

## Organist Gail Archer to perform at the Central Synagogue Wednesday

May 11, 5:53 PM • NY Culture Examiner • Layla Macoran



**World-renowned organist Gail Archer will perform at the Central Synagogue Wednesday at 7:30. This stop is part of her tour celebrating the 325th Birthday of Johann Sebastian Bach. Ms. Archer will perform Bach's incomplete masterpiece, *The Art of Fugue*. She took a few minutes to answer questions for NY Culture Examiner about response from audiences, and the perfect organ.**

**You have traveled a great deal with this latest release. How has the response been from the audiences- does it vary depending on the country or city?**

The audiences have been very enthusiastic across the country. Just last weekend, I played on a fine German tracker organ in Fort Wayne, Indiana built by the von Beckerath firm of Hamburg, Germany. Literally, a perfect instrument for the organ music of Bach.

**Do you have a personal favorite location? Is there a specific organ that truly feels and sounds like perfection?**

The greatest organ for German Baroque literature is the Arp Schnitger organ at St. Jacobi Kirche, Hamburg, Germany. In the United States, I particularly enjoy playing the organ at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco and Central Synagogue, in New York City--grand instruments in grand spaces.

**After the forthcoming New York appearance, where is the next destination?**

I work with the Tennessee Players and Albert Schweitzer Fellowship in their production, *Albert Schweitzer and the Music of Bach*, down in Nashville, Tennessee and then this summer I will be in Europe for some festivals in Zurich, Turin, Paris and Hamburg.

**Do you plan to record in the immediate future?**

Yes. Next year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt, known, of course, as a great pianist, but he composed marvelous organ music as well. My spring season in 2011 will focus on Liszt and other Eastern European composers.

***Organist Gail Archer Celebrates Bach's 325th Birthday, *The Art of Fugue*, Wednesday, May 12th, 7:30 PM, Central Synagogue, 123 East 55th Street, New York, NY, No Cover-first come, first served. For more information, contact Central Synagogue 212.838.5122 or [www.gailarcher.com](http://www.gailarcher.com).***