

Francine Maté

Organist Dr. Francine Maté has been the organist/choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Church, Georgetown, in Washington, DC since October, 1998. In 1999, she became the 2nd Director of the Grace Church Bach Festival. This summer, 2021, will be her 21st Bach Festival season. In addition to featuring Washington, DC area musicians in the festival every year, since 2009 she has contracted international performers, including organists from Germany, Poland, Austria, and Italy. The 2019 Bach Festival presented the Pittsburgh Cello Quartet, comprised of members of the Pittsburgh Symphony.

In 2003, 2009, 2011, and 2018, she traveled to Germany to examine, study, and play many of the same organs on which Johann Sebastian Bach performed. These cities include Hamburg, Altenburg, Naumburg, and Rötha. She also visited Leipzig each of those years. Although Leipzig no longer has an organ that Bach actually played, there is a wealth of information in Leipzig concerning Bach's life and work. Bach lived his last 27 years in Leipzig, and died there in July, 1750.

Dr. Maté has performed recitals throughout The United States and Washington, D.C., including the Washington National Cathedral, St. John's Lafayette Square, and National City Christian Church. In 1983, she was the only American organist invited to perform a solo organ recital in the St. Davids Cathedral International Organ Recital Series in Dyfed, Wales. She is currently planning a recital tour in Italy in the spring, 2022, to perform Italian period music on historical organs of Italy.

Tim Page of The Washington Post stated the following in a Washington Post music review of Dr. Maté's playing: "Still, this clinical clarity (speaking of the acoustics in Grace Church) did permit a listener to admire the color and rhythmic dynamism of Dr. Maté's playing, and the way she swooped into the crescendos in the Toccata had a welcome hint of the haunted house."

Dr. Maté was Organist/Choirmaster at St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan for twelve years. Her first position as organist was at the age of thirteen at Clark Memorial Methodist Church, in Houston, Texas.

In addition to her performing and church positions, she served over 25 years as a copyright examiner in the Performing Arts Division of the U.S. Copyright Office in The Library of Congress. She retired from U.S. Federal service on February 28, 2017.

Dr. Maté, a native of Houston, Texas, received the Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from The University of Michigan where she was an organ student of Dr. Marilyn Mason. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Music (organ performance) from the University of Houston where she was an organ student of Dr. Robert John Jones.