Artist contact:

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About First & Grand:

First & Grand is the premiere recording of the one-of-a-kind pipe organ at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, home of the L.A. Philharmonic. The music is classical, but now.

The performer, organist Christoph Bull, has been called “Tiger Woods of the organ”, “rock star organist”, and “most versatile musician on the planet”.

The Disney Hall organ is unique in the world in that its façade has curved, not straight-as-usual pipes.
It was co-designed by the architect of the equally innovatively designed concert hall, Frank Gehry. The organ was built in collaboration by the L.A. firm Rosales Organ Builders and the German-based Glatter-Götz Orgelbau.

Organist Christoph Bull views the organ as a ‘rock’ instrument and the 6,134 pipe Disney Hall organ had the power and color he wanted for his new album. *First & Grand* shows the many colors a pipe organ can produce, the strength of the instrument in general and of this one in particular.

The line-up of pieces comes from a contemporary view of classical music.

It includes some of the best pieces in the repertoire such as Bach’s *Prelude and Fugue in A minor* (BWV 432), Nicolaus Bruhns *Little Prelude in E minor*, and an organ arrangement of Samuel Barber’s famous *Adagio For Strings*.

Bull also improvises and expands on themes by Beethoven, Couperin, and an anonymous medieval composer. To that he adds his own *A minor Trance* and ‘neo-classical’ readings of Lennon/McCartney’s *A Day In The Life*, the movie score *Winnetou-Melodie*, and a nod to Walt Disney, *When*
You Wish Upon A Star.

The album was mostly recorded with a pair of 1960s era Neuman M-50s by Grammy-award winning engineer Allen Sides, owner of one of the largest microphone collections in the world (Ocean Way Recording). The remaining tracks were recorded by another Grammy-award winning engineer, Fred Vogler, and Alejandro Leda of Sound Spot Music. The album was mastered by mastering legend Bernie Grundman.

The recording was made in a contemporary way: independently produced, supported by the artist’s audience and an online creative community called Planet Illogica.

This is an album that can be appreciated by hard-core organ connoisseurs and music lovers new to the instrument. It was made with a sense of this being an exciting moment in the history of music and organ music, and as someone said, “It’s the real thing.”

You can find a quick sonic tour of the album in under five minutes at: www.christophbull.com

The album can be purchased at: http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/ChristophBull5

First & Grand is also available on Amazon & iTunes.

Biographical info, pictures, video, audio, schedule: www.christophbull.com
About Christoph Bull:

Christoph Bull is one of the leading cutting-edge organists in the world. He’s interpreted classical music with a rock musician’s attitude and approach. His programs and records are designed for both new and traditional audiences, bringing a fresh, ancient-meets-hip approach to one of the oldest instruments in the world.

Bull has been called “Tiger Woods of the organ”, “rock star organist”, and “most versatile musician on the planet”.

He’s worked with groups and artists as varied as the L.A. Master Chorale, Southwest Chamber Music, the National Children’s Chorus, George Clinton, Bootsy Collins, sitar player Nishat Khan, violinist Lili Haydn, and others.

He’s played venues as varied as Disney Hall, Royce Hall; the Catholic Cathedrals of Los Angeles, Saint-Denis, Salzburg, and Moscow; the Viper Room, The Roxy Theatre, The Whisky A Go-Go, and many others.

More info: www.christophbull.com
What others have said:

Thank you for bringing the organ into the 21st century.
   Concertgoer, Hilleroed, Denmark

Wonderful, wonderful. The organ sounds incredible, the recording is superb. A self-produced album with the quality of the biggest record company.
   David Muller, Technical Director Royce Hall, about First & Grand

Christoph Bull. Beautiful organ. And if you don't like organ, you'll change your mind after hearing this!”
   Tom Schnabel, KCRW, about First & Grand

WOW!!!!!!! Three works of art: The Organ, The Disney Hall and Christoph Bull.”
   Larry Wilson, Santa Monica FUMC, about First & Grand

I've very much enjoyed listening to it. You certainly explore the organ wonderfully.
   Fred Swann, organ legend, about First & Grand

Christoph Bull brings 1960’s cool to the organ.
   L.A. Times

You're doing for the world of organ what Tiger Woods is doing for the game of golf! Now everyone will love coming to an organ concert.
   Gerry Biggs McGrath, American Guild Of Organists

I think it's great that you have been able to generate such a large following and revived interest in the organ . . .
   Livia Hirsch-Shell, Concertgoer

It's good to see someone is generating interest in the organ from “the younger generation.”
Kevin Gilchrist, Organ Builder

What I loved the most about the concert was that you made the organ accessible to the public... If we organists want the organ to regain popularity, organ concerts must stop being so sterile and dry, and be full of fire and fun, which is what you gave the audience last night. Awesome!

Robert York, Organist

It speaks volumes for an artist to personalize the pipe organ.

Ken Goldstein, Planet Illogica

That made me pee all over myself!

Bootsy Collins, Parliament Funkadelic

You’re kind of brilliant, aren’t you?

Maestro Paul Salamunovich, Former Conductor L.A. Master Chorale

He plays like an angel.

Marie-Claire Alain, Concert Organist

That guy is ridiculous.

George Clinton

The best three hours of my life.

Student, Apperson Elementary School, about organica

You obviously bring a dimension to those events that have that special appeal to the younger set.

Manuel Rosales, Organ Builder

Your rhythm is the best I’ve heard of any organist and your fingers move like hummingbird wings.

Catherine Walker, Dean American Guild of Organists

San Joaquin Valley Chapter

While the rest of us were waiting patiently for our God-given gifts, Christoph went through the line several times.

Phyllis Elliott, Entrepreneur

The most versatile musician on the planet.
Jim Raycroft, Los Angeles Master Chorale

You’ve got more musical magic in your little finger than other people in their whole body.

Quincy Coleman, Singer/Songwriter

[Bull] served up a massive, moving sound [with] conspicuous musicality, serious chops and deep instrumental understanding.

L.A. Times

Congrats on the stunning Disney Hall CD Christoph! It was really worth the wait. After all this time, we finally have a recording on our own concert hall organ. The physical presentation alone won me before I even got home and loaded it into iTunes for my iPod and iPhone. It was wonderful. Thank you so much!

Marcus LaCroix, about First & Grand

I have really been enjoying your CD – very creative and full of energy!
I especially like the estampie arrangement and the Beethoven improvisation. You are truly a rock star organist!

Kimberly Marshall, Director School of Music Arizona State University

about First & Grand
Pictures by Marisa Gérardin, Nigel Skeet, Norton Wisdom, Wendell Pascual, and Christoph Bull. Used by permission.

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