Organ Concerto No. 13 (“The Cuckoo and the Nightingale”)

Mascagni Intermezzo from *Cavalleria rusticana*

Barber Excerpts from *Toccata festiva*

J.S. Bach Little Fugue, Paul Jacobs solo without orchestra

Guilmant Second and third movements from Symphony No. 1 for Organ and Orchestra

12:30 PM – 1:15 PM

The Lucas Brown Trio (performance on Plaza stage)

Lucas Brown, Hammond B3 Organist

Victor North, saxophone

Buron Landham, drums

1:15 PM – 1:20 PM

Welcome from co-hosts Tyrone Whiting and Michael Barone

1:20 PM – 1:50 PM

Kids Play the Organ with organists Brett Miller and Dr. Doug Backman

1:50 PM – 2:20 PM

Gospel Fusion on the Organ with organist Evelyn Simpson Curenton

Oscar Payne, bass

David Gibson, drums

Sheila Booker, vocalist

Carolyn Bolger-Payne, vocalist

James A. Early, vocalist

Walter Early, vocalist

Gospel repertoire to be announced at a later date

2:20 PM – 2:30 PM

Break

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM

Philadelphia Ballet with organist Erik Meyer

Pas de deux, from Angel Corella’s *Carmen*

Giselle

White Swan

2:45 PM – 2:55 PM

Break

2:55 PM – 3:00 PM

Multi-Player Organ Performance presented by the Philadelphia Organ Festival with organists Dr.

Jay Fluellen & John Walthausen

3:00 PM – 3:05 PM

Break

3:05 PM – 3:40 PM

Organ Recital with organist Christian Schmitt

3:40 PM – 3:45 PM

Break

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM

The Opera Philadelphia Chorus with conductor Elizabeth Braden and organist Meghan Meloy Ness

Favorite Verdi Choruses

“Libiamo” (The Brindisi) from *La Traviata*

“Vedi! Le fosche notturne spoglie” (The Anvil Chorus) from *Il Trovatore*

“Va pensiero” from *Nabucco*

“Patria Oppressa” from *Macbeth*

Choruses from two Philadelphia Premieres

“Sleep Chorus” from *Silent Night*, by Kevin Putz

“Epilogue” from *Margaret Garner*, by Richard Danielpour

Three Choruses from Bizet’s Carmen

“Dans l’air, nous suivons des yeux” (The Cigarette Chorus)

“Habañera”

“Les Voici”

With special guests from The Philadelphia Girl Choir

A Bernstein Finale

“Make Our Garden Grow” from *Candide*

4:30 PM – 4:35 PM

Break

4:35 PM – 5:05 PM

St. Mark’s Church Boy & Girl Choir with conductor Dr. Robert Lehman and organist Dr. Thomas Gaynor

Johann Sebastian Bach - In dir ist Freude, BWV 615 (organ solo)

Ralph Vaughan Williams - The Call

John Ireland - Ex ore innocentium

Jean Langlais - Ave Maria

Edward Elgar - Ave Verum

Leonard J White - Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

Sarah MacDonald - All manner of thing

Maurice Duruflé - Pie Jesu from *Requiem*, opus 9

Maurice Duruflé - Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons, opus 12 (organ solo)

5:05 PM – 5:15 PM

Break

5:15 PM – 5:45 PM

Silent film with live organ accompaniment by organist Luke Stasiunas

Leave 'em Laughing (1927) - Laurel and Hardy

5:45 PM – 6:00 PM

Organ Pumps with organist Dr. Doug Backman

Organ programming is generously supported by the Wyncote Foundation. All scheduled programming and performers are subject to change.

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Tickets

Tickets are required for the 11:30 Philadelphia Orchestra performance. Free tickets can be reserved by visiting the *Organ Day* webpage at www.ensembleartsphilly.org and clicking "Free Orchestra Ticket." All performances 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM are unticketed. Come and go as you please!

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[About The Philadelphia Orchestra](#)

[Our Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access Strategies \(IDEAS\)](#)