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Spivey Hall Invites Visitors to Explore Its “King of Instruments”

Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ the Centerpiece of Hall’s “Organ Discovery Day”

MORROW GA (August 6, 2018) -- Clayton State University’s Spivey Hall (spiveyhall.org) invites everyone curious about how a pipe organ works to discover its magnificent [Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ](#) on **Organ Discovery Day, Saturday, September 22**, a free-admission, family-friendly event beginning at 3:00 p.m. and featuring live music, demonstrations, a video, refreshments, and door prizes, plus the chance to go on stage, see the organ’s pipes and console, and have your questions answered by Spivey’s team of organ experts.

“Spivey Hall’s pipe organ combines centuries-old craftsmanship with 21st-century digital technology,” said Sam Dixon, executive and artistic director of Spivey Hall. “It has thousands and thousands of parts that together can create a tremendous variety of sounds. At Organ Discovery Day, you’ll come to understand what all these parts do, and how our amazing Schweitzer Memorial Organ actually works.”

The visual centerpiece of Spivey’s breathtaking design, the 79-rank, 3-manual, 4,413-pipe Schweitzer Memorial Organ was designed, built and installed by the Italian firm of Fratelli Ruffatti; the sonic giant stands 50 feet high and spans 37 feet wide. The organ was not in place when Spivey Hall presented its first concerts in 1991, but was always part of the vision of Spivey Hall founders Walter and Emilie Spivey; in addition to her generous philanthropy, Emilie was an accomplished church organist and friend of famed organist Virgil Fox. Specifically designed as a concert organ (as opposed to a church or theatre organ) and custom built in Padua, it was then disassembled, shipped and reassembled at Spivey between November 1991 and April 1992. Tonal adjustments continued right up until its official dedication in May of 1992.

Conceived to engage audience members of all ages, Organ Discovery Day was first presented two years ago to launch 25th-anniversary celebrations of the Schweitzer Memorial Organ, and returns by popular demand. Organ Discovery Day is once again hosted by Spivey Organist-in-Residence [Alan Morrison](#) along with Spivey’s organ curator, **Tommy McCook** of Widener and Company, and Integrated Organ Technologies, Inc. founder and president **Dr. Dwight Jones**. All three are featured in Spivey Hall Education’s three-part educational video, *The King of Instruments: History, Science and Music of the Pipe Organ*, which will be screened at the event. The multiple-award-winning video was

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launched in 2016 for online distance education use in school classrooms, and provides an informative, engaging and entertaining overview of the organ. Following the screening, all three hosts will participate in an audience Q&A and allow audience members the chance to come on stage to see the organ console and pipes up-close.

Morrison will also treat the audience members to a live performance that demonstrates the amazing sounds the organ makes. The afternoon ends with door prizes and complimentary refreshments in the lobby.

In addition to serving as Spivey's organist-in-residence since 2016, Morrison holds the McGehee Family Organist Residency, made possible with financial support from Spivey Hall Friends **Shelley, Terry and Linda McGehee**. He also holds the Haas Charitable Trust Chair in Organ Studies at Philadelphia's prestigious Curtis Institute of Music, joined the faculty of Westminster Choir College of Rider University in 2006, and serves as College Organist at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania.

The afternoon event introduces audiences to the 28th Season **Organ Series**. Morrison opens the series with a recital on **October 27**, with a program featuring Russian Romantic composer Modest Mussorgsky's colorful *Pictures at an Exhibition* performed with art image projections. Following later in the season is self-titled Boston-based "sonic artist" [Peter Edwin Krasinski \(February 23\)](#), who will deploy his powers of musical imagination and deft dramatic timing to accompany a big-screen presentation of Harold Lloyd's 1928 silent comedy. *SPEEDY* (which includes a cameo appearance by baseball legend Babe Ruth). Morrison returns to the Spivey stage on **March 16** with the principal trumpet of the New York Philharmonic, [Christopher Martin](#). The two are native Atlantans and Martin was previously principal trumpet of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Both [Nathan Laube \(April 7\)](#) and [Ahreum Han \(May 4\)](#) were rising stars when they debuted at Spivey Hall in past years; this season, they each return to Spivey as internationally renowned artists.

For organ fans, Spivey Hall offers a \$100 **Season 28 Organ Pass**, providing deeply discounted admission to all five Season 28 organ performances. Organ Passes are transferable, enabling the pass to be used by someone else if the purchaser's plans change, and are available only until October 27.

For more details about the [Season 28 Organ Pass](#), call the Spivey Hall Box Office at (678) 466-4200, ext.1, open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., for friendly, personal service, with no added fees for purchasing online at www.spiveyhall.org; convenience fees apply. Discounted tickets for students and Georgia educators with ID are available only through the Spivey Hall Box Office.

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About Spivey Hall

Soon to open its 28th season, Spivey Hall is the South's most acoustically superior recital hall, presenting the best in classical, jazz and world music. Located on the picturesque campus of Clayton

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State University in Morrow, Georgia, just fifteen miles southeast of Atlanta, the Hall wins accolades from artists, patrons and journalists alike. An intimate venue with just 390 seats, Spivey Hall promotes for the concert-goer a personal connection with the artist both during and after the performance. Spivey's extraordinary acoustics and reputation for distinguished programming attract outstanding international musicians who regularly perform at the nation's major concert venues such as Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall. Spivey Hall also presents regular performances on its magnificent 4,413-pipe Albert Schweitzer Memorial Organ, custom-built in Italy by Fratelli Ruffatti.

Clayton State University's Spivey Hall gratefully acknowledges support received for the 2018-2019 concert season from the Walter and Emilie Spivey Foundation, the Chaparral Foundation, and the Spivey Hall Friends, as well as from media partners [WABE 90.1 FM](#) and [Jazz 91.9 WCLK](#).

For more information, visit clayton.edu/spiveyhall, and follow Spivey Hall on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Clayton State University

A unit of the University System of Georgia, Clayton State University is an outstanding comprehensive metropolitan university located 15 miles southeast of downtown Atlanta. For more information, visit clayton.edu.

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