



In Excelsis presents

Splendeur de la Messe Française

Sunday, May 20, 2018

3:00pm

FEATURING

St. George's Choir and the Sanctuary Choir of West End United Methodist Church
Gerry Senechal and Richard Gray, Organists

PROGRAM

From *Messe de la Pentecôte*.....Olivier Messiaen
Les langues de feu (1908-1991)

Richard Gray, Organ

Vierne on Widor:

“...he improvised with splendid craftsmanship and a fertile imagination, served by a perfectly disciplined control of the elements he wished to put into it.”

From *Messe*.....Charles-Marie Widor
Kyrie (1844-1937)

Woosug Kang, Conductor

Vierne when he heard Franck play the organ for the first time:

“...it’s beautiful because it is beautiful; I don’t know why, but it is so beautiful that I would like to play such music and die immediately afterwards.”

Psalm 150.....César Franck
(1822-1890)

Andrew Risinger, Conductor

Vierne on Duruflé:

“...seems to me to be the most brilliant and the most original of the young generation of organists. Here we are in the presence of an absolutely complete individual– a first-class performer, and an improviser with abundant and varied imagination.”

From *Quatre Motets*.....Maurice Duruflé
Ubi Caritas (1902-1986)
Tantum Ergo

Andrew Risinger, Conductor

Organ Solo

Deuxième fantaisie, JA 117.....Jehan Alain
(1911-1940)

Woosug Kang, Organ

Vierne on Dupré:

“Teaching him was easy because , gifted as he was, the boy was also an indefatigable worker. He felt instinctively that the more gifted one is, the harder one must work to make the most of what nature has given him.”

From *Quatre Motets*.....Marcel Dupré
Tantum Ergo (1886-1971)

Woosug Kang, Conductor

Messe

Messe Solennelle en Ut # Mineur.....Louis Vierne
Kyrie (1870-1937)
Gloria

Woosug Kang, Conductor

Sanctus
Agnus Dei

Andrew Risinger, Conductor

Please join us for a reception in Hampton Hall immediately following the concert.

Texts and Translations

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

*Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.*

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Iesu Christe.
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus. Tu solus Dominus.

Tu solus Altissimus, Iesu Christe.
Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.

*Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon
us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Sanctus & Benedictus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

Psalm 150

Alleluia. Praise ye the Lord in his holy places: praise ye him in the firmament of his power.
Praise ye him for his mighty acts: praise ye him according to the multitude of his greatness.
Praise him with the sound of trumpet: praise him with psaltery and harp.
Praise him with timbrel and choir: praise him with strings and organs.
Praise him on high sounding cymbals: praise him on cymbals of joy:
let every spirit praise the Lord.
Alleluia.

Ubi Caritas

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.

*Where there is charity and love, God is there,
The love of Christ has gathered us together.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Let us revere and love the living God.
And from a sincere heart let us love one another.*

Tantum Ergo

Tantum ergo Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui,
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui,
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.
Genitori, Genitoque
Laus et jubilation,
Salus, honor, virtus quoque
Sit et benediction:
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudation.

*Let us therefore, bowing low,
Venerate so great a Sacrament;
And let the old Law
Give way to the new rite;
Let faith afford assistance
To the deficiency of the senses.
To the Begetter and the Begotten
Let there be praise and jubilation,
Salvation and honor,
And power and blessing;
And to the One proceeding from both
Let there be equal praise.*

PROGRAM NOTES

Louis Vierne was a prolific composer whose life was filled with challenges and hardships, including the loss of many family members to war and illness. He constantly battled health issues, and even faced the challenge of legal blindness. Additionally, Vierne was once involved in an accident so severe, he feared he would never again play the organ. The resulting medical bills from this and other health problems caused him great financial hardship.

It is easy to admire the gentle soul and civil manner portrayed by Louis Vierne; perhaps most remarkable is the absence of bitterness in his speeches and letters. In contrast to his gentle spirit, Vierne's music reveals the full spectrum of his struggles and emotional angst, while also evoking a sense of joy and salvation.

The "Kyrie" from *Messe Solennelle en Ut # Mineur* begins in a solemn manner, highlighting the piece's requirement of two organs. Painting a vivid picture of a struggling soul pleading for mercy, each choral voice enters in turn, beginning with the Basses, followed by the Tenors, Altos, and finally Sopranos. This incredibly passionate Kyrie builds to a magnificent climax, at which the organs and choir join in a final, desperate plea, which continues until the end of the movement. Next, the Gloria and the Sanctus demonstrate the composer's humility and faithfulness through the expression of joy and praise. As a fitting end to today's program, the Agnus Dei at last brings a measure of comfort while gently beseeching mercy one final time. This movement is a beautiful parallel to the end of Vierne's own life, and his passing away on his beloved organ in the middle of a concert.

Vierne lived at the very height of the French organ scene, along with many other notable composers. Two of these composers had a profound impact on Vierne. César Franck brought extraordinary craftsmanship to his improvisations, as did Charles-Marie Widor, his successor at the Paris Conservatoire. Students of Vierne, Marcel Dupré and Maurice Duruflé, demonstrate contrasting relationships with their teacher through their choral compositions. These works show great contrast despite being set to familiar texts based on Gregorian chants. The two organ solos of today's program highlight the various trends in the organ music of the day, while the choral offerings demonstrate the remarkable spectrum of sacred music of the period.

We are deeply grateful to the Sanctuary Choir of the West End United Methodist Church, Nashville for their presence with us today; it is always a joy and privilege to make music together while uplifting the beautiful, music-filled community of Nashville.

WSK

SANCTUARY CHOIR OF WEST END UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Soprano

Rebecca Frame Collier
Hannah Cullum
Patricia Cullum
Melissa Gramling
Emma Jackson
Penny Lueckenhoff
Jan Morrison
Sarah Williams

Alto

Jodie Gambill
Julie Jones
Pam Rice
Laura Webb
Allison Williams
Bethany Wilson

Tenor

Sean Kennedy
Fred Mund
Scott Wolfe

Bass

Robb Bigelow
Doug Brown
Heath Jones
Keith Ramsey
Ben Troxler

ST. GEORGE'S CHOIR

Soprano

Jan Allison
Carol Armes
Rebeckah Alexander
Laurel Fisher
Diana Neely
Renee Lancaster
Laura Ross
Debra Lee Williamson
Catherine Perry
Suann Davis
Katie Arata

Alto

Amy Weeks
Caroline Henneberry
Billy Dodson
Tibby Christenberry
Emily Hinkle
Allie Utley
Sarah Weeks
Claudia Padfield
Mareike Sattler

Tenor

Ben Petty
Kevin Carson
Mark Thress
Aaron Velthouse
John Logan Wood

Bass

Neil Redkevitch
Bob Christenberry
Luke Harnish
Charlie Brown
Bob Pitz
Mark Gilbert
Sam Moore
John Fitzgerald
Dave Schmidt
Joshua Lindsay

THE SENIOR CHORISTERS OF ST. GEORGE'S

Kelsey Amberson
Jack Blaess
Brennan Conway
Grace Gerenday
Autumn Nash
William Spruill
Annelisa Williams

BIOS

Dr. Woosug Kang has a strong reputation as a concert organist, a church musician, and a choral conductor. He is the Director of Music Ministries at St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville, where he conducts and plays the organ for various liturgical services and special events. Before arriving in Nashville in 2016, he was the Director of Music at St. Philip's In The Hills Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona, where he oversaw one of the largest music programs in the region including monthly choral masses with the orchestra. He has given organ recitals in various venues in the USA, Australia, UK, and New Zealand. woosugkang.com

Gerry Senechal began his career in church music at the age of eight, when the organist of his father's parish moved away. At age ten, he joined the Choir of Men and Boys at All Saints Episcopal Church in Worcester, Massachusetts, under Ron Stalford, which profoundly influenced his musicality and churchmanship. Following his undergraduate work at Sewanee, where he studied with Robert Delcamp, he was appointed Music Intern at West End United Methodist Church in Nashville. He has served St. George's as Associate Director of Music Ministries and Organist since 2004. He received his Masters in Music with an emphasis in conducting from Belmont University in 2010. He was also the recipient of Second Prize in his fifth-grade spelling bee, fittingly, because he misspelled the word "musician." His greatest joy in ministry at St. George's is his work with the Choristers. Under his direction, the Choristers and Lay Clerks experienced weeklong residencies singing daily services at Washington National Cathedral in 2009 and St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in 2014. Gerry enjoys composing, woodworking, smoking meat, and strength training. He is an adjunct faculty member at Welch College in Gallatin where he teaches organ. He is also the sole proprietor of a drone company specializing in aerial photography and videography.

Andrew Risinger, a native of Texas, holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from Baylor University where he studied with Joyce Jones. He earned a double Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting from The University of Alabama where he studied organ with J. Warren Hutton and conducting with Sandra Willetts. Mr. Risinger currently serves as Organist and Associate Director of Music at West End United Methodist Church, Nashville, a post he has held since 1995. Risinger also teaches on the adjunct music faculty of Belmont University. In 2007, he was named Organ Curator for the Schemerhorn Symphony Center, the Nashville Symphony's home, which houses the Martin Foundation Organ built by Schoenstein & Co. Also serving as primary organist for the Nashville Symphony, Risinger was the soloist for the new instrument's inaugural performance with orchestra in September of 2007. In 1994, Mr. Risinger was awarded second prize in the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance and he is a past winner of the William C. Hall Organ Competition in San Antonio. As a concert artist he has performed throughout the United States including performances at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, and Trinity Church Copley Square in Boston. Mr. Risinger has also performed as a soloist with the Illinois Symphony as well as the Nashville Symphony. His performances have been heard on National Public Radio broadcasts of *Performance Today* and *Pipedreams*.

A native of Beaufort, South Carolina, **Richard Gray** is currently serving as the 2017-18 Organ Scholar of St. George's Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He holds degrees in Organ Performance from Southern Methodist University and Oberlin Conservatory of Music. During his time in Dallas at SMU, he was engaged as an organist at Highland Park Presbyterian Church where he enjoyed collaborations as an accompanist for the chancel choir and Highland Park Chorale. He has served as Assistant Course Organist for the 2016 Royal School of Church Music in America's Carolina Course in Raleigh, North Carolina. He won the Prize for Hymn Playing Excellence (Alamo AGO Award) in the 2016 William C. Hall Pipe Organ Competition in San Antonio. Richard has sung with the Nashville Chamber Singers, the Dallas Choral Festival Chorus, and the Highland Park Chorale. As a recitalist, Richard has performed concerts in notable venues throughout the United States including Charlotte's Myers Park Baptist Church, Cleveland's The Church of the Covenant, Boston's Trinity Church Copley Square, and Dallas' Highland Park United Methodist Church. Richard was selected as a Conducting Fellow for the 2017 Atlanta Summer Conducting Institute where he prepared repertoire and coached in masterclasses with Dr. Daniel Bara and Dr. Joy Meade.



In Excelsis 2017-2018
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Donations listed are for the 2017-18 season only based on donations received from June 2017 through May 2018.

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The Rev. R. Leigh Spruill, Rector
Dr. Woosug Kang, Director of Music Ministries
Gerry Senechal, Associate Director of Music & Organist
Richard Gray, Organ Scholar
Wilma Jensen, Director of Music Emerita

