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GREAT MUSIC AT ST. BART'S LAUNCHES ITS 2015-16 SEASON WITH AN EXPANDED CONCERT SERIES: 10 MAIN EVENTS FROM SOUTH AMERICAN BAROQUE TO CONTEMPORARY CUBAN, FROM BACH TO ANDY AKIHO, AND JOHN ZORN'S *THE HERMETIC ORGAN*, SHOWCASE TWO OUTSTANDING CONCERT SPACES

Great Music at St. Bart's, the concert series produced by the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation (MMPAF) which for the past five years has presented music in the magnificent St. Bartholomew's Church in midtown Manhattan, is expanding its offerings and focusing its programmatic range in the 2015-16 season.

The season's 10 main events include a program of Italian/South American Baroque composer Domenico Zipoli and Bach cantatas; a midnight concert of John Zorn performing his famous *The Hermetic Organ* on the celebrated St. Bart's organ, the largest in New York (presented in tandem with National Sawdust's John Zorn Festival); the New York debut of the chamber "supergroup" Third Sound featuring new American and Cuban music; and a program mixing music by the young composer Andy Akiho with Baroque masterpieces performed by the early music group The Sebastians. These concerts join such returning series events as the beloved annual *Joyous Christmas Concert* and *Concert for the New Year* and silent film screenings with live organ improvisation. (The full season schedule is below.)

To grow and define the concert series, MMPAF's Artistic Director William Trafka aimed both to embrace a wider range of music and to showcase the church's concert spaces, two of the most outstanding in New York: the 150-seat chapel, an intimate and acoustically brilliant space that is perfectly suited for contemporary chamber music, and the majestic 1,000-seat sanctuary, an architectural marvel – outfitted with comfortable chairs enabling flexible seating – whose Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ is the largest in New York City.

"The Board of MMPAF is fortunate to have welcomed Patrick Castillo as a member," said William Trafka. "As the former program director of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and an exceptional composer, he brings valuable expertise in programming and knowledge of the most current trends in contemporary music. St. Bart's will now be one of the few sacred spaces in

New York hosting performances of new music, elevating these compelling works to a new level by embracing them in spaces of architectural distinction and beauty.”

All regular tickets to *Great Music at St. Bart's* are priced between \$20 and \$40, with discounted tickets for students and seniors available for all events. Admission to the *Concert for the New Year* is free.

Rounding out the St. Bart's musical offerings is a free component: the ongoing *Midtown Concerts*, a series of free weekly early music programs that run from September through June.

William Trafka has been the Director of Music and Organist of St. Bartholomew's Church since 1995. Prior to that, he served as St. Bartholomew's Associate Organist for 10 years. He leads the St. Bartholomew's Choir and St. Bart's Singers and is the Artistic Director of the Mid-Manhattan performing Arts Foundation, overseeing the programming of *Great Music at St. Bart's*. He also programs and conducts St. Bartholomew's annual *Summer Festival of Sacred Music*.

At St. Bart's, he has conducted the premieres of several works including David Conte's *September Sun* and *Missa Brevis*, James MacMillan's *Since it was the day of preparation* (New York premiere), and Herbert Howells' *Hymnus Paradisi* (New York premiere of the orchestral version) as well as works by Ēriks Ešenvalds and Neely Bruce. As an organist, he has performed on concert series throughout the U.S. and Germany and has also performed with the New York Philharmonic, the American Symphony Orchestra, and the Fairfield Academy of Period Instruments. He has also served on the faculty of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, as Adjunct Professor of Sacred Music.

[Great Music at St. Bart's](http://mmpaf.org) is produced by the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) corporation established to cultivate, promote, sponsor and develop the understanding and love of the performing arts as presented at St. Bartholomew's Church, a treasured masterpiece of architecture on the east side of Manhattan's midtown. The corporation sponsors performances of music, dance, drama, and other performing arts as well as the exhibition of works in the film and fine arts genres. <http://mmpaf.org>

Founded in January 1835, **St. Bartholomew's** began its life as part of the Evangelical movement in the Episcopal Church. Its present building, a Byzantine style structure with an iconic dome, designed by Bertram Goodhue and completed in 1918, has had a vital presence in New York for close to a century. St. Bartholomew's also became a force in the musical life of the city and the wider church: Legendary musicians such as Leopold Stokowski, who went on to a career as one of the world's great conductors, Harold Friedell and James Litton have served the church as Organist and Choirmaster. For many decades, a world famous weekly series of Evensongs featuring performances of the great oratorios by St. Bartholomew's Choir was offered free of charge, stressing the parish's commitment to inclusion by ministering to a wide community. *Great Music at St. Bart's*, an outgrowth of these Evensongs, still offers the greater New York City community top shelf concert performances at very reasonable ticket prices.

GREAT MUSIC AT ST. BART'S 2015-16 SEASON

Thursday, October 15, 2015, at 7:30 pm, in the Sanctuary

“THE ARGENTINIAN-ITALIAN BACH,” DOMENICO ZIPOLI

Part of the [New York Early Music 2015 Celebration](#) “El Nuevo Mundo”

Crescendo Chorus and Youth Singers

Crescendo Period and Andean Instrument Orchestra

Christine Gevert, conductor

A program dedicated to Baroque composer Domenico Zipoli, the Italian-born Jesuit musician and missionary who lived and worked in Paraguay and Argentina. His works, including his *Misa San Ignacio* and *Laudate Dominum*, are performed alongside Johann Sebastian Bach's cantatas *Nach Dir, Herr, verlangst mich* and *Alles mit Gott und nichts ohn' ihn*.

Tickets: \$40 Preferred Seating; \$30 General Seating; \$10 for Students

Friday, October 30, 2015, at 11:59 pm, in the Sanctuary

JOHN ZORN: THE HERMETIC ORGAN

Presented in tandem with [National Sawdust's John Zorn Festival](#)

John Zorn, organ

Modern music icon John Zorn performs his epic solo organ improvisation *The Hermetic Organ* on the largest pipe organ in New York City, the magnificent Aeolian-Skinner at St. Bart's. Zorn released a recording of the 2012 performance in St. Paul's Chapel at Columbia University, which Lou Reed praised as one of “culmination and conquest,” on his own Tzadik Records.

Tickets: \$35, \$25, \$15 for Students and Seniors

Friday, November 20, 2015, at 7:30 pm, in the Sanctuary

JASON ROBERTS ACCOMPANIES THE WIND, STARRING LILLIAN GISH

Jason Roberts, organ

St. Bart's Associate Director of Music and Organist Jason Roberts improvises organ accompaniment to one of the last great silent films, the romantic drama *The Wind*. This 1928 cinematic masterpiece by director Victor Sjöström stars the great Lillian Gish, who was an active member of St. Bart's, and is buried in the church's memorial chapel.

Last season, Jason Roberts improvised the organ accompaniment for *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*

Tickets: \$20, \$10 for Students and Seniors

Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary

A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. Bartholomew's Choir, Boy and Girl Choristers

William Trafka, conductor and organ

A beloved New York holiday tradition, this concert combines the choral forces of St. Bart's, New York City's largest pipe organ, and a chamber orchestra for a concert of Christmas favorites. The Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*, Vaughan Williams's *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*, and carol settings of Sandström, Chilcott, and Willcocks are performed in the candlelit splendor of St. Bartholomew's Church.

Tickets: \$100 Angel Club Seating, \$40, \$25; Students and Seniors receive a \$10 discount

Friday, December 18, 2015, at 7:30 pm in the Chapel

ADORATION OF THE MAGI

Jeff Morrissey, baritone

William Trafka, piano

Singer Jeff Morrissey and St. Bart's Music Director William Trafka present their popular Christmas program inspired by the elegant paintings found in the South Chapel of St. Bartholomew's. In 1919 Ethel Parsons Paullin and her husband Telford created the beautiful *Adoration of the Magi* and the 13 medallions surrounding it depicting subjects connected with the Nativity of Christ. This program brings the artwork to life, weaving passages from the Bible with Polish carols and ballads from the Southern Appalachian Mountains as well as works by Nin, Ramirez, Grainger, and Michael Head to present a visual and musical telling of the Christmas story.

Tickets: \$25, \$15 for Students and Seniors

Thursday, December 31, 2015, at 11:00 pm in the Sanctuary

A CONCERT FOR THE NEW YEAR

William Trafka, organ

In an annual St. Bart's tradition, William Trafka, Director of Music and Organist, performs works by Bach, Mendelssohn, and Widor alongside transcriptions of orchestral works by Grieg and Dukas on St. Bartholomew's grand Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ, one of New York's greatest musical treasures. Trafka's own transcription of Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* will be played at the stroke of midnight. A free champagne reception will follow the concert.

Admission is free

Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 7:30 pm in the Chapel

THIRD SOUND – New York Debut

Third Sound (Sooyun Kim, flute; Romie de Guise-Langlois, clarinet; Karen Kim, violin; Michael Nicolas, cello; Orion Weiss, piano; Patrick Castillo, composer and managing director)

Newly formed chamber music supergroup Third Sound makes its New York debut at St. Bart's. The program features selections from the quintet's fall 2015 residency at the Havana Contemporary Music Festival, bringing together works by some of the most dynamic voices in American and Cuban music—a unique opportunity to discover music from one of the world's most vibrant cultural centers.

Tickets: \$35, \$15 for Students and Seniors

Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 7:30 pm, in the Sanctuary

THE CONCORDIA CHOIR

The Concordia Choir

René Clausen, conductor

The renowned 72-voice Concordia Choir from Moorhead, Minnesota, makes its only New York City appearance this season with a return visit to St. Bart's, performing a diverse program of traditional and contemporary choral works.

Tickets: \$30, \$20 for Seniors, \$10 for Students

Sunday, March 13, 2016, at 2:30 pm in the Chapel

THE APPLE HILL STRING QUARTET

Apple Hill String Quartet (Elise Kruder, Colleen Jennings, violin; Mike Kelley, viola; Rupert Thompson, cello)

For its sixth annual performance on the *Great Music at St. Bart's* series, the Apple Hill String Quartet performs works by Henry Purcell, Philip Glass, and Pavel Haas. Since its founding in 2007 at the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music in Nelson, New Hampshire, the quartet has earned praise around the world for its performances of traditional and new repertoire. Central to the mission of Apple Hill is "Playing for Peace," an innovative outreach program that focuses on social change and conflict resolution through music.

Tickets: \$25, \$15 for Students and Seniors

Monday, April 25, 2016, at 7:30 pm in the Chapel

ANDY AKIHO & FRIENDS + THE SEBASTIANS

Kristin Lee, violin

Ian David Rosenbaum, percussion

Amphion String Quartet (Katie Hyun and David Southorn, violin; Wei-Yang Andy Lin, viola; Mihai Marica, cello)

The Sebastians

This concert juxtaposes music by the dynamic young composer Andy Akiho with a set of Baroque masterpieces performed by the ensemble The Sebastians ("everywhere sharp-edged and engaging" – The New York Times). The counterpoint of such works as Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3, which anchors the Sebastians' part of the program, is echoed by the keen sense of line in Akiho's masterful *LigNEouS* for string quartet and marimba. Akiho's music, praised by the Times as "mold-breaking" and "vital," is performed by a cadre of today's finest chamber musicians.

Tickets: \$35, \$15 for Students and Seniors

September 17, 2015, through June 9, 2016

Every Thursday at 1:15 pm in the Chapel

MIDTOWN CONCERTS: A FREE WEEKLY SERIES OF CONCERT OF EARLY MUSIC

Gotham Early Music Scene, in conjunction with the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation, present *Midtown Concerts*, a weekly series of 35-minute early music concerts in midtown Manhattan featuring soloists and ensembles from the U.S. and abroad.

For a schedule, visit www.gemsny.org/midtownconcerts.html

Admission is free

Tickets will be available through the Box Office at St. Bartholomew's Church, 325 Park Avenue, New York, NY, and will be available by phone, [212-378-0248](tel:212-378-0248), and online at <http://mmpaf.org>, by October 1.

September 18, 2015