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CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PRESENTS BRITTEN CEREMONY OF CAROLS AND VIVALDI GLORIA

Combined Cathedral Choirs, Soloists and Orchestra Perform Festive Holiday Music

Kent Tritle and Bryan Zaros, Conductors



Photo: Cathedral Archives

New York (November XX, 2017) – The Cathedral of St. John the Divine presents its annual Cathedral Christmas Concert on **Saturday, December 9 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.** The Cathedral Choirs will join forces under the leadership of **Kent Tritle**, Director of Cathedral Music and one of America’s leading choral conductors. This signature event is one of many comprising the 2017–2018 season of *Great Music in a Great Space*.

This year’s concert features beloved holiday classics. First, the Cathedral Choristers, joined by the trebles of the Cathedral Choir, sing Britten’s exquisite setting of medieval poetry, the *Ceremony of Carols*, conducted by Bryan Zaros, Associate Choirmaster. The Cathedral Chorale and Orchestra join for Vivaldi’s splendid and festive *Gloria*, while New York composer James Bassi’s radiant *Quem pastores laudavere* portrays the quiet beauty of the Christmas story. The audience is invited to join in singing favorite Christmas carols, led by the choirs and orchestra.

Tickets are \$50 (general admission) and \$75 (reserved). For more information or to purchase tickets please visit <http://www.stjohndivine.org/visit/calendar/events/music/17905/cathedral-christmas-concert-6>

Program

Antonio Vivaldi
Gloria

James Bassi
Quem pastores laudavere

Benjamin Britten
Ceremony of Carols

Soloists

Dayen Booker, *treble chorister*
Halley Gilbert, *soprano*
Michele Kennedy, *soprano*
Jamet Pittman, *soprano*
Allison Cheeseman, *mezzo-soprano*
Katie Geissinger, *mezzo-soprano*
Heather Petrie, *contralto*

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About Great Music in a Great Space

Great Music in a Great Space is a series of concerts inspired by a range of musical traditions. Re-launched in 2011 under the leadership of Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music, *Great Music in a Great Space* resumes the legendary concert and recital series from the 1980s, showcasing the most exciting composers and performers in the world of choral and instrumental music and consistently drawing capacity crowds.

About Kent Tritle

Kent Tritle is one of America's leading choral conductors. Called "the brightest star in New York's choral music world" by the *New York Times*, Tritle is in his sixth season as Director of Cathedral Music and organist at New York's Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine. He is also Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York and of Musica Sacra. He is Director of Choral Activities and Chair of the Organ Department at the Manhattan School of Music and on the graduate faculty of the Juilliard School. He is organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra.

Tritle holds graduate and undergraduate degrees from The Juilliard School in organ performance and choral conducting. He has been featured on *ABC World News Tonight*, *National Public Radio*, and *Minnesota Public Radio*, as well as in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

About Bryan Zaros

Bryan Zaros is a young American conductor recognized for his “strong musical imagination” and “deep sense of musicality and communication.” A native New Yorker, Zaros received a Bachelor of Music in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College and a Master of Music in Conducting from the University of Michigan. He is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting at the Manhattan School of Music. Zaros began his tenure as the Associate Choirmaster at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in August 2016 and made his conducting debut with the Cathedral’s Choirs at Westminster Abbey, London.

About The Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership. People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Adults and Children in Trust, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational and nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

The Cathedral is open 7 days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information and a schedule of public programs.