

**Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue  
New York City**

Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *Organist and Director of Music*  
Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*  
Maks Adach, *Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist*



**Sunday Recital Series**

**Ben Comeau, organ  
London, United Kingdom**

**Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 5.30pm**

Prelude and Fugue in C Major, BWV 545

*Johann Sebastian Bach*  
(1685-1750)

Lay your sleeping head

*Ben Comeau*  
(b. 1993)  
*after W. H. Auden*

Scherzo

*Ben Comeau*

Valse lente

*Germaine Tailleferre*  
(1892-1983)  
*trans. Comeau*

Das lila Lied

*Mischa Spoliansky*  
(1898-1985)  
*Kurt Schwabach*  
(1898-1966)  
*trans. Comeau*

La valse des lilas (Once upon a Summertime)

*Michel Legrand*  
(1932-2019)  
*Eddie Barclay*  
(1921-2005)  
*Eddy Marnay*  
(1920-2003)  
*trans. Comeau*

Youkali

*Kurt Weill*  
(1900-1950)  
*Roger Fernay*  
(1905-1983)  
*trans. Comeau*

Lotus Blossom

*Billy Strayhorn*  
(1915-1967)  
*trans. Comeau*

Willow weep for me

*Ann Ronell*  
(1905-1993)  
*trans. Comeau*

Jitterbug Waltz

*Fats Waller*  
(1904-1943)  
*trans. Comeau*

Toccata

*Ben Comeau*

BEN COMEAU is a multi-genre organist, pianist and composer based in London, UK. They graduated with a starred first in music from Cambridge University, before studying jazz piano at Guildhall, London, and in Cologne, Germany.

Aged 18 they won the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition with their transcription of Stravinsky's Firebird Suite. Three years later they won all the available prizes in the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists examination. Their repertoire as a recitalist on organ and piano stretches over five centuries of the classical cannon as well as numerous transcriptions of music ranging from Fats Waller to Bjork to Michel Legrand. They have performed many improvised soundtracks to silent films on organ and piano. Their compositions and arrangements have been heard in most of the major classical performance spaces in London, and they have been featured on BBC Radio 3's In Tune.

In their extensive work outside classical music (with a particular focus on jazz, old and new) they are increasingly committed to immersion in non-classical cultures far beyond conservatoires, which continually provide wonderful lessons. They are still searching for the best ways to combine these lessons with their grounding in the European classical tradition.

Future activities include collaboration with drag performance artist Rizzla la Fizz, and much work & play with London's fizzing underground jam scene.

#### Upcoming Recitals at Saint Thomas Church

**Sunday, September 24 at 5.30 p.m.**

NICOLAS HAIGH, Associate Organist  
Works by *Lübeck* and *Willan*

**Sunday, October 22 at 5.30 p.m.**

JUNWEN LIANG, Piano  
Works by *Debussy*, *Likhuta*, *Liszt*, and *Mozart*

For further information, please visit the Organ Recitals page on the church website:  
<https://www.saintthomaschurch.org/events/categories/music/sunday-recital-series/>  
Email: [organrecitals@saintthomaschurch.org](mailto:organrecitals@saintthomaschurch.org)