



GOTHAM GIGS

Music to her ears

CONCERT ORGANIST **GAIL ARCHER**, 57, has worked long and hard to master her technique, with gratifying results. "You can feel the passion in the room when you play," she says.

GROWING PAINS At 13, when her legs were long enough to reach the pedals, Ms. Archer took up the organ. A year later, she scored her first church gig. After connecting with a local organist and professor at Montclair State University and earning degrees in music, Ms. Archer saw her career take off.

PLAYING HARD In addition to traveling the world, Ms. Archer is director of Barnard College's music program, a teacher at the Manhattan School of Music and the organist for Vassar College.

BOOKING AHEAD Ms. Archer plans to continue teaching students and featuring organ music from different eras in her performances. Over the next few years, she will celebrate composers' birthdays with concerts in their honor.

—MAIA BLUME