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**CONCERTS AT SAINT THOMAS ANNOUNCES 2023-24 CONCERT SEASON**

*The new season includes a musical celebration for Saint Thomas Church's bicentennial, new commissions, collaborations with vocal and orchestral ensembles, and seasonal traditions*



**NEW YORK**— Concerts at Saint Thomas today unveiled their 2023-24 season, with performances celebrating the church's bicentennial year, featuring its premier ensemble, the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. All concerts will be available via livestream and on-demand for a limited time after each performance. Tickets and livestream information can be found at [www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts](http://www.saintthomaschurch.org/music/concerts)

The new season begins on **September 30** with pianist **Asiya Korepanova**'s performance of Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Études-Tableaux*, commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's birth. Korepanova is currently performing the complete Rachmaninoff solo piano works within the anniversary year.

Saint Thomas Church marks its own anniversary with **Saint Thomas at 200: A Musical Legacy** on **October 13**. This free concert is part of the church's bicentennial weekend festivities. Saint Thomas at 200 highlights past commissions for the choir from contemporary composers, along with works by former Saint Thomas Directors of Music, including: *Te Deum in A* by T. Tertius Noble (first director of music), *A Song to the Lamb* by Gerre Hancock (previous director of music), and *Missa Sancti Thomae* (by current Director of Music, Jeremy Filsell). The performance also features works of Nico Muhly, John Scott, and former Saint Thomas Boy Chorister and current Gentlemen of the Choir Daniel Castellanos (b. 1995).

The season continues **November 11** with American concert organist **Renée Anne Louprette** on the Miller-Scott Organ playing works including J.S. Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in E minor* ("Wedge"), Jeanne Demessieux's *Te Deum*, César Franck's *Choral No. 3 in A minor*. This concert will be the first **Grand Organ Series** performance on the church's newly completed Karl and Barbara Saunders Organ Console, which will enable the audience to see our artists front and center in the nave of the church.

Two of the city's most notable Christmas traditions return with **G.F. Handel's Messiah**, performed by the Choir of Men and Boys and New York Baroque Incorporated on **December 5 and 7**, and the family-friendly **Christmas on Fifth Avenue** on **December 14** for which the Juilliard Music Advancement Program Strings Ensemble joins the Boys of Saint Thomas Choir.

The concert series returns in the new year on **January 27, 2024** with organists **Jeremy Filsell**, **David Briggs** and **Wayne Marshall** presenting a concert of works for organ and piano. The program will include music by J.S. Bach, Langlais, Gershwin, and a new bicentennial celebration commission for this occasion by David Briggs for two organs and piano.

Conductor Justin Bischof leads the Modus Operandi Orchestra and pianist Jeremy Filsell in **Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3** on **March 21**. Soprano **Laquita Mitchell** joins the Choir of Men and Boys in the second half for Poulenc's **Stabat Mater**.

Organist Iain Quinn performs **Tournemire's "The Seven Last Words of Christ"** on **March 25** and vocal ensemble ModernMedieval Voices presents music of, and inspired by, **Hildegard von Bingen** on **March 26**. These free performances offer meditative musical reflections for the beginning of Holy Week.

Internationally-acclaimed concert organist and recording artist **Stephen Tharp** plays his transcriptions of Stravinsky's **The Rite of Spring** and Bartok's **Concerto for Orchestra** on **April 20**. Stephen Tharp's international career has earned him a reputation as one of the most traveled and highly-regarded concert organists of his generation.

The Choir of Men and Boys, along with the Modus Operandi Orchestra and Justin Bischof close the 2023-24 season on **May 16** with a concert of the music of **Peter Hallock**, **Richard Strauss**, **Randall Thompson** and **Ralph Vaughan Williams**. The program includes Vaughan Williams' *An*

*Oxford Elegy*, Strauss' *Metamorphosen* for 23 Solo Strings and Thompson's *The Place of the Blest*.

## LISTING INFORMATION

### **Rachmaninoff: The Complete Études-Tableaux**

**DATE:** September 30, 2023 at 3 PM

**TICKETS:** [Purchase here](#)

To open the 2023-2024 Concert Series, pianist Asiya Korepanova marks the 150th anniversary of composer Sergei Rachmaninoff's birth by performing both sets of his *Études-Tableaux*.

#### **Program**

Études-Tableaux, Op. 33

Études-Tableaux, Op. 39

*Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)*

### **Saint Thomas at 200: A Musical Legacy**

**DATE:** October 13, 2023 at 7:30 PM

**TICKETS:** [FREE, reserve here](#)

As part of the Saint Thomas Church Bicentennial Weekend festivities, Concerts at Saint Thomas offers a free concert exploring the wealth of music written for Saint Thomas and its Choir of Men and Boys. This includes commissions by contemporary composers, as well as works of Saint Thomas Directors of Music spanning the decades. Accompanied by The Saint Thomas Brass, this concert celebrates the church's unique choral heritage.

#### **Program**

A Song to the Lamb

*Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)*

Eternal Light

*Daniel Castellanos (b. 1995)*

Bright Mass with Canons

*Nico Muhly (b. 1981)*

Behold O God, our defender

*John Scott (1956-2015)*

Ave Verum

*Daniel Hyde (b. 1980)*

Te Deum in A

*T. Tertius Noble (1867-1953)*

Missa Sancti Thomae in tempore enim pestilencia

*Jeremy Filsell (b. 1964)*

### **Renée Anne Louprette on the Miller-Scott Organ**

**DATE:** November 11, 2023 at 3 PM

**TICKETS:** [Purchase here](#)

American concert organist Renée Anne Louprette kicks off the 2023-2024 Grand Organ Series with an afternoon of J.S. Bach, Demessieux, Franck, and more. This performance will feature the use of the gallery's Loening-Hancock Organ, as well as the premiere concert performance on the Miller-Scott Organ's newly completed nave console, the Karl and Barbara Saunders Organ Console.

### **Program**

Praeludium in G Major

*Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)*

Douzes courtes Pièces, Op. 43, Vol. 1

3. Intermezzo

5. Moto perpetuo

12. Fugue "Triangulaire"

*Rachel Laurin (b. 1961)*

Prelude and Fugue in E minor ("Wedge"), BWV 548

*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

Te Deum, Op. 11

*Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)*

Twelve Choral Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes, Op. 8

iii. Attende Domine - Choral paraphrase

*Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)*

Litanies

*Jehan Alain (1911-1940)*

Petit Livre de Prières, Op. 24

vii. Au coeur sacré de Jésus

viii. A Sainte Thérèse de l'Enfant-Jésus  
*Rolande Falcinelli (1920-2006)*

Choral No. 3 in A minor  
*César Franck (1822-1890)*

**G.F. Handel: Messiah**

**DATE:** December 5 and 7, 2023 at 7:30 PM

**TICKETS:** [Purchase here](#)

A mainstay of Christmas in New York, Concerts at Saint Thomas presents the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys' performances of Handel's Messiah with New York Baroque Incorporated. Hailed by *The New York Times* as "one of the most prominent and special [Messiahs] of the city," these concerts have become an annual tradition for many, heralding the coming of the festive season.

**Christmas on Fifth Avenue**

**DATE:** December 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM

**TICKETS:** [Purchase here](#)

Joined by the Juilliard MAP Strings Ensemble, the Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir ring in the Christmas spirit for this family-friendly concert.

**A Keyboard Extravaganza for Organs and Piano**

**DATE:** January 27, 2024 at 3 PM

**TICKETS:** [Purchase here](#)

To celebrate the completion of the Miller-Scott Organ recital console, world-renowned organists Jeremy Filsell, David Briggs, and Wayne Marshall present a program of works for multiple keyboard instruments, featuring Saint Thomas' own two concert organs and Steinway piano. The program will span genres with music by J.S. Bach, Langlais, Gershwin, and a new commission by David Briggs for three keyboards.

**Rachmaninoff and Poulenc**

**DATE:** March 21, 2024 at 7:30 PM

**TICKETS:** [Purchase here](#)

Concerts at Saint Thomas presents a unique orchestral concert for Passiontide. Conductor Justin Bischof will lead the Modus Operandi Orchestra and pianist Jeremy Filsell in Rachmaninoff's virtuosic Piano Concerto No. 3. Soprano Laquita Mitchell joins the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys in the second half of the concert for Poulenc's Stabat Mater.

**Program**

O God, my heart is ready

*Ned Rorem (1923-2022)*

Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30

*Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)*

Stabat Mater, FP 148

*Francis Poulenc (1899-1963)*

**Tournemire: The Seven Last Words of Christ**

**DATE:** March 25, 2024 at 6:45 PM

**TICKETS:** [FREE, reserve here](#)

For the Monday of Holy Week, organist Dr. Iain Quinn plays Tournemire's *Chorale-Poems for Organ*, "The Seven Last Words of Christ." This Holy Week Musical Meditation is free and open to the public. Available in-person and via livestream.

**The Living Word: Music by, and Inspired by Hildegard von Bingen**

**DATE:** March 26, 2024 at 6:45 PM

**TICKETS:** [FREE, reserve here](#)

For the Tuesday of Holy Week, vocal ensemble ModernMedieval Voices presents a meditative hour of chants by Medieval composer, poet, and mystic Hildegard von Bingen, paired with works by contemporary composers inspired by her life and work. This concert is free and open to the public, and is available in person or via livestream.

**Program**

O Presul vere Civitatis

*Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179)*

Three-Winged Wisdom

*Daniel Thomas Davis*

O Virtus Sapientie

*Hildegard von Bingen*

Meditation

*Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek*

Spiritus Sanctus Vivificans

*Hildegard von Bingen*

Karitas Habundat  
*Hildegard von Bingen*

Caritas Abundat  
*Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)*

O Viridissima Virga  
*Hildegard von Bingen*

We Cannot Live  
*Caleb Burhans (b. 1980)*

O Jerusalem  
*Hildegard von Bingen*

**The Rite of Spring: Stephen Tharp plays Stravinsky and Bartok**

**DATE:** April 20, 2024 at 3 PM

**TICKETS:** [Purchase here](#)

The Grand Organ Series presents concert organist Stephen Tharp, who will put the Miller-Scott Organ recital console through its paces with transcriptions of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and Bartok's *Concerto for Orchestra*.

**The Place of the Blest: Music of Hallock, Thompson, and Vaughan Williams**

**DATE:** May 16, 2024 at 7:30 PM

**TICKETS:** [Purchase here](#)

To close the 23-24 Concert Series, the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys will collaborate once again with the Modus Operandi Orchestra and conductor Justin Bischof for a program featuring the works of Peter Hallock, Randall Thompson, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and Richard Strauss.

**Program**

An Oxford Elegy  
The Lark Ascending  
*Ralph Vaughan Williams*

Metamorphosen for 23 Solo Strings  
*Richard Strauss*

Michael, Archangel  
To the Supreme Being

A Brevity  
*Peter Hallock*

The Place of the Blest  
*Randall Thompson*

## **ABOUT THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR & CHOIR SCHOOL**

The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys is considered to be the leading ensemble of its kind in the Anglican choral tradition in the United States. While its primary raison d'être is to sing five choral services each week, the choir also performs regularly with Orchestra of St. Luke's and New York Baroque Incorporated as part of Saint Thomas Church concert series. Live webcasts of choral services and further information concerning recordings, tours and concerts given by the choir can be found at [www.SaintThomasChurch.org](http://www.SaintThomasChurch.org).

Over recent years, the choir has toured throughout the US, Europe and Scandinavia with performances at Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, King's College, Cambridge, the Aldeburgh Festival, at the Vatican, and in Dresden and at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig. Domestically, the choir has appeared often at National AGO Conventions.

The boy choristers make frequent appearances on local and national television programs, such as the TODAY program, and the classical music radio station WQXR. They have sung with Sting at the tree lighting ceremony in Rockefeller Center, performed at the new Steinway Piano Hall on 6th Avenue, and in 2019 they appeared as the opening act at the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular.

Besides annual performances of Handel's Messiah, the choir's concerts at Saint Thomas Church have included presentations of the Fauré, Duruflé and Mozart Requiems, the J. S. Bach Passions, the Mass in B Minor, Handel's Israel in Egypt and James MacMillan's Seven Last Words from the Cross. The choir has given the US premieres of works by John Tavener and Nico Muhly, and in recent times has commissioned new choral music by Trevor Weston and Francis Pott. In 2016, a concert in memory of former Director of Music John Scott was performed with Orchestra of St. Luke's under the direction of Sir Simon Rattle.

The choir has made many commercial recordings under successive Directors of Music, Gerre Hancock and John Scott, and most recently did so under the direction of Jeremy Filsell: The Music of Gerre Hancock, an album of music indelibly associated with Saint Thomas Church. In 2022, the choir marked the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd by recording the Byrd Propers for the feast of Corpus Christi, within the recreation of the pre-Reformation Sarum Rite Mass. This new album will be released in December 2023. In the same month, the choir will release an additional album with music for the Christmas season.



The Gentlemen of the Saint Thomas Choir are all professional singers, and the Boy Choristers all attend the Saint Thomas Choir School, instituted in 1919; nowadays the only remaining educational establishment of its type in the US. The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys is represented by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc. ([www.concertorganists.com](http://www.concertorganists.com)).

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