



## BÁLINT KAROSI

### Concert Organist

Commended as “a most impressive musical interpreter,” (Dr. Christoph Wolff, *Boston Musical Intelligencer*) and for his virtuosity, “[He] inspired awe with the work’s marvelous scalar passages and fiery finish...” (*The Diapason*), Bálint Karosi earned a reputation for his expressive command of a wide range of repertoire that is guided by historical performance practice and a remarkably multi-faceted musicianship enriched by his experiences as a composer, conductor, church musician, and clarinetist.

Since winning the International Bach Competition in Leipzig in 2008, Dr. Karosi has been recognized as one of the leading interpreters of the music of J. S. Bach worldwide. In 2020, he embarked on recording the complete organ works of J. S. Bach in fourteen recitals on different organs in the US and Europe. The series, designed by Christoph Wolff for Izumi Hall, Japan, is published on Balint’s YouTube channel, and will be released in a CD set. He is one of few organists in North America to improvise regularly in recitals in authentic Baroque Style, which is informed by his research in Baroque improvisation techniques of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. He has five recorded albums that have been received with critical acclaim: “[Balint Karosi] plays with self-understood naturalness, without trying to emphasize a sacred pathos.” (*Gramafon*, Hungary, 2015).

Dr. Karosi has had an active career as a solo organ recitalist. In the summer of 2021, his engagements included concerts in Denmark, Hungary and Finland. He has given solo organ concerts in concert halls in Budapest, Leipzig, Osaka, Yokohama in Geneva, and on some of the world’s most significant historic organs in Lübeck, Leipzig, Norden, Leer, Paris, Freiberg, Merseburg, and Naumburg, among others. He has given masterclasses in improvisation at Eastman School of Music, Yale, Oberlin, the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Seoul, South Korea, and the Cuneo Conservatory in Italy.

His six volumes of organ music, published by Wayne Leupold Editions, include his *Organ Book No. 1* (2017), conceived for historic organs, and works in a more symphonic idiom, often drawing inspiration from Hungarian music as in his *Symphony on a Chorale by Béla Bartók* (2012). His *Toccata in memory of Béla Bartók* (2007) was the compulsory piece for the finals of the 2021 National Young Artist Competition in Organ Playing at the AGO National Convention in Atlanta.

As an active composer, he has received commissions from the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Hungarian State Opera House, and Spectrum Symphony of New York. His one act opera, *Lonely Hearts*, won the Most Dramatic Opera award and audience vote at the 2020 Contemporary Opera Showcase at the Hungarian State Opera. *Existencia*, his critically acclaimed album featuring original compositions for orchestra was released in 2019 on the *Hungaroton* label. Of his Triple Concerto for Guitar, Cimbalom and Harp, *Records International* wrote in 2019: “the soloists, joined by others within the ensemble, emerge to play beautiful, exotically tinged melodies, like tellers of ancient tales.”

Dr. Karosi is the recipient a number of first prizes in organ competitions, including the J. S. Bach competition in Leipzig, the International Organ Competition in Miami, and the Dublin International Organ competition that he won at age 22. He holds degrees from Yale University, the Oberlin Conservatory, the Liszt Academy and the Conservatoire de Genève. He currently serves as Music Director at Saint Peter’s Church in New York City.

**[www.karosi.org](http://www.karosi.org)**

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