

About the Artist

Christian Elliott is equally at home performing classical or popular genres, literature of the church or theatre, and scoring and accompanying silent films.

His silent film accompaniment work includes the Packard Foundation's Stanford Theatre, UCLA, the Cinequest and San Francisco Silent Film Festivals, San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, as well as the San Diego Symphony, Los Angeles Conservancy, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. A frequent performer at the American Theatre Organ Society's national conventions, he has also performed for the American Institute of Organ Builders, BBC Radio, and at the famed Hollywood Bowl. He regularly appears at the Paramount Theatre in Seattle, Washington on their highly successful "Silent Movie Mondays" series.

Christian was privileged to be mentored by several world-renowned theatre organists, including Lloyd G. Del Castillo, Gordon Kibbee, and Lyn Larsen. He is particularly identified for his association with legendary organist Gaylord Carter, the 'dean' of silent film accompaniment. Christian worked extensively with Mr. Carter, who proudly claimed Christian as his protégé.

A southern California native, Christian graduated with honors from Vanguard University of Southern California with degrees in Music and Business Administration. For nine years he was a guest artist for the summer noon organ recitals at the Crystal Cathedral. After moving to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1988 he studied with celebrated organist and composer Richard Purvis. Christian has numerous solo recordings to his credit, available from iTunes and CDBaby.com. Christian performs solo organ engagements and silent film presentations all across the United States, and was named "Organist of the Year" by the American Theatre Organ Society in 2009.

See more at <https://www.christianelliott.com/>
Recordings available in the lobby or at <https://store.cdbaby.com/>

After the show you are invited to come on stage to meet the artist, see the organ console, and ask questions.

About the Silent Film "The Cat and the Canary"

The Cat and the Canary is a 1927 American silent horror film adaptation of John Willard's 1922 dark comedy play of the same name. Paul Leni's adaptation of Willard's play blended expressionism with humor, a style Leni was notable for and critics recognized as unique.

Although not the first film set in a supposed haunted house, *The Cat and the Canary* started the pattern for the "old dark house" genre, a term derived from English director James Whale's *The Old Dark House* (1932), which was heavily influenced by Leni's film, and refers to films in which murders are committed by masked killers in old mansions. Supernatural events in the film are all explained at the film's conclusion as the work of a criminal.

The film was one of Universal's early horror productions and is considered the cornerstone of Universal's school of horror. The play has been filmed five other times, with the most notable in 1939 starring comedic actor Bob Hope and Paulette Goddard.

The Cat and the Canary debuted in New York City's Colony Theatre on September 9, 1927 and was considered a box office success.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cat_and_the_Canary_\(1927_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cat_and_the_Canary_(1927_film))

About the Digital Theatre & Classical Organ

Instead of pipes, the digital organ uses ranks of pipe samples which are digital recordings of actual pipes. (A rank is a set of pipes that all play the same type of sound - like flute, diapason, tibia, etc.) This instrument has 32 theatre ranks and 49 classical ranks. A switch determines if the colored stop tabs on the console control the theatre or classical sounds. Digital volume controls are used instead of chamber shutters.

There is an additional "black box", in a drawer on the console, which contains 256 pipe and other sounds that may be selected by the organist. The organ's resulting pipe and other sounds play through 20 speaker cabinets distributed among three chambers housing a total of 36 speakers and 8 passive radiators.