

My work entitled *Organicity* came about because Vassar College commissioned, in the new century, a new organ by the Tacoma, Washington builder Paul Fritts. I immediately liked Paul and his fellow craftsmen and thought perhaps I should write something for the instrument which he so impressively designed and they constructed. My direct contact with the organ was limited to one lesson received in childhood (pedaling proved too daunting) although I do remember accompanying my grandmother to church, when I must have been less than ten, solely to hear this much-buttoned console give forth its intimidating voice. Teaching counterpoint for many years, I have never had an excuse to write a fugue of my own. I saw this as an opportunity to compose preludes as well. The final toccata was an added call to virtuosity. *Organicity* is meant as an album of pieces which can be played in part or as an entirety. The performer is free to adjust the ordering of excerpts.

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