LYNNE DAVIS
Concert Organist
Robert L. Town Distinguished Professor of Organ
Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

"Lynne Davis played with precision and *'le bon gout.'* Her sense of style was excellent, and she clearly showed her mastery of all the French-style ornamentation." (*The Calgary Herald*)

Though American by birth, **Lynne Davis**' career has been richly steeped in French music, culture, aesthetics, and style. Her career was launched by taking First Prize at the 1975 St. Albans International Organ Competition in England – the eighth organist to receive that honor since the competition's founding in 1962. Now a leading international concert artist and master teacher, she has performed in nearly every cathedral in France, numerous major cities throughout Europe, and from coast to coast in the United States and Canada. Her activities have included being a featured performer and lecturer at two national conventions and several regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, giving master classes and lectures about French organ literature and its history. She has served as a member of the Chartres, Dallas, St. Albans, Atlanta, and Taraverdiev (Russia) organ competition juries. In October 2017, she served as juror for the Canadian International Organ Competition in Montréal and was a featured recitalist during the competition week.

For over thirty-five years, Lynne Davis made France her home, having married Frenchman and Chartres International Organ Competition founder Pierre Firmin-Didot. The couple played a major role in the French organ music scene, initiating among other things the famous Paris 1992 exhibition, Erato recording (*Prix du Président de la République*), and book of *"Les Orgues de Paris"*. Her unique living and vast working experience as well as her significant lineage of study in France makes her an authority in all French organ repertoire.

A highly regarded master teacher, she holds France's *Certificat d'Aptitude de Professeur d'Orgue*, has served as organ professor at the Conservatory of Music in Clamart, (1990-2006) and at the French National Regional Conservatory in Caen, Normandy (1997-2006). Ms. Davis then returned to the United States and joined the faculty of the Wichita State University School of Music that summer, holding a full professorship as the *Robert L. Town Distinguished Professor of Organ*. She is producer and artistic director of the *Rie Bloomfield Organ Series - Distinguished Guest Artists*, and the *Wednesdays in Wiedemann,* series she created in 2007.

Lynne Davis's recordings include several compact discs, radio broadcasts and live performances, including those on the famed organ at Chartres Cathedral. Her CD, *Musique pour Cathédrales*, released on the Quantum label, won the coveted *5 Diapasons* award in France. *Lynne Davis en Concert* was made on the world-renowned Cavaillé-Coll organ at the abbey church of St. Etienne in Caen in Normandy. Her CD, *Lynne Davis at the Marcussen organ in Wiedemann Hall* was released in 2010. Her WSU YouTube channel carries more than 65 videos of live recitals on the Marcussen organ in Wiedemann Hall at WSU.

Ms. Davis graduated with honors in organ performance from the University of Michigan where she studied with Robert Clark. Shortly thereafter, she moved to France and for eight years she studied with Marie-Claire Alain. While there she also studied with Jean Langlais, Maurice and Marie-Madeleine Duruflé, André Fleury, Gaston Litaize, and Edouard Souberbielle, and partook in classes with numerous other great European master organists.

In 2011, Lynne Davis received the *Excellence in Creativity Award* from Wichita State University. Following the immense success of the *American Alain Festival* which she organized at Wichita State University in 2011 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jehan Alain, she was awarded as a French citizen the prestigious distinction of *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* from the French Ministry of Culture and Communication in 2012. In 2013, she received the medal of the city of Wichita from Mayor Carl Brewer and in 2016, the Burton Pell award from the Wichita Arts Council. In April 2021, she was promoted to Full Professor at the university.

Following her participation in 2024 on the jury of the Elizabeth Stephens International Organ Competition in Atlanta, and as a member of the faculty at the Yale Organ Academy, her translation from French to English of the 350-page book on Jehan Alain by Aurélie Decourt-Alain is set to be published in the United States (2024-25).

Lynne Davis is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.