

ACADÉMIE ANDRÉ MARCHAL



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The vocation of the Academy André Marchal is to bring life to the organ and its music, and this in memory of André Marchal, who was one of the greatest French organists of the 20th century.

To promote the multiple facets of organ music and particularly to young musicians, the Academy proposes various activities: competitions, concerts, educational courses and visits to instruments.

www.academieandremarchal.org

Who was André Marchal ?



An key figure in the organ world in the post-war years, André Marchal (1894-1980) was not only an audacious organist, but also an incomparable teacher admired by all. Acutely aware of the developments of his time, he played a significant role in the neo-classical movement, restoring to the instrument a luminosity and a transparency lost after the great years of the symphonic organ.

A pupil of Eugène Gigout at the Paris Conservatoire, he was appointed professor of organ at the National Institute for Blind Children (INJA) in Paris and titular-organist of the church of Saint-Germain des Prés. In 1954 he succeeded Joseph Bonnet as titular-organist of the church of Saint-Eustache. He shed a new light on the interpretation of Bach and gave renewed impetus to that of French music of the 17th and 18th centuries.

A foremost exponent of the music of César Franck and a peerless improviser, he undertook concert tours throughout the world (including 19 in the USA) and had many distinguished pupils, among whom: Norbert Dufourcq, Jean Langlais, Antoine Reboulot, Noëlie Pierront, Xavier Dufresse, Georges Robert, Louis Thiry, Jean Wallet, Jean-Pierre Leguay, Susan Landale, Arsène Muzerelle, Jean Laporte, André Pagenel, Anne-Marie Barat.....more than fifteen of whom were awarded First Prizes in organ at the Paris Conservatoire.

Among his innumerable recordings, we may particularly remember :

1. Organ works of J.S. BACH
2. Complete works of César FRANCK (at St. Eustache) Grand Prix du Disque 1959
3. Complete works of François COUPERIN
4. Two re-editions on CD of his first recordings in Paris (1936 and 1948) and a Bach recital on his studio organ in 1956.

The principal achievements of the Académie André Marchal

Founded in 1982, just two years after the death of the “Maître”, the Academy's vocation from the outset was to breathe life into the organ and its music, in memory of the immense musician. Its first step was to organize educational sessions directed by former pupils and disciples.

From 1993 onwards, its efforts were particularly devoted to organizing, every two years, The Biarritz International Organ Competition. This was held 17 times between 1993 and 2017, awarding the Grand Prix André Marchal in interpretation and improvisation. For the laureates these prizes were a springboard for their future, opening the doors to prestigious organ lofts and the beginnings of a concert career. In 2017, a partnership with the Association Gaston Litaize, led to the organization of the first international competition “Grand Prix André Marchal-Gaston Litaize”.

Since 2018, the Academy has moved to the Ile-de-France region and organizes the competition “The Youthful Organ”, for young people; a unique competition in France for the under 13 and under 18 years.

The competition juries have always been made up of eminent organists and musicologists both French and foreign, among whom: Louis Thiry, Felix Aprahamian (music critic in London), Claude Noisette de Crauzat, Marie-Claire Alain, Jacques Casterède, Gilles Cantagrel, Michel Chapuis, Susan Landale, Margaret Mueller (USA), Ralph Tilden (USA), James Higdon (USA), Grethe Grogh (Denmark), Lionel Rogg (Switzerland), Reinhard Seeliger (Germany) and many others.

Coming soon

- A second competition “The Youthful Organ” in the Ile-de-France region in October 2020
- Publication of various documents relating to André Marchal (concert reviews, recordings of interviews, correspondence, ...)
- Transcriptions of improvisations of André Marchal
- Improvisation sessions for young organists
- Visits to organs for students and young organists (in 2019 Radio France and Les Invalides, Paris)

*To enable the Academy André Marchal to accomplish its missions, we call upon your generosity and suggest that you become a member.
Please accept our warmest gratitude.*

Form to fill in and send to the following address:

**Secrétariat Général de l'Académie André Marchal
Chez Isabelle SEBAH
5 rue Robert Dumesnil
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