

East Carolina Musical Arts Education Foundation
2025-2026 Fisk on Fourth Concert Series Presents

A Rising Star: Charles Francis

*Friday, April 24, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Greenville, NC*

Symphonie V pour Orgue, op. 42, no. 1
I. Allegro vivace

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Trois Pièces pour Grand Orgue
I. Fantasia en La

César Franck (1822-1890)

Five Short Pieces
I. Allegretto
II. Folk Tune
III. Andante Tranquillo
IV. Scherzo
V. Paeon

Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

Suite pour Orgue, op. 5
I. Prélude
II. Sicilienne
III. Toccata

Maurice Durufé (1902-1986)

Charles Francis is a British organist who is establishing an exciting reputation as a young performer. He has performed extensively across the UK, with appearances at Westminster Abbey; St Paul's Cathedral; Sinfonia Smith Square; St John's College, Cambridge, Magdalene College, Oxford; Victoria Hall, Hanley; St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham and St Alban's Cathedral as part of the International Organ Festival. Charles has also performed across Canada, Germany and the USA. His playing has been broadcast on both British and American radio – the latter featuring a live performance for the nationally broadcast show 'Pipedreams'.

Charles won first prizes in the IAO/RCO Organ Playing Competition (2022) and the Dame Gillian Weir Messiaen Competition (2019). Additionally, he has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians (2022) as well as the Dr. James B. Cochran Endowed Organ Prize (2025). Charles is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

Charles is currently a student at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, where he studies with Prof. Nathan Laube. He completed master's studies at Eastman in 2025, and now continues under Prof. Laube in pursuance of a Doctorate in Musical Arts (DMA). His undergraduate studies were at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where his teachers were Daniel Moulton and Nicholas Wearne.

The Perkins and Wells Memorial Organ, C. B. Fisk, Opus 126, represents the vision of the people of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the Greenville, NC, philanthropic community. Through generous donations and a grant from the Perkins and Wells Foundation, an exceptional organ was built for the congregation of St. Paul's and the wider musical community. The East Carolina Musical Arts Education Foundation serves as a guardian for this magnificent instrument. You can learn more about the organ at ecmaef.com.

ECMAEF wishes to thank Elaine Yontz for her valuable assistance, Clay Whittington for the program design, and those who helped prepare the space for tonight's performance.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Foundation is to maintain and promote the C.B. Fisk, Opus 126 pipe organ of St. Paul's Episcopal Church as a cultural treasure for the benefit of Greenville and other communities throughout Eastern North Carolina, through concerts, student development and educational offerings.

The continuation of the work of ECMAEF is dependent upon contributions from individuals who attend our concerts and who support our mission. You are cordially invited to help sustain ECMAEF by becoming a "Friend of the Fisk." All contributions are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

www.ecmaef.org

Please visit ecmaef.org for upcoming details on our Summer Series and the 2026–2027 Concert Season.