

St. Albans International Organ Festival

Meet the Recitalist: Bine Bryndorf



Please tell us a little about your concert programme

The theme for my programme is "France meets Denmark". It is an overall French and French-inspired programme that – I hope – will suit the organ in St Albans cathedral very well. What links the music in the programme together is that Franck taught Vierne for a short period at the end of his life. And that French Romantic music is a clear influence in the work of the Danish composer Niels la Cour.

What first attracted you to the organ as an instrument and how old were you when you started playing?

I started playing the organ at the age of 11, after learning piano from the age of 7. I always wanted to play the organ from when I was very young, probably because we used to listen to recordings of Handel's Organ Concertos at home. But I do not know for sure, only that I wanted to start playing the organ SO much!

Who (or what) has had the greatest influence on you as a player?

Michael Radulescu was my teacher when I studied in Vienna during my youth. He influenced me in many different ways and informed my whole way of playing. Every lesson with him was a small glimpse into heaven!

What would be a typical day in your life?

Some hours of practicing at home, many hours of teaching in the Royal Danish Academy of Music and a little reading on the train commuting to the Academy. The rest belongs to my family (my two children and my husband).

What have been the highlights of your recent schedules?

Playing in the Cathedral in Berlin in October was absolutely fantastic! It is a big Sauer-Organ with 4 manuals and pedal, a huge amount of absolutely adorable 8foot stops plus a fantastic crescendo/diminuendo effect. Before that it must be playing the little one manual meantone Manderscheidt organ in the Cathedral of Fribourg in Switzerland, a real treasure and a most inspiring organ!

Which piece of music most recently made a big impression on you?

I am working on the Danish composer Carl Nielsen's Commotio (composed 1931) this term as part of a bigger research project at the Royal Danish Academy in Copenhagen. That gives me much insight into a period (1920-30) that has not been my focus before. It is most interesting. Besides that I have been learning Vierne's 2nd Organ Symphony and that piece continues to make a big impression on me.

Which book would you recommend all musicians and music lovers to read and why?

Maybe I am allowed to choose two? I would definitely recommend "How Equal Temperament Ruined Harmony" by Russ Duffin because it gives so much insight to the difficult area of tunings and the problem of modern tuning. And at the moment I am reading a very interesting Danish book "Kulturadikalismens musik" by Michael Fjeldsøe about music and music life in the 1920s. But - it only exists in Danish so far!