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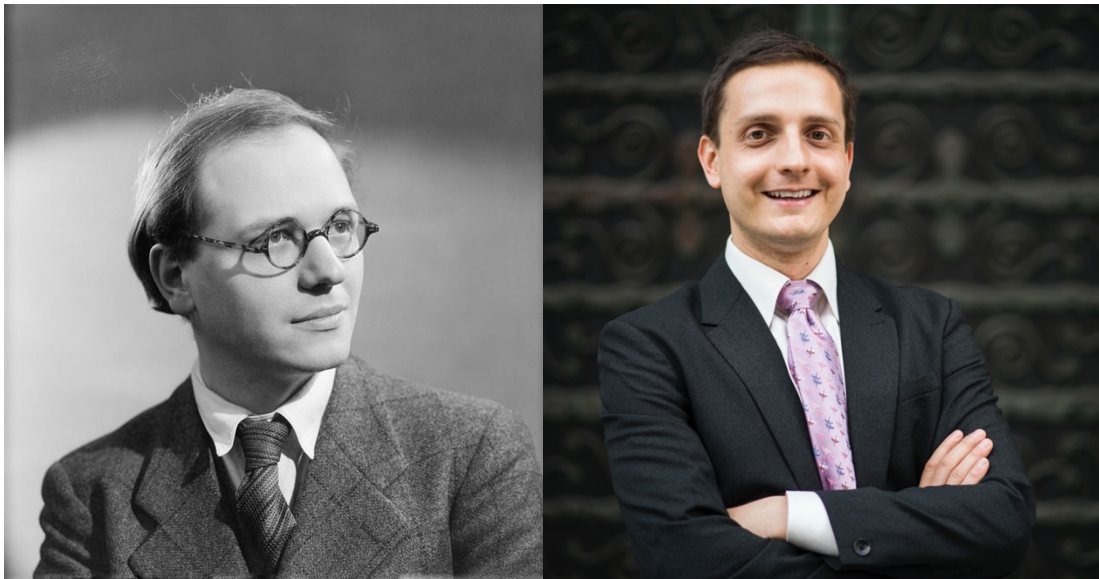
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**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE WELCOMES  
RAYMOND NAGEM FOR A GREAT MUSIC IN A GREAT SPACE CONCERT  
CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF OLIVIER MESSIAEN**

*Raymond Nagem continues the 2020-2021 season of Great Music in a Great Space*



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**The Cathedral of St. John the Divine** continues its 2020-2021 season of Great Music in a Great Space with a virtual performance by Associate Director of Music **Raymond Nagem**, who will perform Olivier Messiaen's *Apparition de l'Église éternelle* and *La Nativité du Seigneur*. **The performance is ticketed and will be streamed via the Cathedral's website on Tuesday, December 1 at 7 pm. There will be a free virtual pre-concert lecture on Facebook at 6 pm, as part of the Cathedral's weekly Tuesdays at 6 organ recital series.**

Organist, pianist, composer, and visionary, Messiaen wrote music of vivid color and intense contrasts, ranging from delirious joy to profound stillness. *La Nativité* tells the Christmas story, with the shepherds, the Magi, the Word of God, and the infant Jesus all represented in music. With the Cathedral's famous acoustics, underneath soaring Gothic arches, these meditations on the drama of Christ's birth take on spectacular power.

In response to the difficulties of making live music during the coronavirus pandemic, and in hope of providing musical beauty in these uncertain times, the Cathedral has created *Tuesdays at 6*, a series of informal online recitals, performed from locations both far and near. In addition to these weekly programs, Great Music in a Great Space presents a second series of full-length concerts by Raymond Nagem and David Briggs, featuring major works and in-depth focus on individual composers. These GMGS performances, presented via streaming technology, are sure to enliven the approaching Christmas season with joy and awe. In the days leading up to his performance, Nagem will be blogging his way through the nine movements of Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur*. Stay tuned via the Great Music in a Great Space [Facebook page](#)!

Tickets for the 7 pm concert are \$10 and can be purchased by visiting [this page](#). The day of the concert, ticket holders will be emailed a private link to access the 7 pm performance via the Cathedral's website. The 6 pm pre-concert lecture is free and no ticket is required. To access the pre-concert lecture, please visit the Great Music in a Great Space [Facebook page](#) at 6 pm. For questions about ticketing, please email [reservations@stjohndivine.org](mailto:reservations@stjohndivine.org). For questions regarding music, please email [music@stjohndivine.org](mailto:music@stjohndivine.org).

### **Performer**

Raymond Nagem, *organ*

### **Program**

Music of Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

*Apparition de l'Église éternelle*

*La Nativité du Seigneur*

### **About the Artist**

**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 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, as a double major in Music and Psychology, and studied the organ with Thomas Murray, and his M.A. in 2011 from Juilliard. He has worked since 2010 at St. John the Divine, where he has primary responsibility for service playing and choral accompaniment and frequently conducts the cathedral's choral ensembles.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Dr. Nagem (along with Artist in Residence David Briggs) has performed weekly online recitals as part of the Cathedral's "Tuesdays at 6" series. These

recitals from home are streamed over the cathedral's Facebook and Youtube pages, and feature a diverse range of music covering the entire organ repertoire. For more information and a list of upcoming performances, visit [raymondnagem.com](http://raymondnagem.com).

### **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.

### **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; Advancing the Community of Tomorrow (ACT), 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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