

Aram Basmadjian

Biography

ARAM BASMADJIAN is one of the most accomplished organ virtuosos in America. Throughout the United States, his performances as an organ recitalist have won acclaim from audiences and critics alike. With an expansive repertoire not limited to traditional organ works, Aram Basmadjian's diverse programs provide a musically rewarding experience as he conquers the "King of Instruments".

Aram began his piano studies in West Chester, Pennsylvania at seven years of age with Marguerite Pond, making his first solo appearance just six months later. He was a scholarship student at the Wilmington Music School in Wilmington, Delaware. There he studied piano with Benjamin Whitten and began his organ studies under the direction of Ray Urwin. In 1983, he made his debut with the world acclaimed Philadelphia Orchestra. Aram continued his study of the piano with Findlay Cockrell at the State University of New York.

After relocating to Salt Lake City, he studied organ with M. Lee Sutor at the University of Utah. In 1986, Aram made his organ debut performing a full length recital at Temple Square in Salt Lake City. Shortly thereafter, Aram was awarded a scholarship to Utah State University to study organ under James Drake. Having a strong desire to broaden his approach to the organ, Aram began coaching repertoire with Virgil Fox's protégé, Ted Alan Worth, who encouraged him to pursue a concert career.

Mr. Basmadjian recorded his first compact disc on the four-manual Allen Organ at the First Baptist Church of Pomona, California in 1990. Selections from this recording have been featured many times on *PipeDreams*, a production of Minnesota Public Radio. In 1995, the Allen Organ Company released a recording featuring Mr. Basmadjian on his four-manual Allen Touring Organ. In December 2006, Aram completed extensive recording sessions on the five-manual 80-rank Wurlitzer theatre organ installed at the Sanfilippo residence in Barrington, Illinois, the first classical recording on the world's largest Wurlitzer pipe organ.

Aram toured for many years with Community Concerts commanding a rigorous concert schedule with performances in over 50 cities throughout the United States every year. In order to facilitate performances in venues that didn't have a suitable concert organ already installed, Aram toured with a large four-manual organ built for him by the Allen Organ Company. Aram transported the organ console, electronics rack and over twenty-five speaker cabinets in a full-length tractor-trailer which he drove himself.

Aram also was a captain for SkyWest Airlines flying the Canadair Regional Jet while based at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. He and his family now reside in Macungie, Pennsylvania where he is the Vice-President of Sales at Allen Organ Company. He also manages the aviation department at Lehigh Carbon Community College and is the artist-in-residence at Trinity Episcopal Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.