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**For Immediate Use**  
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## **“Organica” with Organist Christoph Bull Returns to UCLA Live in a New Program Celebrating French Masterpieces and Original Music, June 8**

*“Christoph Bull is a pleasantly unrestrained musical maverick who’s on a mission to show what the pipe organ can do.”—LA Weekly*



LOS ANGELES— UCLA Live presents the return of award-winning German organist **Christoph Bull** in “Organica,” a multimedia spectacular featuring a diverse array of artists including videographer **Benton-C Bainbridge**, performance painter **Norton Wisdom**, mezzo-soprano **I-Chin Feinblatt** and two up-and-coming guest organists, **Chelsea Chen** and **Maxine Thevenot**.

Showcasing the versatility of the grand Royce Hall Skinner pipe organ, the eclectic program focuses on new original music and traditional French masterpieces by **Marcel Dupré**, **Gabriel Fauré** and **Charles Gounod** with an emphasis on modernist master **Oliver Messiaen**, whose birth centennial is being celebrated this year.

“Organica” begins at **7 p.m. on Sunday, June 8 at UCLA Live at Royce Hall** on the UCLA campus and runs approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes with one intermission. For tickets visit [www.uclalive.org](http://www.uclalive.org), call 310-825-2101 or contact Ticketmaster.

In honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Messiaen (b. December 10, 1908), widely regarded as one of the most important organ composers of all time, **Bull** will open the program with “Apparition de L’Eglise Eternel” (“Apparition of the Eternal Church”), one of Messiaen’s early organ pieces. The concert will conclude with Bull’s improvisation

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“Messiaen deconstructed,” a pastiche in which he modifies themes from Messiaen’s “L’Ascension” (“The Ascension”).

**Chen** will perform Messiaen’s “Dieux Parmi Nous” (“God Among Us”), the majestic finale of his first great cycle for the organ, “La Nativite du Seigneur”(1935), which features a thunderous toccata and the striking sonorities for which Messiaen is renowned. She will also perform an original work, “Taiwanese Suite,” inspired by folk songs from the 1930s era of Japanese occupation, and written in honor of her father and Chinese ancestry.

**Feinblatt** will be accompanied by Bull on three French songs, Faure’s “Apres un reve” (“After a Dream”) and “Chanson d’amour” (“Song of Love”), and Gounod’s beloved “Repentir,” (also known as “O, Divine Redeemer”), one of his last pieces.

**Thévenot** will perform the **world premiere of Martin Stacey’s “Totentanz”** (“Hommage à Petr Eben, 1929–2007”), for which she is the work’s dedicatée, along with Dupre’s “Cortège et Litanie” and Welsh-born organist Iain Quinn’s “Continuum.”

Bull debuted “Organica” in 1999 at the Blessed Sacrament Church in Hollywood and continues to navigate the innovative concert series through fresh and exciting new terrain, performing unique programs from traditional to trance, Bach to the Beatles. “Organica” was performed at UCLA’s Royce Hall in 2004 and 2005, and the June 2008 performance marks its latest installment in three years.

The **Royce Hall Skinner organ**, named after The Skinner Organ Company, a renowned producer of fine organs, was designed by Harold Gleason, head of the organ department at Eastman School of Music. The instrument made its Royce Hall debut on

September 7, 1930 with Gleason at the consol. Considered one of Los Angeles’ historically significant organs, the Royce Hall Skinner Organ has been heard in recordings with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and can be enjoyed today in live concert performances presented by **UCLA Live** and others.

**Christoph Bull** was born in Mannheim, Germany. He has been university organist and organ professor at UCLA since 2002. In 2004, Bull was a featured recitalist and workshop presenter at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists and in 2006 and 2007 he received the ASCAPlus Award for concert programming.

Bull has worked with the Grammy-Award-winning Southwest Chamber Music, Bootsy Collins and George Clinton of Parliament Funkadelic. He has also consulted for Harry Connick Jr. (“Christmas Album”) and was hired as an organist for Steven Spielberg’s movie “Minority Report.” TV credits include “The Wayne Brady Show” and “The God Squad.”

With violin player Lili Haydn he opened for Cindy Lauper; with sitar player Nishat Khan he performed in India. He has played the pipe organs at the Catholic cathedrals of Los Angeles, Salzburg, Saint-Denis and Moscow. In L.A., he has performed with the L.A. Master Chorale and at the Walt Disney Concert Hall as well as at the Whisky a Go-Go,

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the Viper Room, Cinespace and Hotel Café.

Bull’s CDs include: “Old School” (2001), “Organica 2” (2004) and “Organica 3” (2007).

**I-Chin Feinblatt**, a graduate from Cal State Fullerton, is a soloist with the Pacific Chorale in Orange County. She has toured with the Boston Pops and Andrea Bocelli, and previously performed in “Organica” in 2003. She has been a vocal music teacher at Fountain Valley High School since spring 2007.

**Chelsea Chen** is a graduate of the Julliard School and an Artist Diploma candidate at Yale University. In 2006, Chen was a featured performer at both national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists and she received a U.S. Fulbright Scholarship to Taiwan, where she composed, performed and lectured about the organ. Her Taiwanese-based compositions have aired on Pipedreams Radio and were released on her debut album, “Live at Heinz Chapel.”

**Maxine Thévenot** is a soloist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician who holds a Doctor of Musical Arts in organ performance from the Manhattan School of Music, New York, where she was twice awarded the Bronson Ragan Award for most outstanding organist. She also holds Associate diplomas from the Royal Canadian College of Organists and the Royal Conservatory of Music. In December 2006, Thévenot was awarded an honorary fellowship by the National College of Music, London for her services to music.

**Norton Wisdom** performed live painting at the 2005 “Organica” program and has collaborated with Daniel Lanois, David Navarro, Beck, Flea, George Clinton, the Doors, Grateful Dead and David Harrington of Kronos Quartet. He has performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, the premieres of the Cirque Du Soleil shows “O” and “Alegria” in Las Vegas, the Coachella Festival and the Womad World Music and Dance Festival in Seattle.

The VJ for the first “Organica” concert at Royce Hall in 2004, **Benton-C Bainbridge** is a Bronx artist who has made video as a painterly and performable medium for 25 years. His work has been shown on five continents in venues and events including SFMoMA (San Francisco), Hayden Planetarium (NYC), Lincoln Center, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Washington, D.C.), Teatro Colón CETC (Buenos Aires), EMPAC (Troy, NY), Sonic Light (Amsterdam), Dallas Video Festival, Madison Square Garden, Whitney Museum at Philip Morris, Museum of Modern Art, Eyebeam (NYC), CELCIT (Managua) and LUX2006 (Sevilla). His visuals may be seen on various RGB LED screens, including a Calder-esque video mobile on the current Beastie Boys world tour.

**Tickets to “Organica” are \$30, \$24 and \$18 and may be purchased online at [www.uclalive.org](http://www.uclalive.org), by phone at 310-825-2101, in person at the UCLA Central Ticket Office at the southwest corner of the James West Alumni Center and at all Ticketmaster outlets. UCLA students may purchase tickets in advance for \$15. Student rush tickets, subject to availability, are offered at the same price to all students with a valid ID one hour prior to showtime.**

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Press images: <http://files.performingarts.ucla.edu/0708images/Organica/>

UCLA Live is an internationally acclaimed producer and presenter of music, dance, theater and spoken word, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to Los Angeles each year.

#### Program

Pre-Concert Improvisation on French folk songs

Apparition de l'Église Éternelle  
Prelude and Fugue in B major

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)  
Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

Christoph Bull, *Organ*

Three French songs:  
Après un rêve  
Chanson d'amour  
Repentir

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)  
Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)  
Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

I-Chin Feinblatt, *Voice*  
Christoph Bull, *Organ*

Litanies  
Taiwanese Suite  
Dieux Parmi Nous

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)  
Chelsea Chen (b. 1983)  
Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

Chelsea Chen, *Organ*

---Intermission---

Cortège et Litanie  
Continuum  
Totentanz (Hommage à Petr Eben, 1929-2007)  
*(World premiere performance)*

Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)  
Iain Quinn (b. 1973)  
Martin Stacey (b. 1975)

Maxine Thévenot, *Organ*

Récit de Tierce en Taille  
Toccata Schlafes Bruder  
Messiaen deconstructed

Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703)  
Norbert Schneider (b. 1950)  
Improvisation

Christoph Bull, *Organ*