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Winthrop to Celebrate Organ Restoration with August Festival

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Winthrop to Celebrate Organ Restoration with August Festival

Quick Facts

- The festival will include four free public concerts Aug. 13-16.
- The D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ was installed in Byrnes Auditorium 54 years ago.



ROCK HILL, S.C. - The **Department of Music** and the Organ Restoration Campaign will host the **Organ Festival**, a series of workshops, lectures and concerts, Aug. 13-16 to commemorate the restoration of the **D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ**.

Anchoring the festival will be a series of three free public concerts Aug. 13, Aug. 14 and Aug. 16 at 7:30 p.m. in **Byrnes Auditorium**. Kicking off the performance lineup will be a Thursday, Aug. 13, performance by several Winthrop alumni organ majors. Noted organist and recording/concert artist Richard Elliott, principal organist for the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, will perform on Friday, Aug. 14. Robert Ridgell, associate organist of New York's Trinity Episcopal Church, will perform a recital on Sunday, Aug. 16. The program will feature work composed by Winthrop music faculty member **Leonard Mark Lewis**. On Saturday, Aug. 15, Winthrop's Professor Emeritus of Music **David Lowry**, curator of the restoration campaign, will play a concert of

music written by and for him at 2 p.m. in Byrnes Auditorium. The Saturday concert also is free and open to the public.

Ridgell will host a workshop on improvisation on Friday afternoon and **Elliott** will offer a masterclass on Saturday morning, said Lowry. Registration for masterclasses, lectures and meals must be received by Saturday, Aug. 1.

An **Æolian-Skinner** organ installed in 1955 in Byrnes Auditorium, the **D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ** was sent to the **Letourneau Organ Company** in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada, in May 2007 for a complete restoration. The organ, now 54 years old, is considered one of the most historic instruments in the Southeast.

For more information about the **Organ Festival**, contact Department of Music Chair Don Rogers '75 at 803/323-2255 or e-mail Lowry at lowryd@winthrop.edu.

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