



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

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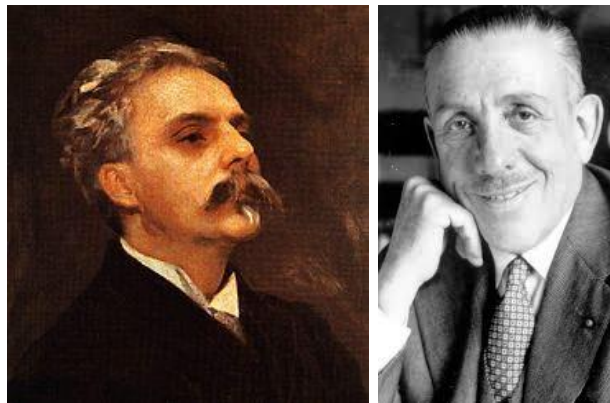
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**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PRESENTS
FRENCH MASTERS – FAURÉ & POULENC**
Featuring Fauré's *Requiem* with Jennifer Zetlan, soprano; John Brancy, baritone;
Raymond Nagem, organ; and Kent Tritle, conductor
With the Cathedral Choir and Ensemble 1047

Final Performance of the 2018-2019 Season of *Great Music in a Great Space*



(March xx, 2019 – New York, NY) – The Cathedral of St. John the Divine concludes its 2018–2019 season of Great Music in a Great Space with French Masters – Fauré and Poulenc, conducted by Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music, on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:30 pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.

Gabriel Fauré first conceived of his *Requiem* in 1887. The Cathedral Choir and Ensemble 1047 perform the 1893 version, which adds the *Libera me* and *Offertoire*, yet is still performed by chamber ensemble of violas, celli, bass, harp, horns and timpani with

organ. The work is a dramatic break from tradition: rather than dwelling on the operatic terrors of the Last Judgment, Fauré chose instead to focus on a message of consolation and hope. Kent Tritle pairs Fauré's beloved music with Poulenc's deeply spiritual *Litanies à la Vierge noire* and *Quatre Petites Prières de Saint François d'Assise*. Soloists for the *Requiem* are Jennifer Zetlan, soprano, and John Brancy, baritone.

This performance is sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Florence Gould Foundation for furthering French art and culture. The evening's concert is also presented in conjunction with ongoing contemporary art exhibition *The Value of Sanctuary: Building a House Without Walls*, on view through June 30 at the Cathedral.

Tickets start at \$25. To purchase tickets and for more information on future concerts, please visit: <https://www.stjohndivine.org/calendar/13341/great-choir-french-masters>

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 seventh 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 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.

Mr. 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 Raymond Nagem

Raymond Nagem is Associate Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, and a member of the organ faculty at Manhattan School of Music, where he teaches organ literature, service playing, and improvisation. He completed his D.M.A. at The Juilliard School in May 2016, where he was a student of Paul Jacobs.

Since 2010, Dr. Nagem has lent his considerable musical talent to St. John the Divine, where he has primary responsibility for service playing and choral accompaniment and frequently conducts the cathedral's several choral ensembles. In addition to these duties, he performs in recital both in New York and across the country.

About Jennifer Zetlan

Recognized for her artistry and captivating stage presence, soprano Jennifer Zetlan has performed on prestigious stages worldwide, as well on Broadway. Last season, Ms. Zetlan created the title role in *Rhoda and the Fossil Hunt* for On Site Opera,

reprised her role in *Crossing* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, reprised the role of Fanny in the New York premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon's *Morning Star*, and joined the San Francisco Symphony as Xenia in *Boris Godunov*.

Her passion for contemporary music has led to premieres of numerous American operas including Ned Rorem's *Our Town* (Aspen Music Festival and Juilliard Opera Center), Steven Stucky and Jeremy Denk's *The Classical Style* (Ojai Festival and Carnegie Hall), Nico Muhly's *Two Boys* (The Metropolitan Opera) and *Dark Sisters* (Gotham Chamber Opera and Opera Philadelphia), Daron Hagen's *Amelia* (Seattle Opera), and David Diamond's Six Arias from *The Noblest Game* (Seattle Symphony). Other recent highlights include her European debut with the Staatstheater Stuttgart in Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*, the title role in the world premiere of *Jane Eyre* by Louis Karchin with Center for Contemporary Opera, (studio recorded for Naxos), and a run of *Fiddler on the Roof* (directed by Bartlett Sher) on Broadway.

The 2018–2019 season includes her return to the Metropolitan Opera for the New York premiere of *Marnie*, *Carmina Burana* with the Kansas City Symphony, Fauré's *Requiem* at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Notorious RGB in *Scalia/Ginsburg* with Opera Delaware, and the title role in *Ellen West* with Opera Saratoga.

About John Brancy

Hailed by the New York Times as “a vibrant, resonant presence,” baritone John Brancy has an exciting and diverse career on recital, opera and concert stages worldwide. His current season highlights include a 12-city recital tour with pianist Peter Dugan of their program *Armistice: The Journey Home*, which included performances at Alice Tully Hall, the Smithsonian Insitute, and West Point Academy. On the opera stage, Brancy appeared in a new production of Olga Neuwirth's *Lost Highway* staged by Yuval Sharon at Oper Frankfurt, and looks forward to working with Sharon again on Meredith Monk's *Atlas* with the LA Philharmonic in June 2019. He will also make his debut as Mercutio in *Roméo et Juliette* in Lisbon at the Gulbenkian (March 2019).

On the concert stage, he will be heard with Netherland's Radio Philharmonic (July 2019), and will make his Bordeaux debut in *Carmina Burana* at Opera Bordeaux (June 2019). Recent operatic highlights include the title role in *Eugene Onegin* at Florida Grand Opera, as Albert in Stadttheater Klagenfurt's production of *Werther*, Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at both Opera Theater of St. Louis and Opera de Lorraine, and Malatesta in *Don Pasquale* for the Glyndebourne Opera Tour.

About Great Music in a Great Space

Revived in 2011, *Great Music in a Great Space* reprises the legendary concert series first held at the Cathedral in the 1980s. Great Music in a Great Space presents choral, orchestral, and instrumental music in the magnificent, deeply spiritual setting of the world's largest Gothic cathedral. Concerts take place in many locations: the vast space of the Crossing, the more intimate setting of the Great Choir, and the exquisite Chapels of the Tongues. The beloved holiday traditions of the Christmas Concert and New Year's Eve Concert for Peace are an integral part of our concert series.

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.

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