

JEAN LANGLAIS
1907-1991

Fête

The organ music of Langlais is punctuated equally by tension-filled dissonance and satisfying cadences. Langlais wrote *Fête* (“festival”) in commemoration of the Liberation of Paris and to celebrate his own appointment as primary organist at the Church of Sainte-Clotilde, Paris. The piece may sound somewhat sinister, but the constantly changing rhythm is its celebratory namesake. One might imagine hearing the chatter of a busy Parisian outdoor festival.

Hommage à Frescobaldi
I. Prélude au Kyrie

For whatever reason, the medieval chant melodies from the *Missa cunctipotens genitor* have established themselves as the most often-quoted in organ settings of the Mass. Frescobaldi used those melodies as the basis for part of his *Fiori Musicali* of 1635. In the Prelude to the *Hommage à Frescobaldi*, Langlais places the ancient Kyrie on a quiet flute stop in the pedal, with his own lush harmonies above. The result is a setting of uncommon beauty in this musical combination of old and modern.