

THE MID-MANHATTAN PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

# GREAT MUSIC AT ST. BART'S

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# A CONCERT TO USHER IN THE NEW YEAR

PAOLO BORDIGNON

ORGAN

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023  
325 PARK AVENUE AT 51ST STREET, NEW YORK

## PROGRAM

### WELCOME

- Toccata, from *Uzbekistan Suite* Georgi Mushel  
(1909-1989)
- Prelude & Fugue in D Major, BWV 532 Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)



### CHRISTMAS

- Noël Étranger Louis-Claude Daquin  
(1694-1772)
- Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, from *The Nutcracker* Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky  
(1840-1893)
- Hornpipe (Alla Danza), from *Water Music* George Frideric Handel  
(1685-1759)



### THE NEW YEAR

- Tu es Petra, from *Esquisses Byzantines* Henri Mulet  
(1878-1967)
- Radetzky March, Op. 228 Johann Strauss Sr.  
(1804-1849)
- Still, still, still Christopher Tambling  
(b. 1964)
- Carillon de Westminster Louis Vierne  
From *Pièces de Fantaisie*, Suite No. 3, Op. 54  
(1870-1937)



**Paolo Bordignon** is Organist and Choirmaster of St. Bartholomew's Church and harpsichordist of the New York Philharmonic. He appears this season with Camerata Pacifica, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and, in 2022-23 was a soloist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the American Symphony Orchestra. He has also recently performed with Mark Morris Dance Company, Boston Symphony Chamber Players, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, ECCO, the All-Star Orchestra, and The Knights.

Festival appearances include Aspen, Bard, Bridgehampton, Jackson Hole, Palm Beach, and Vail. He has appeared on NBC, CBS, PBS, CNN, NPR, the CBC, and on Korean and Japanese national television.

As a soloist and chamber musician, he has collaborated with Sir James Galway, Itzhak Perlman, Reinhard Goebel, Paul Hillier, Bobby McFerrin, and Midori, as well as Renée Fleming and Wynton Marsalis in a Juilliard Gala. For the opening of Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall, he performed Philip Glass's *Concerto for Harpsichord and Orchestra*. He has also appeared in solo performance for New York Fashion Week.

As Organist and Choirmaster at St. Bartholomew's Church, Paolo directs one of the nation's preeminent church music programs and performs on one of the world's largest pipe organs. He has been a frequent recitalist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, including a 10-recital residency.

Born in Toronto of Italian heritage, Paolo attended St. Michael's Cathedral Choir School before attending the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He is an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music, a Fellow of the Royal Canadian College of Organists, and he earned Master's and Doctoral degrees from the Juilliard School.



**St. Bartholomew's two Æolian-Skinner pipe organs** are central to the liturgical and concert life of the church. The Chapel organ is an instrument of two manuals and 18 ranks; it is a remarkably versatile instrument that includes two enclosed Swell divisions. The organ in the Church is the largest in New York City, one of the largest in the world, and a quintessential example of the American Classic organ.

The organ in the present building was originally built by Ernest M. Skinner of Boston in 1918 and was one of the firm's most prestigious instruments at the time. It incorporated many ranks from the Hutchings and Odell organs in the previous church played by Leopold Stokowski who came from England in 1905 to become organist and choirmaster of St. Bartholomew's. Several years earlier, on New Year's Day 1901, Edwin H. Lemare made his American debut on this instrument.

The Skinner organ in the new church consisted of nine divisions with pipes in the chancel and west gallery. The mechanism was entirely new, and the chests were of the electro-pneumatic Pitman type, perfected by Skinner. In 1930, the Celestial organ, located in the dome 110 feet above the crossing, was added. It includes ethereal celestes, colorful flutes, orchestral reeds, and brilliant trumpet stops on 15 and 25 inches of pressure. The reflective dome imparts a distinctive quality to these voices.

In 1937 the west gallery divisions were replaced by Æolian-Skinner under the direction of G. Donald Harrison. With the gathering interest in the performance of baroque music, new divisions were designed to provide resources for early repertoire. Further expansions and revisions were undertaken in 1953 and the last major rebuilding was in 1971. This was the final project completed by the Æolian-Skinner company, under the tonal direction of Donald M. Gillett.

The organ comprises 168 stops, 225 ranks and 12,422 pipes and is tonally unchanged since 1971.

In 2006, a new, movable five-manual and pedal console was installed. Built by Harris Organs, Inc. of Whittier, California and designed to harmonize visually with St. Bartholomew's chancel furnishings. With its cabinetry of fumed solid quarter-sawn white oak and polished mahogany, the new console is a fitting addition to the art and architecture of the church. The console was given in memory of Robert Brimberg.

After an exemplary tenure of more than 30 years, Douglass Hunt retired as Curator of the Organs in 2014. Foley-Baker, Inc. of Tolland, CT succeeded Mr. Hunt and have completed several projects, including a complete restoration of the Celestial organ in 2017.

St. Bartholomew's organ may be regarded as the final development in the tonal evolution of the American Classic organ, as conceived and built by Æolian-Skinner. In the clear and articulate ensembles throughout the instrument, the skillful inclusion of the romantic voices and orchestral stops in the E. M. Skinner work and with the fine ranks from Hutchings and Odell, the organ stands as a monument which lends itself with ease to the many demands of the program of the church.

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Further information about the organ can be found at  
**[stbarts.org/music/the-organs](http://stbarts.org/music/the-organs)**



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AT  
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**Sunday, March 3, 2024**  
**at 4 pm**



## **EDDIE ZHENG** ORGANIST, IN RECITAL

St. Bartholomew's Church

The tradition of musical programs in Lent goes back many decades at St. Bart's and we're delighted to continue the tradition with these 40-minute organ recitals. A large-screen monitor will enable the audience to sit under the Celestial organ, an ideal listening spot in the nave, while still enjoying an up-close view over the organist's shoulders and of the pedalboard. Eddie Zheng is a New York native and rising star in the world of concert organ music, currently studying at the Juilliard School.

Suggestion donation \$10

**Sunday, March 10, 2024**  
**at 4 pm**



## **ALEXANDER PATTAVINA,** ORGANIST, IN RECITAL

St. Bartholomew's Church

The tradition of musical programs in Lent goes back many decades at St. Bart's and we're delighted to continue the tradition with these 40-minute organ recitals. A large-screen monitor will enable the audience to sit under the Celestial organ, an ideal listening spot in the nave, while still enjoying an up-close view over the organist's shoulders and of the pedalboard.

Suggestion donation \$10

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# ST BART'S

We welcome you to St. Bartholomew's Church, a warm, vibrant and growing parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, located in the heart of midtown Manhattan and founded in 1835. We think of our sacred space as a gift—something bequeathed to us by our forebears and a gift we are called to share with others through our cultural community offerings, beautiful music and inspirational worship services.

Our mission is to comfort, challenge and inspire a growing community of people in search of meaning and hope in their lives. We passionately serve our city and the larger world, and we welcome people of every faith background whether looking for a church home or just visiting. Please visit [stbarts.org](http://stbarts.org) for more information.

The Right Reverend Dean E. Wolfe, *Rector*  
The Reverend Peter D. Thompson, *Vicar*

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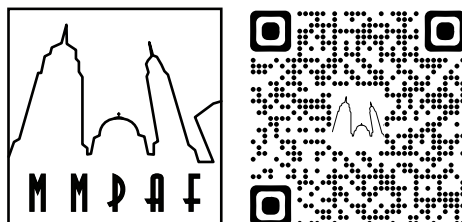
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