

BABETTE MONDRY

ORGANISTIN

Babette Mondry performs as an organist in solo programs, chamber music ensembles, as well as in orchestral and choral settings.

Her repertoire spans music from the early Baroque to contemporary compositions. Concert and festival appearances have taken her to numerous European countries, as well as to Brazil, Japan, and Israel. She has performed at festivals such as *Toulouse les Orgues*, the *Lahti Organ Festival*, in *Magadino*, at the Arp Schnitger organ in *St. Ludgeri, Norden*, during the *Thun Bach Weeks*, and at the *cathedral of Riga* and *Haarlem*. Other concert venues include *Minato Mirai Hall* in *Yokohama*, *Hildesheim Cathedral*, the *Grossmünster in Zurich*, *Geneva Cathedral*, *Dom zu Arlesheim*, *Abbatiale Romainmôtier*, *Bern Minster*, the Johann Andreas Silbermann organ in *St. Thomas, Strasbourg*, *Stadtcasino Basel*, and the *Tonhalle Zurich*.

Musical collaboration with singers and instrumentalists forms a distinctive artistic focus for her – simultaneously enriching her solo organ playing. Over the years, she has performed with artists such as Heinz Holliger, Ursula Holliger, Andreas Scholl, Nuria Rial, Maria Cristina Kiehr, Maya Boog, Kiyoshi Kasai, Arianna Savall & Petter Udland, Reinhold Friedrich, Rolf Romei, Yannick Debus, and Fritz Hauser.

As an orchestral and choral organist, she has an extensive repertoire of organ parts in symphonic works. In this capacity, she has participated as an additional player (*Zuzügerin*) in productions conducted by renowned conductors including Marco Letonja, Dennis Russell Davies, Hans-Christoph Rademann, Kevin Griffiths, Gabriel Feltz, Giuliano Betta, Facundo Agudin, Duncan Ward, and Ivor Bolton. Her role integrates her within the orchestra or as the organist in large-scale choral works. Her repertoire here includes pieces such as Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass*, Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*, and Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*, performed with Basel choirs like the *Basler Gesangverein*. With vocal ensembles such as the *Basel Madrigalists* (conducted by Raphael Immoos), the *Young Chamber Choir Basel*, and *ensemble liberté* (conducted by Maija Gschwind), she realized, among other projects, the 2020 performance of Lucija Garūta's *Herr, deine Erde brennt*, as well as the Swiss premiere of Pēteris Vasks' *Veni Domine* for choir and organ.

As a regular additional player, she performs with the *Basel Symphony Orchestra*, participating in CD recordings of Felix Weingartner's symphonies and appearing as a soloist in Lili Boulanger's *Psaume XXIV* for the 2022 season opening.

Since 2022, Babette Mondry has been pursuing a form of musical work with *vokal:orgel* that brings together many of her previous interests: the joy of large-scale stage projects, working with young voices, integrating music and staging, as well as collaborative teamwork with directors and musicians from various disciplines.

A central idea is to integrate the organ into scenically conceived concert forms. By taking over orchestral parts, the organ frees space on stage for movement, acting, and theatrical realization – an approach that opens new musical experiences, especially for young audiences.

Highlights so far include the premiere of Caspar Johannes Walter's *When I appear in your dreams* for choir and the wind-dynamic manual of the Metzler-Klahre organ at the Stadtcasino Basel; the staged production of Orff's *Carmina Burana* (2023 at the Basel Stadtcasino and 2025 at the Tonhalle Zurich) directed by Mélanie Huber; and the scenically staged project *Walpurgisnacht* (2025) directed by Salome Im Hof. New productions are already in planning.

Babette Mondry is also committed to festival work: since 2016, she has been part of the leadership team of the *Organ Festival at the Basel Stadtcasino*, held in 2020, 2021, and 2023. As a co-initiator of the *New Organ Project* at the Stadtcasino Basel, she contributed as an expert team member.

From 1999 to 2015, Babette Mondry was titular organist at the Johann Andreas Silbermann / Lhôte organ of Basel's

Peterskirche, where she was responsible for music in university services and directed the concert series. Since 2017, she has been organist and artistic director of the organ concerts at the Stadtkirche Thun.

Additional information: from 2015 to 2019, she was part of the artistic leadership team of the *Cours d'Interprétation d'Orgue* in Romainmôtier. In 1996, she reached the finals of the Bach Competition in Lucerne. Her two CD recordings – including the world premiere recording of Olivier Alain's *Suite pour Orgue* on the Alain organ in Romainmôtier (Gallo), and *Puer natus in Bethlehem* recorded at the Peterskirche Basel with works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Carissimi, and Dandrieu (Gallo) – were positively received by the professional press.

She studied church music at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover and at the Basel Music Academy with Prof. Dr. h.c. Guy Bovet, where she earned her concert diploma. Important artistic impulses also came from master-classes with Montserrat Torrent, Harald Vogel, Gerd Zacher, and Marie-Claire Alain.

Together with drummer Fritz Hauser and dancer Emanuele Soavi, she will be performing at the Cologne Philharmonie in autumn 2026.