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Church Organ Recital on Sept. 18 to Recognize Winthrop Organ's Anniversary

Winthrop University

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Church Organ Recital on Sept. 18 to Recognize Winthrop Organ's Anniversary

Quick Facts

- Fishburne of Rock Hill, S.C., who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in music in 1972 and 1973 from Winthrop, will play during an hour-long concert.
- Winthrop launched a campaign earlier this year to raise \$400,000 for a complete restoration of the D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ in Byrnes Auditorium.

ROCK HILL, S.C. - In celebration of the **50th anniversary** of the **D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ** at Winthrop University, **Winthrop alumna and accomplished organist Shirley Fishburne** will be performing an organ recital Sept. 18 at First Presbyterian Church in Spartanburg, S.C.

Fishburne of Rock Hill, S.C., who earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in music in 1972 and 1973 from Winthrop, will play during an hour-long concert. The 3 p.m. recital is free and open to the public.

Winthrop launched a campaign earlier this year to raise \$400,000 for a complete restoration of the **D.B. Johnson Memorial Organ** in **Byrnes Auditorium**. The organ is named for Winthrop's founding president and is widely regarded as one of the most valuable and historic organs in the Southeast.

The **Æolian-Skinner Organ Company**, the Boston company that built Winthrop's organ, constructed some of the finest mid-20th century instruments in the U.S. First Presbyterian Church's organ is also an Æolian-Skinner Organ, having been built in 1968.

Restoration of Winthrop's organ will include renovating the organ's pipe work, installing a digital memory system, replacing the leather components and rebuilding the organ's console.

More than 1,300 Winthrop alumni live in the Spartanburg area. The Sept. 18 concert is one in a series of min-concerts held around South Carolina and Georgia to help publicize the organ campaign. A final concert is planned in January at Winthrop.

Winthrop is a comprehensive teaching university of 6,500 graduate and undergraduate students. It was listed in Consumers Digest as among the nation's top 50 "Best Value" public universities for 2004 and appeared in U.S. News & World Report's Top Ten Regional Public Universities in the magazine's "America's Best Colleges" 2006 edition.

For more information, contact the Office of Development at 803/323-2150. For more information about the Johnson organ, visit <http://www.winthrop.edu/virtualtour/buildingtour.aspx?id=3134>.

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