



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

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



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*Season includes concerts by the Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra and by Musica Sacra Chorus and Orchestra.*

New York (August XX, 2023) **The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112<sup>th</sup> Street),** presents the 2023-2024 season of **Great Music in a Great Space.** Under the direction of Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music and Organist, this thirteenth season of choral, orchestral and organ performances encompasses a broad spectrum of repertoire, from chant and medieval organum to world premieres. Collaborations with Musica Sacra and Rose of the Compass complete a season of culturally and musically diverse offerings.

Concerts take place inside the Cathedral's gothic interior, including performances held under *Divine Pathways*, a site-specific textile art installation by Anne Patterson. Another site-specific concert will be Musica Sacra's *Re:Soundings*, a surround-sound immersive experience taking place in the Cathedral's Great Choir.

The season opens on October 17 with a 360° surround-sound concert in the candlelit atmosphere of the Cathedral, featuring the Musica Sacra Chorus conducted by Kent Tritle. From the end of March, 2024, the Cathedral's Great Organ comes back into play after a five year hiatus due to a fire in the crypt. An April 20 concert with the Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra will include the Great Organ; Artist in Residence David Briggs, the prestigious Juilliard organ department, and artists performing free recitals on Sundays at 5 pm will explore the organ as it comes back to full use. The grand welcome for the Great Organ will take place in the following 2024-2025 season..

Holiday music is a beloved tradition at the Cathedral. Bryan Zaros, Associate Music Director and Choirmaster joins to lead *The Joy of Christmas* on December 9: a splendid array of music for choir, orchestra and organ, from Arcangelo Corelli's *Christmas Concerto* to Amy Beach's moving *Peace on Earth* and J.S. Bach's sublime "Gloria in excelsis" from the *Mass in B Minor*. The audience joins to sing carols throughout.

The New Year's Eve Concert for Peace, founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, continues this year with music of inspiration and social conscience, including *To the Hands* by Caroline Shaw, *she took his hands* by Nicholas Cline, and the world premiere of *Voices of Afghanistan* by Stanley Grill. Bryan Zaros again joins with Kent Tritle to conduct this moving evening of choral and orchestral music.

Performances continue throughout the spring in the Cathedral's magnificent acoustic space. Musica Sacra returns before Holy Week for an evening of works by Schütz and Handel on March 19. The early-music and world-music ensemble Rose of the Compass joins the Cathedral Choir for a concert on April 9 in celebration of our magical Planet Earth. And all of the Cathedral's musical forces join together on April 20 with a joyous program including Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, K.317 and Bruckner's monumental *Te Deum*.

Tickets will be available on [the Cathedral's website](#) beginning Tuesday, September 5. Students are admitted free to select choral performances with valid school ID. Visit the Cathedral's website for more information about the 2023-2024 season of Great Music in a Great Space.

## **GREAT MUSIC IN A GREAT SPACE 2023-2024 SEASON**

**Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7:30 PM**

**Re:Soundings**

Musica Sacra Chorus  
Kent Tritle, conductor

Experience sound in motion from all corners of the Cathedral—from Medieval, Renaissance and contemporary works to a world premiere by Daniel Ficarri written for the spaces surrounding the Great Choir.

**Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 7 PM**

**The Joy of Christmas: Peace on Earth**

The Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra  
Kent Tritle & Bryan Zaros, conductors

Be enveloped by the sounds of choirs and orchestra for a Yuletide concert like no other. Sing your favorite Christmas carols in symphonic splendor and hear the exquisite and delicate a cappella transcendence so touching to the heart. Music of Amy Beach (*Peace on Earth*) combines with that of Franz Biebl, Hannah Kendall and J.S. Bach's splendid "Gloria in Excelsis."

**Sunday, December 31, 2023 at 7 PM**

**Concert for Peace: Hearts, Hands and Forgotten Voices**

Cathedral Choir and Orchestra  
Kent Tritle & Bryan Zaros, conductors  
Harry Smith, host

Ring in the New Year at the Cathedral! The program includes African American Spirituals arranged by contemporary composers Adolphus Hailstork and Marques L.A. Garrett; *To the Hands* by Caroline Shaw; *she took his hands* by Nicholas Cline; and the world premiere of *Voices of Afghanistan* by Stanley Grill, all framed by music of J.S. Bach and culminating in *This Little Light of Mine*.

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 7:30 PM**

**Hommage à Pierre Cochereau**

David Briggs, organ

Artist in Residence David Briggs presents a retrospective of Pierre Cochereau, one of the greatest organ improvisers of the twentieth century and the celebrated Organist of Notre-Dame de Paris (1955-1984). Join us for a selection of Cochereau's dazzling, ephemeral improvisations, transcribed note-by-note from original recordings at Notre-Dame.

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:30 PM**

**Spirit and Splendor: Schütz & Handel**

Musica Sacra Chorus & Orchestra

Kent Tritle, conductor

Elisse Albian and Emily Donato, sopranos

Kirsten Sollek, contralto

Richard Pittsinger, tenor

Nathaniel Sullivan, bass-baritone

Joseph Beutel, bass-baritone

Heinrich Schütz's *Musikalische Exequien* is rich in its choral textures and variation. Handel's famously challenging *Dixit Dominus* showcases the virtuosity of the Musica Sacra Chorus with a marvelous cast of soloists.

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:30 PM**

**This Magic Earth**

**The Cathedral Choir with Rose of the Compass**

Nina Stern, recorders and chalumeau

Ara Dinkjian, oud

Arthur Fiacco, cello

Tamer Pinarbasi, kanun

Glen Velez, percussion

Kent Tritle & Bryan Zaros, conductors

The world/early music group Rose of the Compass, with musicians on recorder, oud, kanun, percussion and cello, combines with the voices of the Cathedral Choir to celebrate our magnificent Planet Earth. Hear music spanning over 1,000 years seated below the glorious *Divine Pathways* art installation.

**Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 7 PM**  
**Mozart: Coronation Mass, K.317**  
**Bruckner: Te Deum**

Cathedral Choirs & Orchestra  
Kent Tritle, conductor  
Eva Martinez, soprano  
Kirsten Sollek, contralto  
Paul D’Arcy, tenor  
Joseph Beutel, bass-baritone

We celebrate the unique and marvelous sounds of organ, orchestra and choir combined in the renowned acoustics of St. John the Divine as we begin to celebrate the return of the Cathedral’s Great Organ.

**Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 7:30 PM**  
**Juilliard Organ Department Recital**

One of the most prestigious training centers in the world for organists presents young artists on the Cathedral’s marvelous Aeolian-Skinner Opus 150A pipe organ. A diverse and satisfying concert program is sure to impress and move the listener.

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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 acclaimed 200-voice volunteer chorus; and Music Director of Musica Sacra, New York’s longest continuously performing professional chorus. He is Organist of the New York Philharmonic and on the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School.

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 Desoff 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 Cathedral**

Over one hundred years ago, the trustees of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine conceived its mission to be a house of prayer for all people, an instrument of church unity, and a center of intellectual light and leading in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Today, as the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the seat of its bishop, the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine serves the many diverse people of our diocese, city, nation and world through the worship of God; pastoral, educational and community outreach activities; cultural and civic events; international ecumenical initiatives; and the preservation of the great architectural and historic site that is its legacy.