



presents...

HOLIDAY PIPINGS

With Brad Schultz at the Hochhalter Organ

First United Methodist Church, Eugene OR

The program

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

arr. Keith Chapman

Three settings from Bach Cantatas:

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 (from Cantata 140)

J.S. Bach

Schafe können sicher weiden (from Cantata 208)

arr. Wilbur Held

Jesus bleibet meine Freude (from Cantata 147)

arr. E Power Biggs

La Nativité

Jean Langlais

Variations on “O Come, All ye Faithful”

Marcel Dupré, trans. Rollin Smith

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Brenda Portman

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Joy to the World

A Good King Chills out for Spring

Robert Cockroft

Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy

P. Tchaikovsky, trans. F. Hohman

Dance Variations on Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Clifton Hughes



Heartfelt thanks to Michael Macemon and Ivan Calderon for their production assistance with this
and all Concerts at First virtual events!

Warm holiday greetings to you and yours from the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Eugene! Thanks for letting me share some of my favorite seasonal tunes with you today. The program is a mix of old pieces that have become “chestnuts” for me around the holidays, as well as new pieces that are becoming fast friends.

I was first introduced to the opening setting of “Bring a Torch” by Timothy Albrecht, my teacher at Emory. This piece is still a regular at Emory’s Service of Lessons and Carols. **Keith Chapman** was the head organist of the John Wanamaker Grand Court Organ in Wanamaker’s Department Store (now Macy’s) in Philadelphia from 1966 to 1989.

J.S. Bach’s cantata on “Wachet auf” ranks among the most popular of his sacred cantatas, making it perhaps no surprise that Bach chose to arrange this movement for keyboard solo himself. Known commonly as “Sheep May Safely Graze” and “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” the following two cantata movements are standard fare for wedding ceremonies and festive occasions.

La Nativité by **Jean Langlais** is the only piece on the program not based on a familiar tune. Instead, listen to the soundscape created through the sequence of thematic depictions of the manger scene, the angels, shepherds, and finally the holy family, where all of the musical themes are nested together. Marcel **Dupré** improvised the Variations on “O Come, All Ye Faithful” onto a Skinner Pipe Organ roll in 1929. The opening melody is played on the 8 and 4-foot choir diapason stops, which were installed on the organ this past September.

Brenda Portman’s writing in these carols and in all of her compositions seems to me to strike just the right balance between accessibility for the organist and instrument, and an innovative and interesting style. Portman is organ instructor at Xavier University and resident organist at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati.

Composing was a side-hustle for **Robert Cockroft**, who spent 40+ years as a newspaper editor in Yorkshire. His piece, based on “Good King, Wenceslaus,” was written for British concert organist Gordon Stewart. **Frederick Hohman’s** contributions to the organ world are quite extensive, from a series of teaching videos released by the American Guild of Organists to transcriptions of *The Nutcracker Suite* and “The Flight of the Bumblebee” for pedal solo. We finish with the somewhat unnatural progression from tango to hurdy-gurdy waltz, to Vienna, to rock in the final selection of dance variations by **Clifton Hughes**.



BRAD SCHULTZ serves as Artistic Director for the Concerts at First music series as well as the music staff at First United Methodist Church as organist/pianist, and choir director. He is also finishing coursework towards a Ph.D. in Historical Musicology at the University of Oregon. Brad is currently the Dean of the Eugene Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and is the rehearsal accompanist for the Eugene Concert Choir.

Prior to arriving in Eugene, Brad served on the music faculty at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, teaching music history, church music, keyboard, and aural skills, and applied organ lessons. He was also organist to the Student Congregation and served as a collaborative keyboardist. While in Decorah, Brad also served as Artistic Director of the Madison (Wisconsin) Area Concert Handbells, on the music staff at First Lutheran Church in Decorah, and as organist/pianist for the Minnesota All-State Lutheran Choir, an auditioned choir of 45 high school students.

Brad has served Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist and Unitarian Universalist congregations in Idaho, Minnesota, Iowa, Georgia, and Oregon. Organ study has been with Tom Hamilton, William Kuhlman, Greg Peterson, Timothy Albrecht, and Barbara Baird. Brad holds the Master of Sacred Music degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and a Bachelor’s degree from Luther College encompassing organ and tuba performance, and vocal and instrumental music education.

The Organ

The 47 rank Hochhalter organ at FUMC started its life in 1913. Built by the Austin Company, it was moved to a much larger sanctuary in 1968. By the 1990's it became obvious that the instrument needed a complete mechanical and tonal rebuilding and major expansion. A new console built in 2010 includes many technical updates and allows for future enhancements and tonal additions. Recent pipe installations include a 32' Contra Bourdon in the pedal division in January 2019 and an 8' Small Diapason and 4' Tapered Principal in the choir division in September 2020. More information, including photos and a stop list can be found at www.hochhalter.com.



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