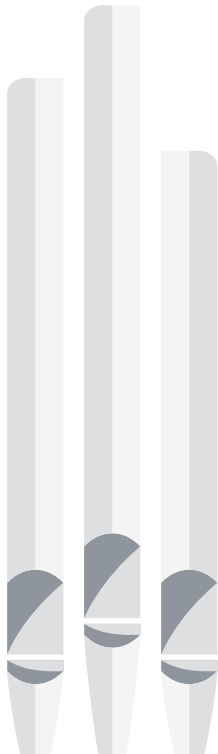


1. **Mrs. Bénédicte Vigner**, French Cultural Attaché
2. **Fr. Pierre Najem**, President of Notre-Dame University (NDU) - Louaize
3. **Br. Riccardo Ceriani**, co-director of SOL Festival and Superintendent of Terra Sancta Organ Festival
4. **Mr. Bassam Saba**, Director of Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music
5. **Fr. Khalil Rahmeh**, Founder and Director of SOL Festival and NDU School of Music



Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) and Terra Sancta International Organ Festival (Custody of Holy Land) have the pleasure to present the fourth edition of the SOL Festival (Semaine de l'Orgue au Liban - Lebanese Pipe Organ Week) from February 2 till 10, 2019; featuring a selection of world top organists from Paris, Gdańsk, Berlin, Rome, Barcelona, Budapest, and Vienna.

The Lebanese Pipe Organ Week is the sole Lebanese festival to highlight this monumental instrument, played by renowned international organists. The festival takes place in different churches and venues, giving the audience the opportunity to explore all these different textures during a one-week course. Free admission to all concerts.

The opening concert of the Festival will feature the French organist Frédéric Blanc (February 2, Collège Sacré Coeur – Gemmayzeh, in the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the institution), former titular of the great Cavallé-Coll organ of Notre-Dame d'Auteuil church, improvising on the soundtrack of a 60-minutes version of Interstellar movie of Christopher Nolan. Polish organist Roman Perucki (February 3, Assembly Hall - AUB), principal organist of the cathedral of Gdańsk Oliwa, along with the soprano Mihaela Mingheras, and countertenor Matteo El Khodr, will present a unique selection of the baroque repertoire. Another concert will feature Roman Perucki (February 4, Saint Francis monastery - Tripoli, El Mina), with Farid Rahmeh on the recorder. An exquisite Jazz/Rock concert will feature the versatile German organist Matthias Bublath (February 5, O-Club - Antelias), with saxophonist Tom Hornig, guitarist Raffi Mandalian, and drummer Christopher Michael. The Italian Ferruccio Bartoletti (February 6, Saint Anthony monastery - Harissa), artistic director of "César Frank Music Association", will play an exclusive program of the Italian repertoire. Spanish Juan Paradell Solé (February 7, Notre-Dame de la Médaille Miraculeuse basilica - Achrafieh) organist of the prestigious Sistine Chapel Choir, along with the violinist Mario Rahi, will offer a bouquet of the romantic epoch's repertoire. The festival's grand concert (February 8, Notre-Dame de Louaizé monastery – Zouk Mosbeh), in collaboration with the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Lubnan Baalbaki, with the Notre Dame University Choir, soprano Marie-Josée Matar and Baritone Fernando Afara, will feature Hungarian organist Zita Nauratyill, performing Hakim's organ concerto N. 4 and Fauré's Requiem. The closing concert of the festival (February 10, National Evangelical Church – Downtown Beirut) will be with the winner of the first prize as well as the Messiaen-prize of the Bach-Lizst competition, the Austrian organist Ulrich Walther.

SOL Festival plays an essential role in the organ instrument renaissance in Lebanon. It is an important incentive for organs restoration, as well as new organs installation. During this year, we have witnessed a new pipe organ installed at O-Club – Antelias, on which the festival has dedicated a special performance during this season's schedule.

February 9 concert will feature the outstanding students of the organ class at Notre Dame University School of Music. This exclusive course is offered for the fifth consecutive year thanks to the generous support of the Italian Cultural Institute and the Custody of the Holy Land. The offered organ curriculum, under the supervision of prof. Cosimo Prontera (organ teacher at the conservatory of music in Potenza) meets the standards of the European conservatories and music institutions, and attracts students from Lebanon and neighboring countries.

The Lebanese Pipe Organ Week is a co-production of Notre Dame University and Terra Sancta International Organ Festival. The festival is made possible thanks to the availability of different venues, the patronage of Ministry of Culture and the Custody of Holy Land, the collaboration with the Lebanese National Higher Conservatory of Music, the support of the Institut Français du Liban, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Embassy of Spain in Beirut, Marc-Henri Mainguy foundation, BEMO Bank, Commercial Insurance, Saint Charbel Phoenicia foundation, along with Giovanni Tamburini organ builders and Meouchy & Zakaria Printing Press.

PRESS RELEASE



Interstellar

Saturday,
February 2, 2019
8:00 p.m.

Collège Sacré-Cœur
Gemmayzé, Beirut

Frédéric Blanc, organ

Sunday,
February 3, 2019
8:00 p.m.

Assembly Hall
Hamra, Beirut

Roman Perucki, organ
Mihaela Mingheras, soprano
Matteo El Khodr, counter tenor

Monday,
February 4, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Saint Francis Monastery
Tripoli, El Mina

Roman Perucki, organ
Farid Rahmeh, recorder

Tuesday,
February 5, 2019
8:00 p.m.

O-Club
Antelias

Matthias Bublath, organ
Tom Hornig, saxophone
Raffi Mandalian, guitar
Christopher Michael, drums

Wednesday,
February 6, 2019
8:00 p.m.

Saint Anthony Monastery
Harissa

Ferruccio Bartoletti, organ

Thursday,
February 7, 2019
8:00 p.m.

**Notre-Dame de la Médaille
Miraculeuse Basilica**
Achrafieh

Juan Paradell Solé, organ
Mario Rahi, violin

Friday,
February 8, 2019
8:30 p.m.

**Notre-Dame de Louaizé
Monastery - Zouk Mosbeh**

Zita Nauratyill, organ
Marie-Josée Matar, soprano
Fernando Afara, baritone
Notre Dame University Choir
Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra
Lubnan Baalbaki, conductor

Saturday,
February 9, 2019
8:00 p.m.

Saint Elias Church
Antelias

Students of the organ class,
at NDU School of Music,
class of Cosimo Prontera

Sunday,
February 10, 2019
8:00 p.m.

National Evangelical Church
Downtown Beirut

Ulrich Walther, organ

Originally from southwest France, **Frédéric Blanc** discovered music at very young age, and began improvising on piano and pipe organ.

After his studies at the Conservatories of Toulouse and Bordeaux, he continued perfecting his art, becoming a devoted disciple of notable French organists André Fleury, Marie-Claire Alain, and Marie-Madeleine Duruflé.

Winner of several international competitions (the Grand Prix de Chartres, 2nd prize, 1996; and the Grand Prize of the Paris International Organ Competition, 1997), he now has a career as an international concert artist, performing recitals as a solo artist or with orchestra. Blanc also participates in and leads radio broadcasts, conferences, and master classes throughout Europe and the United States (most recently at the Royal Academy of Music, London) on the subjects of French music and the art of improvisation. Among the American institutions where he has given master classes are Valparaiso University (Indiana), Stanford University (California), Hope College (Holland, Michigan), Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois), Southern Methodist University (Dallas), and the Curtis Institute of Music (Philadelphia).

He is regularly invited as a guest performer by a number of international organ festivals: Bonn, Chartres, Roquevaire, Toulouse-les-Orgues, Rome, Monaco.

Frédéric Blanc is a member of the Organ Commission for the City of Paris, and a member of the Commission for non-protected organs [not historically classified by the French State] for the Director of Music for the French Ministry of Culture.

He has recorded for Motette, EMI, Aeolus, and Baroque Notes, specializing in the French organ school as well as the French art of improvisation, and has received critical acclaim by music critics in many countries.

He is the author of a study of the life and works of André Fleury (L'Orgue-cahiers et mémoires), and a monumental work dedicated to the memoirs and writings of Maurice Duruflé (Editions Séguier, Paris), as well as reconstructions of a number of the improvisations of Pierre Cochereau (Editions Butz).

He has served as titular organist of the great Cavallé-Coll organ of the Church of Notre-Dame d'Auteuil, Paris.



Roman Perucki graduated in 1985 from the Music Academy in Gdańsk in the organ class of Leon Bator. He is currently the organ teacher at the same academy, as well as other music institutions.

He is the principal organist at the cathedral of Gdańsk Oliwa, and the president's counsellor of Gdańsk City for organ music. He is managing director at the Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra, president of "Musica Sacra" Society, and president of the Society of Friends of the Cathedral of Gdańsk Oliwa. He also contributed to building new organs in Gdańsk and its neighborhood.

Perucki is the manager of the International Organ Music Festival in the Cathedral of Oliwa, the International J.P. Sweelinck Competition in Gdańsk, as well as other international organ-music events. He is a member of the jury of International Organ Competitions in Kaltern (Italy), Opava (Czech Republic), Kaliningrad (Russia), Paris (France), and Poland.

So far, Perucki has performed over 2000 concerts around the world: solo recitals, chamber orchestras, symphony orchestras, as well as duets with his wife Maria Perucka (violinist). He performed in almost all European countries, Russia, Japan, Canada, USA and Australia. He also leads several master-classes in Poland, Portugal, Mexico, Russia and France.

He has recorded for many international labels, as well as for Polish TV and Radio. He was awarded the Culture Prize from Ministry of Culture, in addition to many awards from the authorities of the Gdańsk, as well as the highest Vatican's distinction "Pro ecclesiae et pontifice".

Matthias Bublath is a pianist, organist and composer/arranger.

He has performed around the world at festivals and events such as the Montreux Jazz Festival (Switzerland), Kora Awards Johannesburg (South Africa) and The Kennedy Center Of The Performing Arts (Washington DC) to name a few. He has toured extensively in the US, Europe and Japan playing piano, organ and keys with his own group and a lot of different bands.

Being a versatile keyboardist he is also in full command of the Hammond B3 organ and performs regularly with his organ trio and a bassless funk quartet.

He has performed with Lenny Picket, Mike Clark Lionel Loueke, Bobby Sanabria, Frank Lacy, Candido Camero, Reuben Wilson and others.

Besides his Jazz, R&B, Gospel and Funk influences Matthias is also a specialist for brazilian and afro-cuban piano styles and always searching for new ways to play.

He has released eight CD's as a leader so far.

Quoted by dailies and magazines, he is esteemed by national and foreign musical personalities.

Born in La Spezia in 1962, **Ferruccio Bartoletti** began his music studies with Mario Fiorentini and Martha Del Vecchio, obtaining his diploma with distinction in Organ and Organ Composition under the guidance of Giancarlo Parodi at the "Cesare Pollini" Conservatory of Padua, and perfecting his skills in Denmark with Knud Vad, and in France with René Saorgin.

He is an internationally famous concert player who has given over 800 recitals. Besides Italy, Bartoletti regularly performs in the most important cathedrals, churches and concert rooms all over Europe. He performed with orchestra in the Philharmonie im Gasteig (Munich) and Neuen Gewandhaus (Leipzig), where he recorded the third symphony of Saint-Saëns, conducted by Fabio Luisi. He recorded for Bottega Discantica and Bongiovanni, music by Bach, Buxtedhude, as well as improvised performances.

Alongside his normal concert performances as an organist, he has dedicated himself to the reconstruction of soundtracks for 1920s cinema films by Italian and foreign filmmakers, re-proposing the traditional early 20th-century figure of the improvising accompanist. Again as an improviser, for over 10 years, Bartoletti was a member of the "Ensemble Katharsis", with whom he won the selections for the prestigious American Grammy Awards, thanks to the record "Vesprae".

From 1994 to 2003, he was the Artistic Director of the Festival internazionale d'organo of Marina di Carrara. Since 1991, he has been the artistic director of the "César Franck" Musical Association.

He is a consultant for the restoration of the antique organs present in Liguria and northern Tuscany. Currently he is the artistic director of the project "Il suono del tempo-antichi organi", the Festival Internazionale di Musica 5terre, and the Festival Organistico Apuano.

He taught organ and Gregorian chant at the Conservatories of Como, Latina, and La Spezia. Since 2003 he has been the teacher of Organ and Harmony at the Scuola Diocesana di Musica Sacra of Massa Carrara-Pontremoli. For three consecutive years (2001-2003) he held a master class on Baroque Organ Literature at Altenfelden (Austria). From 2001 to 2003 he held a course in organ literature and improvisation at the Accademia Europea d'Organo of Castel Coldrano (Bozen). In 2015 he began the entertaining project "BMV", concert/lessons on the organ works of J.S. Bach, at the church of Sacro Cuore, La Spezia. In 2016 he was appointed resident organist of the Cathedral of Massa by the Bishop of the Massa Carrara/Pontremoli diocese.

Juan Paradell Solé, is the main Organist of the "Sistine" Musical Pontifical Chapel Choir and as such performs regularly at the Liturgical Celebrations conducted by Pope at Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. He also plays at the concert events of the "Sistine" Pontifical Musical Chapel, and is the distinguished lifetime first Organist of Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore of Rome as well.

Paradell Solé is Professor of Organ and Gregorian chant at the "L. Refice" Music Conservatory in Frosinone. He is Honorary President of the Association "Settembre Organistico Fabrianese," and Honorary President of the Association "Les Amis de l'Orgue Merklin d'Obernai" (Alsace).

Born in Igualada (Barcelona), Spain, he started his musical studies with the Gregorianist P. Albert Foix. He studied organ with Professor Montserrat Torrent at the Barcelona Music Conservatory. In 1973 he moved to Rome to follow Organ studies and composition with Professor Monsignor V. Miserachs. Following his graduation in Rome he spent three years of specialization in Germany with Professor G. Kaunzinger.

He has an intense concert schedule throughout Europe, Russia, USA, South America and Syria, participating in important international Organ Festivals. He has recorded for the Italian National Radio and TV, the Vatican radio, the German radio of Berlin, Bayerischer Rundfunk, Radio S. Paulo of Brazil and Catalunya Music. He has also performed on Italian and Spanish TV programs. Along with the "Polifonisti Romani" choir he made two CDs of L. Perosi and V. Miserachs music. He also recorded a duet organ CD under the French label Pamina, other recording for Elle DiCi and several CDs/DVDs with the "Sistine" Musical Pontifical Chapel Choir.



Born in Hungary, **Zita Nauratyill**'s earliest classes in piano and organ were at the Béla Bartók Secondary School of Music and then at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. Her teachers there included Gábor Eckhardt, Imre Hargitai, Zsuzsa Elekes, János Pálúr and László Fassang.

Since 2013 she has been studying organ at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna with Prof. Martin Haselböck, while also studying the piano with Prof. Otto Probst at the Musik und Kunst private University in Vienna. In June 2017 she played the second exam of the diploma curriculum in organ with distinction. In January 2018 she completed her bachelor exam on the piano, also with distinction.

Zita has taken part in numerous masterclasses with internationally acclaimed organists and pianists such as Christoph Bossert, Jean-Claude Zehnder, Kimberly Marshall, Zsigmond Szathmáry, Michael Radulescu, Michel Bouvard, Balázs Szokolay, Tamás Ungár, Rita Wagner, Christopher Hinterhuber und Jan Jiracek von Arnim.

As a solo recitalist on the piano and the organ, but also in chamber music formations or with orchestra she has played in prestigious concert venues in Hungary and abroad such as the Palace of arts in Budapest, the Budapest Music Center, in Germany, Poland, Malta, and the United Kingdom.

Zita's most notable and latest concerts were in the Schottenkirche in Vienna, in the Radiokulturhaus, this concert was also recorded and later transmitted by the channel Ö1, the culture and education channel of the ORF. in the St. Michael's Church in Hamburg, Germany, in Roermond, Netherlands, and in Arezzo, Italy.

A competitor in several recent international organ competitions, she was a finalist in the St Albans Organ Competition in 2015, where she was awarded the Paul Patterson Prize for the best performance of the commissioned work "Volcano" by Paul Patterson as well as the Audience Prize. In 2017, she won a first prize and five special prizes at the X. Mikael Tariverdiev International Organ Competition in Kaliningrad (Russia).

In 2016, Zita was awarded the prestigious Tokyo Foundation Scholarship.

In 2017 she was involved in a CD production of the department for equality and gender studies of the University. She recorded for the first time the Messe pour deux voix égales, Op.167 by Cécile Chaminade.

Zita will make her debut as a soloist in the Konzerthaus in Vienna in June 2019.

Ulrich Walther (born in 1980) studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart (Germany), where he achieved degrees in Church music, diplomas in concert performance and music education, magister in school music. During that time his professors were Ludger Lohmann (organ), Dieter Kurz (Conducting) and Hans-Martin Corrinth, Willibald Bezler and Jürgen Essl (Improvisation).

He took part in organ master classes with Lorenzo Ghielmi, Daniel Roth, Hans-Ola Ericsson, David Sanger, Heinz Wunderlich, Gerhard Weinberger, Jon Laukvik.

He been awarded several prizes: First prize of the International Organ Competition in Korschenbroich (Germany) 2005; Second prize and special award for the commissioned modern piece of Thomas Daniel Schlee at the International Organ Competition in Graz (Austria) 2006; Second prize of the International Organ competition in Heidenheim (Germany) 2006; First prize and audience prize at the International Organ Festival in St.Albans (GB) 2007; First prize and Messiaen-prize at the Bach-Liszt-competition in Erfurt-Weimar-Merseburg 2008; Scholarship of the "Deutscher Musikrat" 2008, where he was taken up in the federal selection "Konzerte junger Künstler."

From October 2008 until 2010 he taught as a guest professor organ, improvisation and figured bass at the Kunstuniversität in Graz (Austria). Since October 2010 he works regularly as a professor in Graz. Walther is also active as a guest-lecturer at master-classes and a jury member in international organ competitions.

Recent performances of his concert schedule include: Nürnberger Orgelwoche ION, Thüringer Bachwochen, Bodensee Musikfestival, Oberstdorfer Kunstsommer, Organ Festival Oviedo, Orgelfestival Bergamo, St.Albans, Los Angeles St.James' Episcopal Church, Wormser Dom, Chartres Cathedral, Stadthalle Wuppertal, Edinburgh St.Giles, Birmingham Townhall, St.Bavo Haarlem, Moskau Kathedrale, St.Petersburg Capella, Frederiksborg Castle, Trinitatiskirke Kopenhagen.

In 2010 he released his first CD mit Bach-arrangements by Max Reger, recorded at the historic Sauer-organ in Bremen Dom. Upcoming projects for 2016 include the first recording of the complete transcriptions for organ by Max Reger.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Salim Gereige, Collège Sacré-Cœur - Gemmayzeh
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Mr. Michel Fadel, O-Club – Antelias
Fr. Tony Chikri, Saint Anthony monastery – Harissa
Fr. Ziad Haddad, Notre-Dame de la Médaille Miraculeuse basilica
Notre Dame de Louaizé Monastery – Zouk Mosbeh
Abbot Antoine Rajeh, Saint Elias church – Antelias
P. Habib Badr, National Evangelical Church of Beirut

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