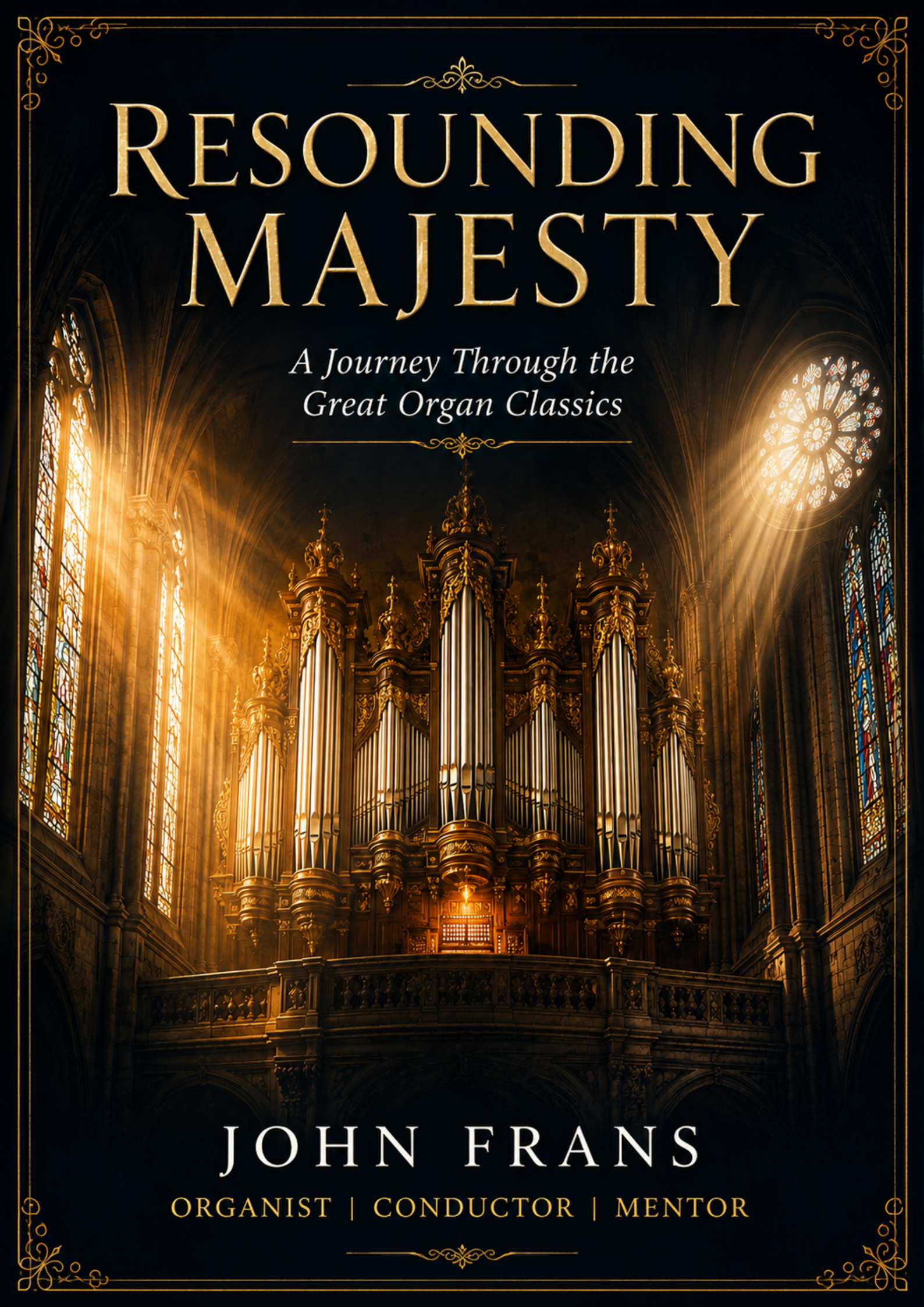


A photograph of a large, ornate pipe organ in a cathedral. Sunlight streams through tall stained glass windows on either side, creating a dramatic, golden glow. The organ features multiple tiers of pipes and is topped with intricate gold-colored carvings. The architecture is Gothic, with high vaulted ceilings and stone columns.

RESOUNDING MAJESTY

*A Journey Through the
Great Organ Classics*

JOHN FRANS

ORGANIST | CONDUCTOR | MENTOR

RESOUNDING MAJESTY

A Journey Through the Great Organ Classics

DEDICATION

Barry Smith, one of my principal mentors, guided me — and many others — through the world of sacred music. This album is dedicated to you in honour of your tireless contribution.

Many hours of my childhood were spent listening to our favourite organ solos. Today, we both find ourselves bringing church music to others. Throughout that journey, your influence has remained constant. You were, and remain, an inspiration.

I began working on this album after retiring from my corporate career. The project started during load shedding and took six years to complete. It demanded patience, persistence, and many hours of hard work. It has also become one of the most rewarding projects I have ever undertaken.

And now ... on to the next!

John Frans

Organist | Conductor | Mentor

jfrans12@icloud.com

084 824 5611

14 February 2026

ABOUT THE ALBUM

There are moments when the organ does more than fill a space. It transforms it.

In *Resounding Majesty*, John Frans invites the listener into a world where grandeur and intimacy meet. His approach is commanding, yet sensitive. He treats the instrument not only as a performer, but also as a storyteller.

Each phrase shapes an architectural landscape of sound. At its centre lies a quiet sense of reflection.

Often called the 'King of Instruments', the organ reveals its full symphonic character in this recording. It moves from thunderous proclamation to whispered meditation. Each registration has been chosen to reveal colour, depth, and emotion.

Yet power is never the only purpose. Within the organ's grandeur lies tenderness. Even its most majestic voice can speak personally to the soul.

For Frans, the organ is both cathedral and chamber. It is a space of awe and a place of prayer. This album captures that duality. The music rises in splendour, yet remains profoundly human.

Resounding Majesty is an invitation to listen deeply. It celebrates the enduring voice of the organ and the emotions that resonate within it.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

John Frans is a South African organist, conductor, and mentor. His musical voice is rooted in the grandeur of the pipe organ and in a deep love of sacred tradition.

His playing combines discipline and devotion. It also reflects a sensitive understanding of space, resonance, colour, and atmosphere.

Frans approaches each work as a form of storytelling. He draws orchestral colour from the organ and allows the instrument to sing, whisper, and proclaim. Melody, harmony, registration, and silence are all shaped with purpose.

Through performance, choral leadership, and mentorship, Frans remains committed to musical excellence within the church and the wider cultural community.

In *Resounding Majesty*, he reveals the organ in its fullest voice: expansive, reverent, and profoundly personal.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM JOHN FRANS

Music has always been both refuge and proclamation for me.

The organ can fill a vast space with splendour. It can also speak intimately to the quietest corners of the soul.

In preparing this recording, my intention was not only to present the grandeur of the instrument. I also wanted to reveal its humanity. The organ possesses warmth, tenderness, vulnerability, and an extraordinary power to inspire.

Each work on this album has been shaped with care. My hope is that these performances offer moments of reflection, courage, and quiet joy.

May this music accompany you in celebration, contemplation, and peace.

“Music expresses that which cannot be said, and on which it is impossible to be silent.”

— Victor Hugo,
William Shakespeare (1864)

DEDICATION TO THE LISTENER

To all who find solace in sound,
strength in stillness,
and hope in harmony.

To the spaces that have carried these echoes,
and to the hearts that continue to listen.

PROGRAMME NOTES

Tracks I-VI

I. A Trumpet Minuet - Alfred Hollins

Hollins opens the album with radiant poise. The trumpet voice balances courtly refinement with ceremonial brilliance. Bright articulation and noble clarity give the programme an elegant and confident beginning.

II. Choral No. 1 in E Major, FWV 38 - César Franck

Franck's First Choral unfolds like spiritual architecture in sound. Its themes grow through reflection, contrast and transformation. Rich harmonies reveal the organ's symphonic depth, moving from searching introspection towards luminous affirmation.

III. Badinerie, from Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B Minor, BWV 1067 - Johann Sebastian Bach

Bach's Badinerie dances with agility, wit and momentum. Originally written for orchestra, its quicksilver lines take on a brilliant new character at the organ. Crisp articulation keeps the music light, buoyant and precise.

IV. Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, from Cantata BWV 147 - Johann Sebastian Bach

A flowing accompaniment supports one of Bach's most familiar chorale melodies. The music is gentle, assured and quietly radiant. After the sparkle of the Badinerie, it offers repose, warmth and inward peace.

V. Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott, BWV 721 - Johann Sebastian Bach

This chorale prelude is shaped by humility and supplication. Bach sets the melody in a deeply expressive texture, allowing each phrase to breathe with tenderness. The result is intimate, prayerful and quietly consoling.

VI. Chorale Prelude on "Eventide" - Sir Hubert Parry

Parry's chorale prelude unfolds with warmth and measured grace. Its restrained character suggests the stillness of evening. The music glows rather than dazzles, offering a calm space for reflection.

PROGRAMME NOTES

Tracks VII-XII

VII. Tuba Tune in D Major - Norman Cocker

Cocker's celebrated work gives the organ's tuba stop a commanding role. The melody is bold, dignified and ceremonial. Its brilliance is balanced by firm structure, rhythmic vitality and careful proportion.

VIII. Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 - Johann Sebastian Bach

This Schübler Chorale is Bach's organ arrangement of a movement from Cantata BWV 140. A flowing inner line supports the noble chorale melody. The result is serene, watchful and filled with calm expectancy.

IX. Toccata from Suite gothique, Op. 25 - Léon Boëllmann

The final movement of Boëllmann's Suite gothique surges forward with rhythmic energy. Repeated figures create urgency and momentum, while the writing remains clear and controlled. The music builds towards an exhilarating conclusion.

X. Organ Sonata No. 2 in C Minor, Op. 65 No. 2, MWV W57 - Felix Mendelssohn

Mendelssohn combines classical clarity with Romantic warmth. Solemn opening ideas give way to lyricism, energy and contrapuntal strength. The sonata brings depth, balance and quiet authority to the programme.

XI. Toccata from Organ Symphony No. 5 in F Minor, Op. 42 No. 1 - Charles-Marie Widor

Widor's famous Toccata forms the final movement of his Fifth Organ Symphony. Rapid manual figures shimmer above a powerful pedal foundation. The music builds towards a triumphant proclamation of light, grandeur and celebration.

XII. Le Cygne - The Swan, from Le Carnaval des animaux; transcribed for organ by Alexandre Guilmant - Camille Saint-Saëns

The Swan glides with unhurried grace. In Alexandre Guilmant's organ transcription, Saint-Saëns's melody sings with tenderness and simplicity. The album ends not in thunder, but in stillness, leaving its final resonance suspended beyond the closing note.