

# CHERRY RHODES

IS THE FIRST AMERICAN to win an international organ competition (Munich). During her brilliant career, she has toured extensively throughout the major music capitals of America and Europe with recitals in cathedrals, churches, and concert halls—including Lincoln Center (New York City), Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), Orchestra Hall (Chicago), Meyerson Symphony Center (Dallas), the Performing Arts Center (Milwaukee), the Academy of Music and Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Philadelphia), Royal Festival Hall (London), International Performing Arts Center (Moscow), Philharmonic Halls of Berlin, Dortmund, and Luxembourg, the Organ and Architecture Symposium, and the renowned International September Music Festival of Montreux-Vevey (Switzerland). Other international festivals include those of Paris (Notre-Dame and St. Eustache), Munich, Freiburg, Nuremberg, St. Albans, Luxembourg, Vienna, Bratislava, Prešov, Gdańsk, and Warsaw. She has performed during seven American Guild of Organists national conventions and numerous AGO regional conventions. Many of her performances have been broadcast throughout North America and Europe. She has performed as soloist with orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic (with conductors Simon Rattle and Edo de Waart), the Phoenix Symphony, the Pasadena Chamber Orchestra (conducted by Robert Duerr), the South German Radio Orchestra, and the Orchestra of the French National Radio.

As one of the first organists to perform on the organ in the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, Rhodes premiered *Concierto de Los Angeles* by James Hopkins, with members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Subsequently, she played the monumental *Symphonie Concertante* by Joseph Jongen in the Los Angeles Philharmonic Subscription Series and a solo recital sponsored by Toyota. A return engagement to participate in a concert celebrating the tenth anniversary of the organ took place on November 23, 2014.

Cherry Rhodes began piano studies at the age of four and organ at eleven. Her piano teachers were Marguerite Maxwell of the Westport School of Music (Connecticut), Nicholas Van Slyke of the Longy School of Music (Boston), and Magdalena Boratgis (Gloucester, Massachusetts); her first organ teacher was Berj Zamkochian, organist of the Boston Symphony. At fourteen, Rhodes was accepted at the Curtis Institute of Music where she studied organ with Alexander McCurdy and piano with Vladimir Sokoloff. Three years later, she made her debut as organist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and later performed many times under the baton of Eugene Ormandy as well as numerous guest conductors. After graduation from Curtis, she received Fulbright and Rockefeller grants for studies in Munich with Karl Richter and in Paris with Marie-Claire Alain and Jean Guillou, who invited her to be his assistant for two years at St. Eustache.

She has served as organist and choir director of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia; Church of the Ascension, Munich, Germany; and Grace Episcopal Church, Nyack, New York. From 1972 to 1975, Rhodes taught organ at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. During this time, she was artist in residence at All Souls Church, Unitarian, in Washington, D.C., where she gave recitals and frequently premiered new music. Numerous composers have written and dedicated works to her, and she has

edited several compositions as well. These include *Ascent* by Joan Tower (Associated Music Publishers), *Prelude and Variations on "Old Hundredth"* by Calvin Hampton (Wayne Leupold Editions), *Meditations on "Salve, Festa Dies"* and *Chorale, Diferencias and Glosas on "Puer Natus in Bethlehem"* by Joseph Walter (Composer's Library), and *Larry King: The Organ Music for Solo Organ and Organ and Tape* (Wayne Leupold Editions).

Rhodes has recorded for Columbia Records with Eugene Ormandy and the Philadelphia Orchestra. *Everyone Dance*, her critically acclaimed solo recording on the Pro Organo label, has been hailed by THE AMERICAN ORGANIST as "A joyous celebration of unrivaled artistry!" She has been featured on the CDs *Pipedreams Live!* (Minnesota Public Radio), *Comes Summertime* (JAV Recordings), *Historic Organs of Boston* (Organ Historical Society), *Jean Guillou—Colloques* (Augure), *Cherry Rhodes...Live* (Pro Organo), *Cherry Rhodes in Concert* and *Cherry Rhodes at the Kimmel Center* (Delos Productions).

Cherry Rhodes is adjunct professor of organ at the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music, where she has taught for 40 years. Many of her students have won awards, grants, and top prizes in competitions in the United States and Europe. A sought-after musician, she gives masterclasses and frequently serves as an adjudicator for competitions in North America and Europe.



# LADD THOMAS

BEGAN HIS ORGAN STUDIES in 1948 in Pasadena, California, at First United Methodist Church of Pasadena. At age 11, he was given keys to the building, the organ loft, and the organ with unlimited practice time. In return for this great privilege, he played for the Wednesday evening Prayer Meetings and for the church's two children's and youth choirs. At 13, he received his first appointment as organist at Michillinda Presbyterian Church, where he served from 1951 to 1955. In 1955, he was appointed organist at Holliston Avenue Methodist Church and held that position until 1959. That same year, he had the opportunity to serve as visiting organist at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles while his professor Clarence Mader was in Europe for more than a year. In 1960, he accepted the position as organist of First United Methodist Church of Glendale, where he has served for 55 years. From 1998 to 2007, he was also co-organist at Vallejo Drive Church of Seventh-day Adventists in Glendale.

In 1985, Thomas's 25 years as organist of Glendale's First United Methodist were recognized by the church with the establishment of the Ladd Thomas Fund for Church Music at the Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, California. In 2000, at the conclusion of 40 years of service to the Glendale church, the fund was converted to the Ladd Thomas Scholarship for Church Music at the same school.



Thomas has been presented in recitals and concerts throughout the United States, Canada, Germany, Austria, France, Poland, Yugoslavia, Italy, and Mexico. Appearing in the famed music festivals of Spoleto, Italy, and Dubrovnik, Croatia, he has also been a featured recitalist at Bach Festivals in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Carmel, California, as well as national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists. He frequently performs with numerous ensembles, playing continuo on both harpsichord and organ.

He has performed as a soloist with numerous orchestras including the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (Ontario, Canada), Pasadena Chamber Orchestra, and the Pasadena, Long Beach, and Glendale symphony orchestras, performing with conductors Zubin Mehta, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Christopher Seaman, Jorge Mester, William Hall, Roger Wagner, Richard Lert, Eduardo Mata, Boris Brott, and Robert Duerr.

Thomas has recorded on the London-Decca label with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, on Angel with the Roger Wagner Chorale, on Summit with the Master Chorale of Orange County, on Owl and Klavier with the William Hall Chorale, and on Avant and Western International with the Los Angeles Brass Society and the Los Angeles Brass Quintet. He also has recorded for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Paramount, 20th Century Fox, Columbia, and Universal studios, and can be heard on many sound tracks, including *Star Trek: The Movie*, *Ghost Story*, *Witches of Eastwick*, *Ironweed*, *Die Hard*, *Her Alibi*, *Beaches*, and *Home Alone*. Additional recordings made for network television include a documentary of the 1988 Winter Olympics for the Disney TV Channel and the television production "Grace Kelly," starring Cheryl Ladd, which aired internationally. Recently, Thomas was associate producer for the CD *The Vince Derosa Tribute Album*, which features the Hollywood Epic Brass, Organ, and Percussion Ensemble. The music was composed, arranged, and conducted by the celebrated film composer Kevin Kaska.

For the past 48 years, Ladd Thomas has been on the faculty of the University of Southern California. He is emeritus professor of organ and chair of the organ department at the University of Southern California, Thornton School of Music. He holds two degrees from Occidental College—a bachelor of arts and an honorary doctor of music. He also received a master of theology degree from the Claremont School of Theology. He studied piano with Helen McCreery, Gustav Riherd, and Muriel Kerr, and organ with Max Miller, Marian Craighead, David Craighead, and Clarence Mader.

He has served the American Guild of Organists in various capacities at the local, regional, and national levels. He was dean of the Pasadena chapter (1962–64) and of the Los Angeles chapter (1999–2000). In 2010, he accepted a position on the Pasadena City College Foundation board of directors. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Ruth and Clarence Mader Memorial Scholarship Fund, a California nonprofit corporation that awards scholarships nationally to young organists and composers and offers grants for research related to organs and organ music. He was a founding member and president of that board of directors for 38 years.