

# VINCENT WARNIER, CONCERT ORGANIST

## Organiste Titulaire, Church of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont, Paris, France

Vincent Warnier was born in the east of France in the city of Hayange en Moselle on October 14, 1967. He first studied music in Thionville and, at the age of fifteen, he met the legendary organist, Michel Chapuis, who immediately recognized his extraordinary talents. Encouraged by Chapuis, Vincent Warnier brilliantly passed his “baccalauréat scientifique” with the distinction of “Très Bien” in June of 1985. He then attended the Conservatoire National de Région de Strasbourg where he studied organ and improvisation with André Stricker and Daniel Roth. He received a unanimous “Premier Prix” and then entered the prestigious Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. There, he studied organ, writing, analysis and chamber music and graduated in 1991 with “Premier Prix” in each discipline. His teachers in organ at the Paris Conservatory were Michael Chapuis and Olivier Latry, organist of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. He continued his organ studies with the internationally renowned concert organist, Marie-Claire Alain, at the Conservatoire National de Région de Rueil-Malmaison where he was awarded the “Premier Prix de Virtuosité.” In 1992, Vincent Warnier won the “Premier Grand Prix d’Interprétation” in the most prestigious organ competition in all of Europe, the Chartres International Organ Competition.

His triumph at the Chartres competition launched his career and he performed concerts around the world. Critics from around the world have praised his impeccable technique and his expressive and musical interpretations in a vast amount of diverse repertoire. Vincent Warnier performs regularly in the most important festivals in France as well as in the great musical capitals of the world including Vienne, Berlin, London, Amsterdam, Montréal, Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Madrid, Barcelona, Luxembourg, Stockholm, Zürich, Luzern, München, Leipzig, Frankfurt, Jerusalem, Rome, Florence, Cambridge, etc. He is also in demand as a soloist with orchestra and he has an impressive amount of concertos including works by Saint-Saëns, Guilmant, Poulenc, Widor, Dupré, Jongen, Barber, Copland, etc. Vincent Warnier has performed under many internationally acclaimed conductors including James Conlon, Emmanuel Krivine, Leonard Slatkin, Christoph Eschenbach, Mikko Franck and Evgueny Svetlanov with several major symphony orchestras including L’Orchestre de Paris, L’Orchestre National de France, l’Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, and l’Orchestre de la Radio Suédoise. He was invited to play the dedication concerts on the two new organs in the Maison de Radio France and the new Philharmonie, both in Paris. He performed both in solo concert and as soloist with orchestra. He also regularly performs chamber music with musicians such as the pianists Alexandre Tharaud and Christian Ivaldi, the ‘cellist Henri Demarquette and the trumpet soloist David Guerrier. He served for many years as organist-in-residence at the Auditorium Maurice Ravel in Lyon, France.

In 1996, Vincent Warnier was named “organiste titulaire” of the Church of Saint-Étienne-du-Mont in Paris. This is one of the most important organ posts in France and he succeeded Maurice and Marie-Madeleine Duruflé, two of France’s most internationally admired and respected musicians. In 1997, he was named “organiste titulaire” of the Cathedral of Verdun, an historic place made famous during World War I; the extraordinary organ was both designed and dedicated by the great virtuoso organist-composer, Marcel Dupré.

Vincent Warnier has recorded extensively and has twenty-three CDs to his credit, each having received enthusiastic reviews from around the world. His recordings of French organ works at Saint-Étienne-du-Mont and the complete works of Maurice Duruflé (his predecessor at Saint-Étienne-du-Mont) were both awarded the *Diapason d’Or* (the highest distinction given by French music specialists). His highly acclaimed recordings of Bach’s organ music include the Orgelbüchlein, the Canonic Variations, the Leipzig Chorale Preludes, Toccatas and Fugues, the Passacaglia in C Minor and numerous Preludes and Fugues. He has commissioned many contemporary organ works and has given first performances of works by Thierry Escaich, Eric Tanguy, Jacques Lenot, and Marcel Landowsky.

Vincent Warnier is a respected ambassador as an interpreter of French organ music and is one of France's leading improvisers, a tradition and style he faithfully guards from the traditions of Pierre Cochereau and Marcel Dupré. Active as a teacher, Vincent Warnier gives master classes regularly around the world. He has had numerous students attend his classes at international festival in Germany, Canada and France including the Altenburg Academy and the Royaumont Festival, where he taught with his former organ professor, Daniel Roth. While a young student at Rueil-Malmaison, he served as the teaching assistant of Marie-Claire Alain.

In addition to his duties as organist at Saint-Étienne-du-Mont and his active concert career, Vincent Warnier also studied musicology at the Sorbonne University in Paris. In 1990, he became one of the youngest recipients of the "Agrégation," the most highly coveted competitive examination in the French education system. He went on to teach musical analysis and writing at the University of Poitiers, France, where he also prepared students for the competitions organized by the French Ministry of National Education. He has also served as president off of several international symposia including Stockholm, Sweden (Romanticism and the organ) and Saint-Germain-en-Laye (the centennial celebration of the life and music of the organist-composer, Jehan Alain). He has published numerous articles and will have a book published by Bucher-Chastel Edition in 2018: *The Great Organists of the Twentieth Century*. The Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris regularly asks him to tutor their students in the Master of Music program. Since 2012, he teaches music classes as the exclusive Lycée Racine.

Vincent Warnier has served on numerous conservatory, national and international organ competition juries including the Grand Prix de Chartres and the International Organ Competition "Johann Pachelbel" in Nuremberg, Germany.

Vincent Warnier is regularly heard on the musical broadcasts of Radio France in Paris. His expertise as a teacher and scholar brings a high level to their broadcasts. He regularly appears on the program "Matin des Musiciens," "Musique Sacrée" and on programs with a panel of recording critics. He produced an educational television series in collaboration with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France.

In 2018, Vincent Warnier will be making a recording devoted to the organ music of J. S. Bach and a recording of works for two organs with Daniel Roth, organist at the Church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris. In March 2018, he will perform Olivier Messiaen's monumental *Livre d'Orgue* (1951-1952) in an "Homage to Messiaen" concert at the Philharmonie in Paris.