

A Concert Celebrating the Legacy of Robert Clark

Mark Overton, Michael Mazzatenta, Curt Sather, organists

Organ Hall | Sunday, October 21st, 2018 | 2:30 p.m.

Toccata in F Major, BuxWV 156

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

An Wasserflussen Babylon, BWV 653

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude and Fugue on "O Traurigkeit, O Herzeleid," WoO7

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Mark Overton, Organist

Excerpts from Gospel Preludes

William Bolcom (b. 1938)

Blessed Assurance

Sweet Hour of Prayer

Shall We Gather at the River

Just As I Am

Michael Mazzatenta, Organist

"Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein," BWV 641

J. S. Bach

Prelude in E Minor, BWV 548i

Andante from Sonata 4, BWV 528

Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548ii (Wedge)

Curt Sather, Organist

**This concert is generously co-sponsored by the
Central Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**

ASU Herberger Institute
FOR DESIGN AND THE ARTS
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

School of Music

Robert Clark (1931 – 2017)



Robert Clark was Professor of Organ at ASU from 1981 to 1998 and widely known as a recitalist and teacher. He studied organ at Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri. He completed his graduate studies in New York City at Union Theological Seminary's School of Sacred Music. In his early career Clark held positions at Baker University (Baldwin City, Kansas), Christ United Presbyterian Church (Canton, Ohio), and Cornell College (Mount Vernon, Iowa). From 1964-1981, he was Professor of Organ at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He spent the final 17 years of his teaching career at Arizona State University, where he played a decisive role in expanding the organ program at ASU's School of Music. He taught many outstanding students throughout his career, including winners of the Fort Wayne, Flint, St Alban's and American Guild of Organists competitions. A crowning achievement was the dedication of the Fritts & Co. organ in 1992 at the School of Music's Organ Hall, which was specifically designed to house the historically-inspired instrument. He recorded two CDs on the Fritts organ and five others over the course of his career, among them "Bach at Naumburg," a recording on the fully restored 1743 Hildebrandt organ at the Wenzelskirche in Naumburg, Germany. This was the first recording made by an American organist on the instrument after its historic restoration. He, along with former student John David Peterson, edited the Concordia edition of the Bach Orgelbüchlein.

The Performers

A Michigan native and resident of Minnesota for many years, **Mark Overman** received a BM from Oberlin Conservatory of Music as a student of Garth Peacock and earned MM and DMA degrees at the University of Michigan studying with Robert Clark. While working for the business world, he kept in contact with organ through practice and subbing at assorted churches, most notably the instruments at House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, MN, which houses Charles Fisk's landmark opus 78. Dr. Overman assisted with the technical preparation of the text authored by Robert Clark and John Peterson for their edition of Bach's Orgelbüchlein. He accompanied other former students to assist Bob on his recording of the historic Hildebrandt instrument in Naumburg Germany, which afforded the opportunity to hear and play other historic organs in the area.

Michael Mazzatenta and **Joan Zimmerman** are husband-and-wife organists who originally met as organ students of Robert Clark at ASU. Mazzatenta's doctoral dissertation topic was on the Gospel Preludes for organ by William Bolcom. The connection to Bolcom traces back to the University of Michigan, where both Bolcom and Clark taught. Dr. Mazzatenta obtained his previous degrees at the U of M, subsequent to Clark's leaving for teaching at ASU. But he ultimately followed in Clark's footsteps to ASU to complete his doctoral degree.

Michael and Joan currently reside in Corpus Christi TX where Michael teaches at Texas A & M University and is organist at First United Methodist Church. Joan is a realtor working in real estate investments and sales in the states of Texas and Arizona.

Curt Sather received a BM in Organ Performance from ASU studying with Robert Clark. MM and DMA degrees were earned from the Eastman School of Music studying with Russell Saunders. After a 13-year tenure as Organist & Choirmaster at St. Barnabas on the Desert Episcopal Church, Scottsdale, AZ, he joined the historic Benedictine monastery of San Miniato al Monte, Florence, Italy, where he served as organist for the community, as well as for the Duomo (Cathedral) and St. Mark's Anglican Church. Upon returning to the USA, Dr. Sather served as organist in churches in Phoenix, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, and, most recently, Olympia, WA. In addition to church work, he has had a regular schedule of teaching, performing, organ building (with Manuel Rosales of Los Angeles), and serving on boards of AGO chapters. This summer he released a new CD, recorded on the pipe organ at St. Martin's Benedictine Abbey Church, Lacey, WA. He currently resides in New York, and studying Arabic fills any free time.