



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 SEVENTH SEASON OF ITS
GREAT MUSIC IN A GREAT SPACE CONCERT SERIES**

Unique 2017-2018 Season of Performances Pays Homage to Diverse Musical and Cultural Influences

New York (September XX, 2017) The Cathedral of St. John the Divine presents its seventh season of [Great Music in a Great Space](#) (GMGS) under the direction of [Kent Tritle](#), Director of Cathedral Music. The 2017-2018 season features a broad spectrum of choral and instrumental music in the Cathedral's grand and inspiring Gothic interior, **located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street)**.

This series explores the space of the Cathedral with performances of Arvo Pärt's *Miserere*, along with rarely performed works of Stravinsky and Kodaly. Musica Sacra performs two concerts: one concert in the fall focusing on the music of Bach, Brahms and Bruckner; and in the spring, a concert contrasting Franco-Flemish Renaissance works with those of contemporary American composers. Finally, inspired by the Cathedral's historic Chapels of the Tongues, Rose of the Compass returns again for a celebration of immigrants in New York City in a collaboration with the acclaimed Cathedral Choir, culminating in the world premiere of a work dedicated to refugee immigrants by the composer Robert Sirota.

The Cathedral Great Organ is showcased in an evening recital series, including the debut of Artist in Residence David Briggs, and the "It's Sunday" organ recital series continues this season, showcasing up-and-coming talents alongside established artists on the Cathedral's Great Organ. This season also features the Cathedral's annual Christmas Concert, drawing friends and neighbors together from across the city. This year's concert features beloved works of Britten and Vivaldi. The 2017 New Year's Eve Concert for Peace, a New York tradition founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, pays tribute to Bernstein's centennial year with the performance of chorales from the composer's own *Mass*.



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Great Music in a Great Space is comprised of several smaller series: **Great Choir: A Choral Concert Series**; **Great Organ: A Recital Series**; **Great Organ: It's Sunday Series**; and **Holiday Concerts** celebrating the Christmas season and New Year's Eve. Individual tickets and season subscriptions are available at the Cathedral's [online Box Office](#).

In addition to Great Music in a Great Space performances, the renowned Cathedral Choir also lends its considerable talents to Sunday worship services. The full choral repertoire is available to view [on the Cathedral's website](#).

Great Choir: A Choral Concert Series

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

Schütz, Bach, Brahms, and Bruckner

Musica Sacra

Pre-concert recital at 7 pm: Concert Chorus of the Newark Boys Chorus School

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach *Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf*, BWV 226
Fürchte dich nicht, BWV 228

Heinrich Schütz Three selections from *Psalmen Davids*, Op. 2
Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied, SWV 35
Die mit Tränen säen, SWV 42
Jauchzet dem Herren, SWV 36

Johannes Brahms *Fest und Gedenksprüche*, Op.109
Ich aber bin elend, Op.110, No.1

Anton Bruckner *Ave Maria*
Virga Jesse

J.S. Bach's motets are signature works of Musica Sacra; at this concert we feature two of his most exuberant works, *Fürchte dich nicht*, BWV 228 and *Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf*, BWV 226. These works are quintessential Baroque motets, and joyful dances permeate the rich choral textures. Heinrich Schütz, one of Bach's predecessors, composed marvelous psalms for double choir, and these show the influence of the Dresden court on the works of Bach. Brahms' motet *Ich aber bin elend* is written in the Venetian Baroque style, echoing Schütz's own Venetian influences. Rounding out the program are two sumptuous motets by Anton Bruckner – musical jewels of the Romantic era.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Light of Light: Music of Lassus, Lauridsen, and Léonin, with Gregorian Chant
Musica Sacra



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Pre-concert recital at 7 pm: Concert Chorus of the Newark Boys Chorus School

PROGRAM

Léonin	<i>Alleluia Pascha nostrum</i>
Orlande de Lassus	<i>Motet and Missa super Osculetur me Surgens Jesus</i>
Josquin des Prez	<i>Ave Maria</i>
Morten Lauridsen	<i>O nata lux</i>
Kevin Oldham	<i>My Lord, Thou Art in Every Breath I Take</i>

The luminous Gregorian chant propers for the Sunday after Easter alternate with the great Flemish composer Orlando di Lasso's *Missa super Osculetur me*. This musical tour through the Renaissance extends back to the earliest roots of polyphony, with a performance of Leonin's *Alleluia Pascha nostrum* from 13th century Paris. Josquin Des Prez's extraordinary *Ave Maria*, Lassus' exhilarating motet *Surgens Jesus*, and the vibrant American voices of Morten Lauridsen and Kevin Oldham make this program a sonic tour de force guaranteed to take you to another time and place.

Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

<i>Miserere</i>	<i>Arvo Pärt</i>
<i>Bogoroditse Dyevo & Otche nash</i>	<i>Stravinsky</i>
<i>Laudes Organi</i>	<i>Kodály</i>

The Cathedral Choir

PROGRAM

Arvo Pärt	<i>Miserere</i>
Igor Stravinsky	<i>Bogoroditse Devo Otche Nash'</i>
Zoltán Kodály	<i>Laudes Organi</i>

Amber Evans, *soprano*
Daniel Moody, *countertenor*
Marc Day, *tenor*
Michael Steinberger, *tenor*
Joseph Beutel, *bass*
Raymond Nagem, *organ*

A piece ideal for the spacious acoustics of the Cathedral, Arvo Pärt's *Miserere* utilizes sparse but intense harmonies, along with perfectly timed silences, to fill the



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space in a unique and mystical way. Accompanying this masterpiece are other choral gems: *Bogoroditse Dyevo* and *Otche nash'* by Igor Stravinsky, and Zoltán Kodály's *Laudes Organi*, a virtuosic extravaganza for chorus and organ, which will be accompanied by Associate Music Director Raymond Nagem.

Monday, April 9, 2018 at 7:30 pm

Immigrants – A Celebration of What Makes New York Great
Rose of the Compass with the Cathedral Choir

A pre-concert tour of the Cathedral's seven groundbreaking Chapels of the Tongues introduces this program, celebrating the immigrant communities that have made New York City one of the greatest cities in the world. This concert by Rose of the Compass and the Cathedral Choir will present music from many of these diverse cultures, and culminate in the world premiere of a work by Robert Sirota with libretto by the Reverend Canon Victoria Sirota, paying homage to New York's identity as a melting pot of humanity and a sanctuary for refugees.

For more information and to purchase tickets for Great Choir: A Choral Concert Series, please visit [here](#).

Holiday Concerts

Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Cathedral Christmas Concert
Combined Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra

PROGRAM

Antonio Vivaldi	<i>Gloria</i>
James Bassi	<i>Quem pastores laudavere</i>
Benjamin Britten	<i>Ceremony of Carols</i>

The Cathedral's annual Christmas concert, a beloved holiday tradition, this year features brilliant choral music by Britten and Vivaldi. The Cathedral Choristers, joined by the soprano and alto voices of the Cathedral Choir, sing Britten's exquisite setting of medieval poetry, *Ceremony of Carols*. The Cathedral Chorale and Orchestra join for Vivaldi's splendid and festive *Gloria*, while New York composer James Bassi's radiant *Quem pastores laudavere* portrays the quiet beauty of the Christmas story. The whole audience is warmly invited to join in singing favorite Christmas carols, led by the choirs and orchestra!

Saturday, December 31, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Concert for Peace
The Cathedral Choir and Orchestra



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with guests **Judy Collins and Jason Robert Brown**

PROGRAM

Joseph Haydn	<i>Te Deum</i>
Lucas Wierink	<i>See the Wretched Strangers</i> (U.S. premiere)
Rupert Lang	<i>Earth Teach Me</i>
Frank Ticheli	<i>Earth Song</i>
Leonard Bernstein	<i>Chorales from Mass</i>

Jamet Pittman, *soprano*

Arthur Fiacco, *cello*

Founded by Leonard Bernstein in 1984, the annual New Year's Eve Concert for Peace is a signature Cathedral event, gathering old friends and new for more than a quarter of a century. This year's concert begins with Haydn's glorious *Te Deum*. The Cathedral is pleased to present the U.S. premiere of *See the Wretched Strangers* by composer Lucas Wierink as a centerpiece of this beloved annual performance. A series of songs about our shared Earth continues the theme of neighborly compassion and the renewal of hope for the coming year. Wrapping up this year's performance, we celebrate the start of the concert's founder's centennial year by performing chorales from Leonard Bernstein's own *Mass*.

To purchase a ticket for the Holiday Concerts, please visit [here](#).

Great Organ: A Recital Series

Friday, November 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

David Briggs

Edward Elgar: Symphony No. 1

PROGRAM

All pieces by Edward Elgar

Pomp and Circumstance, Op. 39, March No. 4 (transcribed by Herbert Brewer)

Nimrod from Variations on an Original Theme, Op. 36 (transcribed by Sir William Harris)

Symphony No. 1, Op. 55 (transcribed by David Briggs)



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Join us for the U.S. premiere of Artist in Residence David Briggs' transcription of Elgar's deeply moving *First Symphony* (1908). This work underwent a long gestation—Elgar was 51 when he wrote it, and the piece offers a long look into the composer's character: by turns aristocratic, volatile, nature-loving, wistful, and passionately romantic.

Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

David Briggs

Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 5

PROGRAM

Gustav Mahler

Symphony No. 5 (transcribed by David Briggs)

Artist in Residence David Briggs performs his celebrated 1998 transcription of Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony. Mahler stated that "a symphony must be like the whole world—it must contain everything." Embodying every emotional nuance, from the intense pathos of the funeral march through to the incomparable euphoria of the finale, Mahler's 5th includes the Adagietto, perhaps his most famous and beloved orchestral movement.

Tuesday, February 6, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Kent Tritle

PROGRAM

Louis Marchand (1669-1732)

Grand Dialogue

Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703)

Recit de Tierce en taille

Francois Couperin (1668-1733)

Convent Mass: Offertoire

Jehan Alain (1911-1940)

Le Jardin Suspendu, Litanies

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Sonata No. 5 in C minor, Op.80

I. Allegro Appassionato

II. Adagio

III. Scherzo

IV. Recitativo

V. Choral et Fugue

Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music at St. John the Divine and organist of the New York Philharmonic, presents a recital of thrilling French organ music. From the elegance and swagger of the French Baroque composers Marchand and Couperin, to the subtlety and virtuosity of the 20th century organist Jehan Alain, to the dramatic and moving Sonata No. 5



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by Romantic virtuoso Alexandre Guilmant, Tritle brings an exciting flair to this extraordinary program.

Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Raymond Nagem

PROGRAM

Marcel Dupré

3 Préludes and Fugues, Op. 7

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Symphony in F# minor, Op.143

Marcel Dupré's set of preludes and fugues struck the musical world like a jolt of electricity when they were published in 1920. Jazzy, exuberant, atmospheric, and notoriously difficult to play, they have been audience favorites ever since.

Joining them on this program is Sigfrid Karg-Elert's Symphony in F# minor. This mammoth piece was written in 1930, but lay undiscovered in a publisher's archive until 1984. Come hear Karg-Elert's little-known masterpiece, one of the summits of the organ repertoire, in a dramatic and passionate performance by the Cathedral's Associate Director of Music, Raymond Nagem.

For more information and to purchase tickets for Great Organ: A Recital Series, please visit [here](#).

Great Organ: It's Sunday Series

In celebration of the restored Great Organ, the Cathedral presents a concert series following Sunday Evensong featuring guest recitalists from around the country.

Great Organ: It's Sunday concerts are held on Sundays at 5 p.m. from mid-October through the end of November, and from March through mid-May. These recitals are free and open to the public. For more information on Great Organ: It's Sunday Series, please visit [here](#).

2017

October 8- James Wetzel, New York, NY

October 15- Joseph Fala, New Haven, CT

October 29- Charles Callahan, Orwell, VT

November 5- Raymond Nagem, New York, NY

November 19- Mary Pan, Chicago, IL

November 26- Alexander Pattavina, Stoughton, MA

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February 11- David Briggs, New York, NY

March 4- David Briggs, New York, NY

March 11- Joseph Ripka, Stonington, CT

March 18- Benjamin Sheen, New York, NY

April 8- Stephen Buzard, Chicago, IL

April 15- Harold Stover, Hollis Center, ME

April 22- Steven Patchel, Wilmington, DE

April 29- Yuejian Chen, New York, NY

May 6- Pétur Sakari, Helsinki, Finland

May 13- Dominic Fiacco, Utica, NY

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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*, Tritle is in his sixth 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 and Chair of the Organ Department 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.

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 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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The Cathedral is open 7 days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please visit stjohndivine.org for more information and a schedule of public programs.