

THE MID-MANHATTAN PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

GREAT MUSIC AT ST. BART'S

LENTEN ORGAN RECITAL

ALEXANDER PATTAVINA

ORGAN

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024 AT 4 PM
325 PARK AVENUE AT 51ST STREET, NEW YORK

PROGRAM

In devising today's program, I first considered choosing music explicitly associated with the season of Lent. There is certainly no shortage of organ literature based on Lenten plainsong, chorales, and so forth. However, after having drafted and revised an initial program, this approach was not yielding the type of compelling performance that I strive to offer. This led to my asking:

What if, instead of choosing overtly Lenten music, my program embraced the spirit of the season by offering repertoire that is sorrowful, introspective, and even haunting in affect?

The question prompted a journey 'down the rabbit hole' that led to several interesting, integrated ideas. I began to think that, rather than ending the program with a typically jubilant, *fortissimo* finale, it could be deeply moving to conclude the performance *pianissimo* with a heart-wrenching work of great intricacy. While developing a musically sensible order for my various selections, an unintended pattern emerged: the progression of the program started to resemble the days of Holy Week! With a clearer concept, the program quickly materialized. While no single work is overtly related to Lent or Holy Week, each piece captures the spirit of the day in some way.

Please enjoy today's Lenten Organ Recital: a musical pilgrimage from Palm Sunday to Good Friday.

—AP

Palm Sunday

Hymne d'action de grâce: Te Deum
from *Trois Paraphrases Gregoriennes*

Jean Langlais
(1907-1991)

Holy Monday

Prélude
from *Trois Pièces*

Nadia Boulanger
(1887-1979)

Holy Tuesday

Prelude and Fugue in A Minor
BWV 543

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Holy Wednesday

O Mensch, beweine dein Sünde groß
("O man, bewail thy sin so great"), BWV 622

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Maundy Thursday

Prière après la communion
from *Livre du Saint-Sacrement*

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)

Good Friday

Prélude
from *Suite, Op. 5*

Maurice Duruflé
(1902-1986)



Alexander Pattavina is the Associate Organist and Choirmaster at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York, where he also leads St. Bartholomew's Choristers. Alex earned his Bachelor's (2018) and Master's (2020) degrees in Organ Performance from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Paul Jacobs. A native of Stoughton, Massachusetts, Alex was immersed in a musical environment as a boy chorister at St. Paul's Choir School, Harvard Square: the only Catholic choir school for boys in the country. After graduating, he became their first-ever Organ Scholar. While at Juilliard, he served as Organ Scholar at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Manhattan and later at Christ Church Bronxville, New York. For three years, Alex served as Director of Music and Organist at the Church of St. Agnes, a Catholic parish next to Grand Central Terminal.

Alex won First Prize in both the 2019 Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival (Hartford, CT) and the 2014 L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Competition (Storrs, CT). An avid composer as well, Alex's composition for choir and organ, *All in a Stable Cold and Bare*, was written for and premiered by the choir of Christ Church Bronxville.

The work is published by Hal Leonard. His organ solo work, *Prelude on an Evening Melody*, was performed at the opening of the newly restored and renovated Christ Cathedral (Orange County, CA), formerly the Crystal Cathedral.

Alongside the Juilliard organ department, he took part in a historic, eighteen-hour marathon performance of the complete organ works of J.S. Bach held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Manhattan, sponsored by WQXR-FM. He has performed with the Juilliard Orchestra and the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and is a frequent organ recitalist throughout the United States.

Alex is passionate for creating and fixing things, both in and out of musical contexts: whether composing, creating spur-of-the-moment improvised music at the organ, 3D-printing parts for his at-home practice organ, restoring miniature German model trains, or reviving a ca. 1970s unfretted, double-strung clavichord.



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.

Further information about the organ can be found at
stbarts.org/music/the-organs



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Monday, March 25, 2024
at 6 pm



A HOLY WEEK MEDITATION IN SONG

Soloists from St. Bartholomew's Choir

Join the singers of St. Bartholomew's Choir as they step out of the choir stalls and take center stage as soloists, presenting a concert that reinterprets themes of Holy Week through the language of secular art song. Experience the beauty, introspection, and contemplation of this unique musical offering, where the everyday meets the divine.

\$25

Sunday, April 25, 2024
at 2:30 pm



APPLE HILL STRING QUARTET

Called "dashing and extraordinary" by The Strad magazine, the Apple Hill String Quartet are the Artistic Directors and resident musicians at the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music, winner of the CMAcclaim award from Chamber Music America. The Quartet serves as the Music Directors for Apple Hill's Summer Chamber Music Workshop in Nelson, New Hampshire, cultivating connection and understanding among people of diverse backgrounds, cultures, playing levels, and ages through music performance and education centered around the values of acceptance, inclusivity, creative expression, and encouragement. Their program will feature music of LGBTQIA composers Jennifer Higdon, Yaz Lancaster, Arthur Russell (arr. Mike Kelley), and Samuel Barber.

\$25

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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 for more information.

The Right Reverend Dean E. Wolfe, *Rector*
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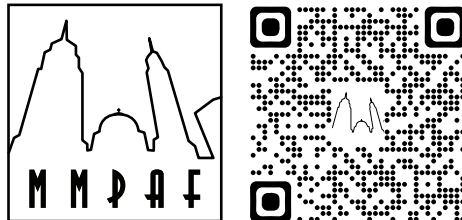
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