A Dutch Treat:
Sweelinck and his Pupils

Gail Archer, Organ

October 14, 2007, 2:30 p.m.
Mainstage Organ Series
Organ Hall
Program

Toccata in C  
Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck  
(1562-1621)

Echo ad manuale duplex,  
forte et lene a' 4 Voci  
Samuel Scheidt  
(1587-1654)

Echo alio modo,  
sinistra manu sempre in eodem manuali permanente,  
dextra vero Cantus variante  
from Tabulatura nova (1624)

Magnificat VII. Toni  
Versus  
Heinrich Scheidemann  
(1595-1663)

Versus  
Versus auff 2Clavier  
Versus Pedaliter

Malle Sijmen  
Sweelinck

Est- ce Mars  
from Tabulatura nova (1624)

Theme
1. Variatio a' 4 Voc. In Cantu  
2. Variatio a' 4 Voc. In Cantu (colorato)  
3. Variatio, Bicinium In Cantu  
4. Variatio a' 4 Voc. triplici contrapuncto. In Cantu et Tenore  
5. Variatio a' 4 Voc. In Cantu (colorato)  
6. Variatio, Bicinium duplici contrapuncto  
7. Variatio a' 3 Voc. In Cantu colorato  
8. Variatio a' 3 Voc. In Cantu colorato  
9. Variatio a' 3 Voc. In Basso (colorato)  
10. Variatio a' 4 Voc. In Cantu (colorato)

Gail Archer is college organist at Vassar College and a member of the organ and history faculty at the Manhattan School of Music. She serves as director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University and conducts the university choirs. Ms. Archer is artistic director of the artist and student organ series at historic Central Synagogue in New York City. Her first CD, the Orpheus of Amsterdam on CALA Records, London, received international critical praise; her most recent CD, A Mystic in the Making, music of Olivier Messiaen recorded on the Aeolian-Skinner organ at St. Paul’s Chapel, Columbia University was released in April, 2007, on Meyer-Media LLC.

The Fritts Pipe Organ is a thoroughly modern instrument that is strongly influenced by historic practice. Installed in 1992 by Fritts & Co., its mechanical (tracker) key action makes possible the most intimate contact between player and instrument. Except for a few hardware items, the Fritts is virtually hand crafted, representing some 13,000 hours of individual labor. Each of its 1,900 pipes was made in the Fritts shop in Tacoma, Washington, by casting the metal, forming sheets, hammering and cutting the metal, and finally forming the pipes—the same method employed many hundred of years ago.

Judy Fritts, sister of the builder, Paul Fritts, executed the rich carvings, which so beautifully ornament the organ case. These were first carved in basswood, then enameled and finally gilded with 24 K gold leaf. The result is an organ case that closely resembles antique organs of northern Europe.

The organ is housed in the Organ Hall, a room that was designed specifically for the Fritts pipe organ. Such details as the wood barrel-vault ceiling, masonry walls, lack of sound-absorbent materials and the high, rectangular shape of the room are direct influences from the typical churches in which the old organs sounded.