

LENTEN CONCERT SERIES

March 7, 2019 • 12 Noon

Andrew Risinger, organ

Prelude and Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

One of Bach's most monumental organ works, the E Minor begins with a grandiose prelude characterized by a soaring melodic theme which is supported by insistent octaves in the pedal and cascading scales in the hands. The fugue earned the nickname "The Wedge" because of the shape of the ever-widening subject or theme:



After the opening exposition of the fugue, the middle development section is almost more of a free-style toccata than fugal counterpoint. Ribbons of running sixteenth notes, chromatic ostinato figures, and episodic melodies help soften against the more angular and rather jagged texture of the opening and closing sections.

Récit de Tierce en taille

Nicolas de Grigny
(1672-1703)

Nicolas de Grigny served as organist of the abbey church of Saint Denis in Paris as well as the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Reims. Despite his premature death, de Grigny's *Livre d'orgue* is considered along with François Couperin's works to be the pinnacle of the baroque French organ tradition. The lyrical Tierce en taille movement has the solo melody in the tenor range with accompanying voices above and below it. In this piece, de Grigny's florid ornamentation creates elegant flourishes and a sense of drama while maintaining a rather dolorous character.

Dieu parmi nous from *La Nativité du Seigneur*

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)

The final of the nine meditations which comprise Messiaen's suite based on the nativity, Dieu parmi nous translates as "God among us." Following its rousing opening, the soothing strings of the organ create a suspended moment which gives way to very rhythmic recitative-like phrases. Throughout this piece melodic motives are descending whether in the hands or feet, and Messiaen brings it all to a conclusion with the final and somewhat frenzied toccata.

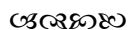
Andrew Risinger, a native of Texas, holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance from Baylor University where he studied with Joyce Jones. He earned a double Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting from The University of Alabama where he studied organ with J. Warren Hutton and conducting with Sandra Willetts. Mr. Risinger serves as Organist and Associate Director of Music of 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 Schermerhorn Symphony Center, 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. A prize winner in several competitions, Mr. Risinger has performed throughout the United States and has been heard on National Public Radio broadcasts of *Performance Today* and on *Pipedreams*.



Still to Come in the Series

- March 14 **Elliston Trio** – Erin Hall, violin
 Keith Nicholas, cello • Matthew Phelps, piano
- March 21 **Joseph O'Berry**, organ
- March 28 **Nara Lee**, organ
- April 4 **Sarah Cote**, viola & **Douglas Murray**, organ
- April 11 **Gayle Sullivan**, organ

Each half-hour concert begins at noon in the sanctuary. Following the concert, lunch is available at 12:30 p.m. in McWhirter Hall for \$10. **Lunch requires a reservation.** Register online at westendumc.org/lentenconcerts or call the church at 615.321.8500 by noon on Wednesday, one day prior to each concert.



***The Beatitudes* by Arvo Pärt & *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré**
Sunday, March 10 • 4:30 p.m.
West End UMC Chancel Choir & Orchestra
Matthew Phelps, conductor

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Avenue • Nashville, Tennessee 37203 • 615.321.8500