

## **Introduction to the recorded lessons with André Marchal**

Philip Crozier, Montreal, Canada, August 2025

Studying with one of the greatest organists of all time was a remarkable privilege in my life. André Marchal passed away on 27th August 1980 in the South of France. I had private lessons with him from autumn 1978 until July 1980. Now, 45 years after his death, I have decided to release recordings of the lessons I had at his home in Paris between February 1979 and July 1980. I was allowed to record on cassette tape all these lessons which were arranged by his daughter Jacqueline Englert-Marchal who also acted as interpreter (as my French was rudimentary then) which she did with great skill and clarity throughout every lesson. At the time of these lessons I was a student in my early 20s living in my native UK.

I am most grateful to Claude G. Thompson of Montreal who transferred the original cassette tapes to CD in 2008 to ensure their preservation. Listening to them it hardly seems it is so long ago and it is like having the lessons all over again. Sometimes I cringe at my innocence but at the time most of this repertory was very fresh in my fingers so I had not fallen into the habit of doing it all the "wrong way" which can be hard to unlearn afterwards.

There were multiple questions in these lessons that I had prepared beforehand. For some of the questions I already had a good sense of what Marchal might answer but I wanted to hear and have on record what he had to say directly.