



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

1047 Amsterdam Ave.
at 112th Street
New York, NY 10025
T (212) 316-7490
stjohndivine.org

RELEASE

For further information please call

Julie Robinson, Rubenstein Communications, Inc.
(212) 843-9341 / jrobinson@rubenstein.com

Isadora Wilkenfeld, Cathedral of St. John the Divine
(212) 316-7468 / iwilkenfeld@stjohndivine.org

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

Season includes world premieres by Daniel Ficarri and Wang Jie

New York (January XX, 2022) **The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street)**, presents the revised eleventh 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 J.S. Bach to the 13th-century female-voiced *Cantigas de Amigo*, the remainder of the season provides a culturally diverse offering inside the Cathedral's gothic interior.

2022 kicks off with a virtual recital by Artist in Residence David Briggs, followed by the world premiere of Daniel Ficarri's *Gothic Hymn*, with violinist Stella Chen. Musica Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York City, the Cathedral Choir, and Rose of the Compass present music spanning from José Mauricio Nunez Garcia's *Requiem* to Arvo Pärt's *Te Deum*, and a world premiere by Wang Jie.

The GMGS organ recital series continues with Artist in Residence David Briggs, newly appointed Associate Organist Daniel Ficarri, Organ Scholar Samuel Kuffuor-Afriyie, and former Associate Music Director Raymond Nagem, with programs that include premieres and explore new avenues of composition and performance for the King of Instruments.

Students are admitted free to select performances with valid school ID. Visit [the Cathedral's website](#) for more information about the 2021-2022 season of Great Music in a Great Space.

CHORAL CONCERT SERIES

All concerts start at 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Te Deum Laudamus: Centennial & World Premiere!

MUSICA SACRA CHORUS & ORCHESTRA

Kent Tritle, conductor

Nicole Joy Mitchell, contralto

John Riesen, tenor

VIKTOR KALABIS *Canticum Canticorum*

ARVO PÄRT *Te Deum*

WANG JIE World Premiere, TBD

JOHANNES BRAHMS "Schaffe in mir, Gott," Op. 29, No.2

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

CATHEDRAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle & Bryan Zaros, conductors

Nola Richardson, soprano

Tracy Cowart, mezzo-soprano

Andrew Fuchs, tenor

Joseph Beutel, bass-baritone

ANTONIO VIVALDI Concerto in D Minor, RV 565

ALISSA FIRSOVA *Stabat Mater* (New York City premiere)

FRANCIS POULENC *Litanies à la Vierge Noire* (1947 version orchestrated with strings and timpani)

JOSÉ MAURÍCIO NUNES GARCIA *Requiem*

Monday, May 23, 2022 (postponed from February 22, 2022)

Caleidoscópico! Unsung voices from Portugal

ROSE OF THE COMPASS & PARTHENIA

CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

Kent Tritle, Nina Stern & Raymond Nagem, music directors

An exploration of rarely heard works from Portugal including the 13th-century female-voiced *Cantigas de Amigo*, symphonies of the converso Jewish heiress Isabella Duarte, and sacred and secular works of the 16th century Black composer Vicente Lusitano.

GREAT ORGAN: A RECITAL SERIES

All concerts start at 7:30 pm

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 (Free virtual concert)

DAVID BRIGGS, ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Works by J.S. Bach. For information on how to enjoy the free stream, visit the [Cathedral's website](#).

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Gothic Hymn: Music for Organ and Violin

DANIEL FICARRI, ASSOCIATE ORGANIST

STELLA CHEN, VIOLIN (winner, 2019 Queen Elisabeth International Violin Competition)

Mystical works for organ and violin by Olivier Messiaen, Arvo Pärt, Léon Boëllmann, and the world premiere of Ficarri's *Gothic Hymn*.

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

DAVID BRIGGS, ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

The world premiere of David Briggs's transcription of César Franck's Symphony in D Minor. Ticketholders are invited to a 6:30 pm pre-concert lecture by Artist in Residence David Briggs.

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 (Postponed from February 8, 2022)

SAMUEL KUFFUOR-AFRIYIE, ORGAN SCHOLAR

RAYMOND NAGEM, MINISTER OF MUSIC AT BRICK

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EAST COAST CONTEMPORARY BALLET

Works by Chelsea Chen, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Alfred Hollins, Thomas Kerr, and Ad Wammes, with dancers from East Coast Contemporary Ballet.

###

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 acclaimed 200-voice volunteer chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, New York's longest continuously performing professional chorus.

In addition, Kent is Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic and on the organ faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

Kent Tritle founded the Sacred Music in a Sacred Space concert series at New York's Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, and led it 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," a weekly program on New York's WQXR, from 2010 to 2014. Kent Tritle'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 Paul Moravec/Mark Campbell oratorio *Sanctuary Road* with the Oratorio Society of New York. 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” organist by *The Diapason* magazine, **DANIEL FICARRI** (b. 1996) is Associate 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, and James Gaffigan; and he has performed in many of the country’s great houses of worship, including St. Patrick’s Cathedral in NYC and Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove, CA. *The New York Times* has featured Ficarrri 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.

A composer of exceeding detail and imagination, Ficarrri has been commissioned by organizations from the Madison Symphony Orchestra to the British magazine *Choir & Organ*. Much of his music is published by E. C. Schirmer and MorningStar, including multi-movement works for solo organ and unaccompanied choral motets. Daniel studied composition privately with Rachel Laurin.

SAMUEL KUFFUOR-AFRIYIE is a native of Brooklyn, NY and is currently an MBA candidate at Syracuse University. He earned his B.M in Organ performance and minor in Economics from Syracuse University in 2020, studying with Dr. Anne Laver. Over the last few years, he was the recipient of many scholarship awards such as, the Brooklyn chapter American Guild of Organist scholarship award and the Gregory R. Keefe Memorial Scholarship by the Syracuse Chapter of the American Guild of Organist. Samuel was also an E. Power Biggs Organ fellow through the Organ Historical Society.

Samuel’s Ghanaian heritage has 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 to be later adapted as new compositions for the Organ. The project was presented in lecture presentation in May of 2020. Samuel is working to publish those works as an organ suite. In parallel, he also founded and coordinated The Accra Organ and Choral Music Institute, now known as the Rural Arts Foundation in August of 2019. This event was a weeklong encounter that brought together guest clinicians from the US to conduct workshops and masterclasses on Choral Conducting, Organ Playing and Voice.

Samuel serves as Organ Scholar at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City. He has held other various church positions at St. Leonard's Anglican Church and Ghana Wesley United Methodist, both in Brooklyn. Grace Episcopal, and director of music for the Syracuse University Catholic Campus Ministry in Syracuse, NY. He wishes to inspire and mentor youth through his music, primarily in the field of the Arts, especially minorities. Samuel enjoys traveling and eating!

RAYMOND NAGEM is Minister of Music at The Brick Presbyterian Church 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 2016, where he was a student of Paul Jacobs.

A native of Medford, Mass., Dr. Nagem attended the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School and began organ lessons there with John Dunn. He earned his B.A. from Yale University in 2009, studying the organ with Thomas Murray, and his M.A. in 2011 from Juilliard.

Prior to his appointment at Brick, he served for eleven years at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where he was Associate Director of Music and Organist. His album *Divine Splendor*, recorded on the Great Organ of St. John the Divine, is available on the Pro Organo label. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in spring of 2020, Dr. Nagem began a weekly online recital series from the cathedral, "Tuesdays at 6," featuring a diverse range of music spanning the entire organ repertoire. In his spare time, he enjoys running, cycling, and crossword puzzles.

American violinist **STELLA CHEN** garnered worldwide attention with her first-prize win at the 2019 Queen Elizabeth International Violin Competition, followed by the 2020 Avery Fisher Career Grant and 2020 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award.

Following debuts with the Chicago Symphony and Chamber Orchestra of Europe in summer 2021, her auspicious 2021-22 season sees her recital debut at Carnegie Hall, concerto debuts at the Vienna Musikverein and Berlin Philharmonie, and appearances throughout Europe, Asia, and North America. In addition to performances with the New York Philharmonic, Kremerata Baltica, German State Philharmonic, and New Japan Philharmonic she appears frequently with Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center both in New York and on tour.

Stella's most recent engagements include appearances with the Minnesota Orchestra, Belgian National Orchestra, Brussels Philharmonic and the Luxembourg Philharmonic and at the Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, Salzburg Mozarteum, Ravinia, and Kronberg Academy Festivals. Stella has

appeared as a chamber musician in festivals including the Perlman Music Program, Music@Menlo, Bridgehampton, Rockport, and Sarasota. Chamber music partners include Itzhak Perlman, Donald Weilerstein, Matthew Lipman, Robert Levin, and more.

She is the first recipient of the Robert Levin Award from Harvard University, the top prize winner of the Tibor Varga International Violin Competition and youngest-ever prize winner of the Menuhin Competition. Stella plays on the 1700 ex-Petri Stradivarius, on generous loan from Dr. Ryuji Ueno and Rare Violins In Consortium, Artists and Benefactors Collaborative.

Stella received her doctorate from the Juilliard School, where she serves as a teaching assistant to her longtime mentor, Li Lin. Her friendship with Daniel Ficarri is one of her most treasured gifts from their time at Juilliard!

BRYAN ZAROS is a young American conductor recognized for his “strong musical imagination” and “deep sense of musicality and communication.” He is the Associate Choirmaster at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and made his conducting debut with the Cathedral Choirs at Westminster Abbey, London. A native New Yorker, Zaros 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 is the Music Director of the Pro Arte Chorale, an ensemble with a 55-year legacy specializing in the performance of choral/orchestral masterworks and is a frequent guest lecturer at the Manhattan School of Music and at music conferences throughout the USA. He 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. Recent conducting engagements have included invitations with choirs and orchestras in England, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Sweden, Argentina, Greece, Slovenia, Ireland and Romania. 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 and various cathedrals in England including St. Paul’s Cathedral-London, Canterbury Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral. He is a recipient of several conducting awards including an American Prize award in Conducting. For more information about Bryan, visit [www. bryanzaros.com](http://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.