



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the Divine

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RELEASE

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**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE ANNOUNCES
THE TWELFTH SEASON OF
*GREAT MUSIC IN A GREAT SPACE***



Season includes a world premiere by David Briggs, collaboration with Rose of the Compass, and celebrations of works by diverse composers

New York (August XX, 2022) **The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street)**, presents the twelfth season of **Great Music in a Great Space** under the direction of Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music and Organist. With choral and organ performances ranging from Antonio Vivaldi's *Magnificat* to George Walker's *Lyric for Strings*, this season provides a culturally diverse offering inside the Cathedral's gothic interior.

The season kicks off with recitals by Artist in Residence David Briggs and Associate Director of Music and Organist Daniel Ficarri, with the Noree Chamber Soloists. Both concerts feature works by German Romantic composers, including Briggs's new transcription of Robert Schumann's *Rhenish Symphony*. Musica

Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City, presents music spanning from 14th century England and France to the 20th century. In Spring 2023, the Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra join forces for the world premiere of Briggs's *Stabat Mater*, conducted by Tritle, and Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*, led by Associate Director of Music and Choirmaster Bryan Zaros. Long-time collaborator Nina Stern returns with world music ensemble Rose of the Compass for the GMGS season finale with the Cathedral Choir, a celebration of Venice as a cultural crossroads.

Holiday music is a beloved tradition at the Cathedral. The Cathedral's Christmas concerts include carols sung by the audience, and the New Year's Eve Concert for Peace, founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, continues this year with music of inspiration and social conscience.

Sunday afternoon organ recitals return, featuring organists from around the world, and culminating in the return of the Great Organ in the spring after a four-year hiatus. These performances plumb the riches of the repertory, include premieres, and explore new avenues of composition and performance for the King of Instruments.

Tickets are now available [on the Cathedral's website](#). Students are admitted free to select performances with valid school ID. Visit the Cathedral's website for more information about the 2022-2023 season of Great Music in a Great Space.

CHORAL CONCERT SERIES

All concerts start at 7:30 pm

*Students admitted free with valid school ID

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

MUSIC FOR A GOTHIC SPACE

MUSICA SACRA CHORUS

Kent Tritle, conductor

Gregorian chant and contemporaneous polyphony from 14th century England and France fill the world's largest gothic cathedral, interspersed with contemporary voices including living composers Janet Wheeler, Amy Summers, Olivia Sparkhall, and Sarah McDonald.

Wednesday, March 8, 2023*

LIGHT OF PARADISE

CATHEDRAL CHOIRS

ENSEMBLE 1047

Kent Tritle & Bryan Zaros, conductors

David Briggs, organ
Halley Gilbert, soprano
Andrew Fuchs, tenor

DAVID BRIGGS *Stabat Mater* (world premiere)
GEORGE WALKER Lyric for Strings
MORTEN LAURIDSEN *Lux Aeterna*

Tuesday, April 18, 2023
MULTITUDE OF VOYCES
MUSICA SACRA CHORUS
Kent Tritle, conductor

J.S. Bach's wondrous motet *Jesu, meine Freude*, remarkable for its musical architecture, shines alongside music by women composers of the past and present, from the *Stabat Mater* of Sister Sulpitia Cesis to the New York premiere of Kerensa Briggs' "Hear my prayer," and including New York composers Rani Arbo and Melanie DeMore.

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
VENICE: CITY OF LIGHT
CATHEDRAL CHOIR & ROSE OF THE COMPASS
Kent Tritle & Nina Stern, music directors

A concert celebrating Venice as a commercial crossroads, highlighting the diversity of the city's cultural fabric. Music of the Armenian, Turkish, and Jewish communities alongside that of Cipriano de Rore, Giovanni Gabrieli, and their contemporaries comes together, making for a brilliant and evocative evening!

HOLIDAY CONCERTS
All concerts start at 7:00 pm

Friday, December 9, 2022
Saturday, December 10, 2022
THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS!
CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT
CATHEDRAL CHOIRS & ORCHESTRA
Kent Tritle & Bryan Zaros, conductors
Halley Gilbert, soprano
Kirsten Sollek, contralto
Austin Cody, tenor

Andrew Jurden, bass-baritone

ANTONIO VIVALDI *Magnificat*, RV 610

GERALD FINZI *In Terra Pax*

Christmas carols

Friday, December 31, 2022

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT FOR PEACE

CATHEDRAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle & Bryan Zaros, conductors

Jamet Pittman, soprano

Gregory Purnhagen, baritone

Harry Smith, host

GUSTAV HOLST *St. Paul's Suite*, Op. 29 No. 2

DAVID LANG *Make Peace*

JOSEPH TURRIN *Lullaby for Vaska* (world premiere)

PHILIP HERBERT *Elegy: in memoriam*

Music includes Gustav Holst's *St. Paul's Suite*, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Lang's *Make Peace*, Philip Herbert's *Elegy: in memoriam*, Joseph Turrin's *Lullaby for Vaska*—a world premiere featuring soprano Jamet Pittman and dedicated to the people of Ukraine—and works by Daniel Ficarri, Christopher DeBlasio, Amy Summers, and Wang Jie, alongside the traditional Spiritual "This Little Light of Mine."

GREAT ORGAN: A RECITAL SERIES

All Tuesday concerts start at 7:30 pm and are ticketed

*Students admitted free with valid school ID

All Sunday recitals start at 5pm and are free of charge

Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 7:30 pm*

DAVID BRIGGS PERFORMS GERMAN SYMPHONISTS

Works by German symphonists, including Felix Mendelssohn, Johannes Brahms, and a new transcription of Robert Schumann's magnificent Third Symphony, the "Rhenish."

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 7:30 pm*

DANIEL FICARRI, ORGAN & NOREE CHAMBER SOLOISTS

Associate Organist Daniel Ficarra teams up with the NY-based Noree Chamber Soloists, praised by the *New York Concert Review* for their "musicality of a high order" and "exquisite sensitivity," in works for organ, piano, violin, and cello. Featured on the program are two Romantic gems as never heard before—Robert Schumann's Canon Studies, Op. 56 arranged by Ficarra for violin, cello, and organ; and Clara Schumann's Prelude and Fugue in D Minor, Op. 16 arranged by Ficarra for solo organ.

Sunday, October 16, 2022 at 5:00 pm

KENT TRITTE, DIRECTOR OF CATHEDRAL MUSIC & ORGANIST

Works by J.S. Bach and César Franck, alongside Stephen Paulus's Tryptich for Organ.

Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 5:00 pm

DAVID BRIGGS, ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Vive la France: spectacular music by Marcel Dupré, Jean Berveiller, and Maurice Duruflé.

Sunday, February 12, 2023 at 5:00 pm

SAMUEL KUFFUOR-AFRIYIE, ORGAN SCHOLAR

A program in honor of Black History Month with works from European and African American composers, including Louis Vierne, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Alcée Chriss III, Mark A. Miller, and J.S. Bach.

Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 5:00 pm

DANIEL FICARRI, ASSOCIATE ORGANIST

Ficarra performs his own *Visions of the Holy Spirit*, a mystical five-movement suite for organ and narrator depicting encounters with the Holy Spirit recorded in the diary of Fr. Isaac Hecker.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 7:30 pm*

DAVID BRIGGS IMPROVISES THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A fully improvised Stations of the Cross concert.

Sunday, April 16, 2023 at 5:00 pm

KENT TRITLE, DIRECTOR OF CATHEDRAL MUSIC & ORGANIST

David Hurd's Partita on Detroit (1992) and Maurice Duruflé's Prelude, Adagio, and Chorale Variations on "Veni Creator," Op. 4.

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:30 pm*
DAVID BRIGGS PERFORMS LISZT

A concert of great organ works, including Franz Liszt's monumental Fantasia on *Ad nos, ad salutarem undam*.

ADDITIONAL GUEST ORGANIST SUNDAY AFTERNOON RECITALS

All concerts start at 5:00 pm

October 23: Janet Yieh
October 30: Felix Hell
November 6: Stephen Price
January 29: David Briggs
February 5: Amelie Held
February 19: Manuel Piazza
March 5: Emma Whitten
March 12: Ádám Tabajdi
March 19: Jackson Borges
March 26: Raymond Nagem

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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*, he is Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City; Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the Grammy-nominated volunteer chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, New York's elite professional chorus.

In addition, Kent is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School, serving its Vocal Arts Department. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic.

Kent Tritle founded the Sacred Music in a Sacred Space concert series at New York's Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and led it to great acclaim from 1989 to 2011. From 1996 to 2004, he was Music Director of New York's The Dessoff Choirs. Kent hosted "The Choral Mix with Kent Tritle" on New York's WQXR, a

weekly program devoted to the vibrant world of choral music, from 2010 to 2014. Kent's discography includes recordings on the Telarc, AMDG, Epiphany, Gothic, Pro Organo, VAI and MSR Classics labels, and he received a 2021 Grammy nomination for the Naxos recording of the Paul Moravec/Mark Campbell oratorio *Sanctuary Road* with the Oratorio Society of New York. Among his recent honors are the 2020 Chorus America Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art and the 2016 President's Medal for Distinguished Service from the Manhattan School of Music. He was recently featured in the WIRED video series "Masterminds," an installment titled, "What Conductors Are Really Doing." www.kenttritle.com.

About the Artists

David Briggs is an internationally renowned organist whose performances are acclaimed for their musicality, virtuosity, and ability to excite and engage audiences of all ages. Consistently ranked as one of the finest organists of his generation, David's extensive repertoire spans five centuries. He has also become one of the foremost organ transcribers of symphonic works, thereby giving listeners the opportunity to experience the organ in a new way. He has transcribed orchestral compositions by Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Bruckner, Ravel, and Bach, as well as Mahler's Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth symphonies.

Described as "an intrepid improviser" by Michael Barone, host of American Public Media's *Pipedreams*, David performs more than 50 concerts a year at international venues, teaches performance at Cambridge University, frequently serves on international organ competition juries, and gives master classes at colleges and conservatories across the U.S. and Europe.

David is also a prolific composer whose works range from full scale oratorios to works for solo instruments. He has recorded two DVDs and 37 CDs, many of which include his own compositions and transcriptions. David is currently Artist in Residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. For more information, please visit david-briggs.org.

Named one of the top "20 under 30" organists by *The Diapason* magazine, **Daniel Ficarri** (b. 1996) is Associate Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC and a published composer of organ, choral, and chamber music.

A dynamic concert artist, Daniel has made appearances in Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall under the batons of Marin Alsop, Itzhak Perlman, David Robertson, James Gaffigan, and Bernard Labadie; and he has performed in many of the country's great concert halls and houses of worship, including Symphony Hall in Boston and St. Patrick's Cathedral in NYC. *The New York Times* has featured Ficarri in the "Week's 8 Best Classical Music Moments," and WQXR-FM presented him as part of the 2014 Bach Organ Marathon. Daniel

studied the organ with Paul Jacobs at The Juilliard School, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees.

Ficarri's broad compositional output includes inaugural organ works for the Miller-Scott Organ at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue and the restored Hazel Wright Organ at Christ Cathedral (formerly Crystal Cathedral); chamber works for a collaboration with violinist Stella Chen and for organ and cello duo Greg Zelek and Thomas Mesa; and sacred choral works ranging from his grand *Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in D*, premiered by Kent Tritle and the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass of St. John the Divine, to his understated *Ah, Holy Jesus* for the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, NYC, written during his tenure there. Much of Ficarri's music is published by E. C. Schirmer and MorningStar. Daniel studied composition privately with Rachel Laurin.

Samuel Kuffuor-Afriyie is a native of Brooklyn, NY and is currently an M.M candidate in Organ Performance at the Manhattan School of Music studying with Dr. Andrew Henderson. He earned his MBA and B.M. in Organ performance from Syracuse University, studying with Dr. Anne Laver.

Samuel's Ghanaian heritage led him to embark on two major projects in his career thus far. He was awarded a grant through Syracuse University's THE SOURCE foundation to conduct research on Ghanaian traditional music. In parallel, he founded and coordinated The Accra Organ and Choral Music Institute, now known as the Yaa Asantewaa Foundation, in August of 2019. In collaboration with Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University, this endeavor was set up to promote the advancements of minorities in classical music and the arts. This event was a weeklong encounter that brought together guest clinicians who led workshops and masterclasses on choral conducting, organ, and vocal performance.

Samuel currently serves as the Organ Scholar at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where his duties include organ playing and directing the Schola Cantorum, under the mentorship of the Cathedral Music Staff. Outside of music, Samuel enjoys trying new foods and traveling!

Bryan Zaros is a young American conductor recognized for his "strong musical imagination" and "deep sense of musicality and communication." Bryan is the Associate Director of Music and Choirmaster at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, where he leads the Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra, and Brass in liturgical as well as concert performances in the grand space of the world's largest Gothic Cathedral. He is also the Music Director of Central City Chorus, Music Director of The Pro Arte Chorale, and a frequent guest lecturer at the Manhattan School of Music and at music conferences throughout the USA. Currently he serves on the Board of Directors of the New York Choral Consortium, on the Advisory Board to Music Sacra New York, and is a conductor for the American Federation Pueri Cantores.

A native New Yorker, Bryan began his professional musical training as a member of the Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus and as a boy chorister at The Church of the Transfiguration, NYC. He earned his Bachelor of Music in Sacred Music from Westminster Choir College, a Master of Music in Conducting from the University of Michigan, and is a candidate ABD for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting at the Manhattan School of Music.

Recent conducting engagements have included invitations with choirs and orchestras throughout the USA, Europe, and South America. Most notably he has conducted ensembles at Alice Tully Hall-Lincoln Center, the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., at American Choral Director's Association Conferences, on the film set at Warner Bros. Studios, and at various cathedrals in England including Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral-London, and Canterbury Cathedral. He is a recipient of several conducting awards and fellowships including an American Prize award in Conducting. For more information about Bryan, visit www.bryanzaros.com

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.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cathedral has responded to changing needs in the local community and across the city and state. People from many faiths and communities worship together in daily services held online and in person; the soup kitchen serves roughly 50,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs to safely provide resources and aid to the hardest-hit New Yorkers; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Advancing the Community of Tomorrow, 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.