



DIANE BISH

First Lady of the Organ

IN CONCERT

FEBRUARY 8
7:30 PM

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
101 S. RANCHO
LAS VEGAS

\$10.00 DONATION



Concert and recording artist, composer, conductor, and international television personality Diane Bish has displayed her dazzling virtuosity and unique showmanship the world over. Her performances have been hailed by critics as stunning, virtuosic, fiery, and astonishing. Through numerous recordings, concerts and weekly television appearances, Diane Bish is the most visible organist in the world today.

Miss Bish is perhaps best known through the international television series, *The Joy of Music*, in which she combines exhilarating organ and ensemble performances with an informative, inspirational narrative and exciting world travel. The series appeals to people of all ages and backgrounds. Over 300 programs have been taped in famous cathedrals and concert halls, and over 200 million people are able to see *The Joy of Music* on a weekly basis.

In 1989, Miss Bish was awarded the National Citation by the National Federation of Music Clubs of America. Diane Bish shares this rare distinction with such legends as Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, Van Cliburn, Robert Shaw, Irving Berlin, and Fred Waring in receiving this award "for distinguished service to the musical, artistic, and cultural life of the nation."

A consummate church musician, Diane Bish served as senior organist and artist-in-residence at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, for over 20 years. While at Coral Ridge Church, she was instrumental in developing one of the country's first church concert series, creating an annual church music workshop for musicians around the world, and designing the 117-rank Ruffatti organ, distinguished as one of the great organs in America. In her book *Church Music Explosion*, Miss Bish shares her philosophy of excellence in church music.

Miss Bish has recorded on the foremost organs of the world and was the first American woman to record on the four organs of Freiburg Cathedral, Germany. Music for organ and orchestra, brass and organ, great organ masterpieces, organ and harp, original works, and hymn arrangements are featured on over 30 recordings by Miss Bish.

The sparkling creativity and artistry of Diane Bish are equally evident in her compositions. She has composed numerous solo pieces, arrangements, and full symphonic works that have received much acclaim and are performed regularly due to her ability to combine musical quality and accessibility.

Diane Bish began her study with Dorothy Addy in Wichita, Kansas, and continued as a student of Mildred Andrews. She was a recipient of Fulbright and French government grants for study in Amsterdam and Paris with Nadia Boulanger, Gustav Leonhardt, and Marie Claire Alain. An alumna of The University of Oklahoma, Miss Bish received the School of Music's Distinguished Alumni Fellow Award in 1997. A biography, *Diane Bish: First Lady of the Organ*, by Warren Woodruff was published in 1993.

"Her playing is virtuosic and solidly musical. ...she blasted the crowd out of its pews in a whooping standing ovation."

The Boston Globe, Massachusetts

"An organist of extraordinary technical skills..."

San Francisco Examiner, California

"A dazzling display of flying fingers and feet..."

Grand Rapids Press, Michigan

"Her playing is sure-fingered and secure, her ornaments were impeccable and her tempi very bright."

The Evening Star, Washington, D.C.

"Bish is a solid musician who knows her business. Glamor is not a word usually associated with pipe organ recitals, but there are exceptions. Organist Diane Bish is one of those exceptions."

Richmond Times-Dispatch, Virginia

"Week by week through national television broadcasts Diane Bish brings thousands of converts to the music written for the 'King of instruments.' Diane's exciting appearances in Canada's Capital City are always met with enthusiastic 'sold out' houses."

Peter Coffin, Dean
Christ Church Anglican Cathedral
Ottawa, Ontario

"Two hours prior to the recital a line of people formed that stretched over 2 city blocks. Miss Bish performed a diverse program of organ literature with impeccable musicianship and produced imaginative and colorful organ registrations from the Cathedral's Noehren Organ. The recital was an incredible public relations event for the pipe organ which was enjoyed by a capacity audience of 800 people."

David Bahrke
American Guild of Organists, Milwaukee Chapter
on recital at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral



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