

2021-2022 Assistant Professor Excellence (APeX) Speaker Series

"Pipe organs: The most complex machines before the Industrial Revolution"

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

12:15 - 1:15 pm

via Microsoft Teams

Mr. Daryl Robinson

Assistant Professor
Moore School of Music
College of the Arts



There are currently two large research projects centered on new and refurbished pipe organs taking place at the University of Houston: one, an entirely new pipe organ to be installed in the Schissler Lobby of the Moore Opera House, and the rebuilding of the 1965 Reuter pipe organ housed in the University Chapel of A. D. Bruce Religion Center. The complex mechanics of a pipe organ, the challenge of enhancing architectural spaces, and the appropriate implementation of unique tonal schemes into a singular instrument will be crucial to finalize these instruments. With origins beginning in ancient Greece, the pipe organ has evolved over the centuries to utilize modern technological advancements. However, the core principle of windblown pipes sitting atop a pressurized box of air has remained from the beginning. Before and after the industrial revolution, pipe organs have represented a unique collaboration between artisans to produce complex musical machines consisting of metal and wooden pipes, intricate winding and key action systems, and opulent cases to house these systems. Situating the current UH organ projects within this history, this lecture explores the many options and the decision-making process for both.

Speaker Biography

Daryl Robinson, Assistant Professor of Music at the Moore School of Music and Cathedral Organist for Christ Church Cathedral, earned both First Prize and Audience Prize in the 2012 American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Performance and has since performed across the United States, Europe, the United Kingdom, China, and South Korea. He was previously on faculty at Westminster Choir College. Multiple critically acclaimed solo and collaborative recordings are available on the Naxos, Gothic, Acis, and ProOrgano record labels, including the first commercial solo recording of the organ at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, CA. www.darylrobinson.com

The Assistant Professor Excellence Lecture Series (APeX) is intended to showcase the breadth and depth of groundbreaking research, scholarship, and creative activity being undertaken by UH early career faculty across disciplines, as well as to offer opportunities for cross-disciplinary networking.



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