

Organist Gail Archer to perform at the Central Synagogue Wednesday

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World-renowned organist Gail Archer will perform at the Central Synagogue Wednesday at 7:30. This stop is part of her tour celebrating the 325th Birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. Ms. Archer will perform Bach's incomplete masterpiece, *The Art of Fugue*. She took a few minutes to answer questions for NY Culture Examiner about response from audiences, and the perfect organ.

You have traveled a great deal with this latest release. How has the response been from the audiences- does it vary depending on the country or city?

The audiences have been very enthusiastic across the country. Just last weekend, I played on a fine German tracker organ in Fort Wayne, Indiana built by the von Beckerath firm of Hamburg, Germany. Literally, a perfect instrument for the organ music of Bach.

Do you have a personal favorite location? Is there a specific organ that truly feels and sounds like perfection?

The greatest organ for German Baroque literature is the Arp Schnitger organ at St. Jacobi Kirche, Hamburg, Germany. In the United States, I particularly enjoy playing the organ at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco and Central Synagogue, in New York City--grand instruments in grand spaces.

After the forthcoming New York appearance, where is the next destination?

I work with the Tennessee Players and Albert Schweitzer Fellowship in their production, *Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach*, down in Nashville, Tennessee and then this summer I will be in Europe for some festivals in Zurich, Turin, Paris and Hamburg.

Do you plan to record in the immediate future?

Yes. Next year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt, known, of course, as a great pianist, but he composed marvelous organ music as well. My spring season in 2011 will focus on Liszt and other Eastern European composers.

Organist Gail Archer Celebrates Bach's 325th Birthday, *The Art of Fugue*, Wednesday, May 12th, 7:30 PM, Central Synagogue, 123 East 55th Street, New York, NY, No Cover-first come, first served. For more information, contact Central Synagogue 212.838.5122 or www.gailarcher.com.