

**PRESS INFORMATION: for immediate release**

**BEFORE BACH'S BIRTHDAY BASH, March 17, 2018**

– an event co-sponsored by the **Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**, the **Bach Society of Minnesota**, and **Classical Minnesota Public Radio**

Five free hour-long performances, at diverse Saint Paul venues, of works by Johann Sebastian Bach (and one of his sons!). Performers are members and friends of the TCAGO and the University Of Minnesota School Of Music.

**SUMMARY:**

9:00AM -- Olivet Congregational Church, 1859 Igelhart Avenue (\*MPR Live Broadcast)

10:30AM -- St. Mark Catholic Church, 1976 Dayton Avenue

LUNCH (On your own)

1:00PM -- St. Clement's Episcopal Church, 901 Portland Avenue, at Milton

2:30PM -- St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 900 Summit Avenue

4:00PM -- The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Avenue

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**DETAILED REPERTOIRE BY GROUP:**

**I. 9:00-10:00AM** - at **Olivet Congregational Church** (1850 Iglehart Avenue, Saint Paul)  
(1976 Dobson tracker-action pipe organ; 33 ranks)  
[http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ\\_Webpages/St. Paul, Olivet Congregational, Dobson\\_sp.html](http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ_Webpages/St._Paul,_Olivet_Congregational,_Dobson_sp.html)

**REPERTOIRE:**

- J. S. BACH: Prelude & Fugue in G, BWV 541  
--Sonya Sutton, organ
- W. F. BACH: Flute Duet in E-flat (1<sup>st</sup> movement)  
--Immanuel Davis, David Ross, traverso
- J. S. BACH: Sonata in g, BWV 1020 (arranged for lute and chamber organ)  
--Paul Berget, lute; Bruce Jacobs, positive organ
- J. S. BACH: *O Mensch, bewein' dein Sünde gross*, BWV 622  
--Adrian Volovets, organ
- J. S. BACH: Fantasy on *Komm, heiliger Geist*, BWV 651  
--Mark Spitzack, organ

**This first hour will be broadcast live and statewide on the network stations of Classical Minnesota Public Radio.**

**II. 10:30-11:30AM** - at **St. Mark Roman Catholic Church** (1976 Dayton Avenue, Saint Paul)  
(1979 Hendrickson electric-action pipe organ; 47 ranks)  
[http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ\\_Webpages/St. Paul, St. Mark Catholic, Hendrickson\\_sp.htm](http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ_Webpages/St._Paul,_St._Mark_Catholic,_Hendrickson_sp.htm)

**REPERTOIRE:**

- J. S. BACH: Prelude & Fugue in a, BWV 543  
--David Fiener, organ
- W. F. BACH: Flute Duet in f  
--Immanuel Davis & David Ross, flutes
- J. S. BACH: Fugue (in c) on a Theme of Legrenzi, BWV 574  
--Sharon Kleckner, organ
- J. S. BACH: Fugue, fr Violin Sonata No. 1 in g, BWV 1001  
--Imala Witherspoon, violin
- J. S. BACH: *Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele*, BWV 654  
--Cynthia Betz, organ
- J. S. BACH: Prelude & Fugue in e, BWV 548 (*Wedge*)  
--Adrian Volovets, organ

**11:30AM-1PM – LUNCH BREAK**

**III. 1:00-2:00PM** - at **St. Clement Episcopal Church** (901 Portland Avenue, Saint Paul)  
(1961 Aeolian-Skinner electro-pneumatic pipe organ; 26 ranks)  
[http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ\\_Webpages/St. Paul, St. Clement Episcopal, Aeolian-Skinner\\_sp.html](http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ_Webpages/St._Paul,_St._Clement_Episcopal,_Aeolian-Skinner_sp.html)

**REPERTOIRE:**

- J.S. BACH: 4 Chorale-preludes  
*Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten*, BWV 642 & 647  
*Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein*, BWV 641  
*Christ lag in Todesbanden*, BWV 625)  
--Richard Collman, organ
- J. S. BACH: Prelude, fr Cello Suite No. 6 in D, BWV 1012  
--Phoebe Dalton, cello
- J. S. BACH: Little Prelude & Fugue No. 1 in C, BWV 553  
--Pascal Givot, organ
- J. S. BACH: Trio Sonata No. 5 in C, BWV 529  
(*Allegro – Largo – Allegro*)  
--David P. Jenkins, organ
- J. S. BACH: Menuetto I & II and Gigue, fr Solo Cello Suite No. 1 in G, BWV 1007  
--Walter Cogswell, viola
- J. S. BACH: *Piece d'orgue* (Fantasy) in G, BWV 572  
--Bill Wilson, organ

**IV. 2:30-3:30PM** - at **St. Paul's United Church of Christ** (900 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul)  
(1916 Wicks-1979 Hunt direct-electric action; 30-ranks)  
[http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ\\_Webpages/St. Paul, St. Paul UCC, Wicks Hunt\\_p.html](http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ_Webpages/St._Paul,_St._Paul_UCC,_Wicks_Hunt_p.html)

**REPERTOIRE:**

- J. S. BACH: Fantasy & Fugue in g, BWV 542  
– Geoff Olson, organ
- J. S. BACH: 2 Chorale-preludes (*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, BWV 645; *In Dir ist*

- Freude*, BWV 615)  
 --John Varona, organ  
 J. S. BACH (arr. Kirnberger): Trio Sonata in c, fr *A Musical Offering*, BWV 1079  
 --Michael Min, piano; Mary-Alice Hutton, violin; Ming-Hui Lin, flute  
 J. S. BACH: 3 Chorale-preludes (*Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend*, BWV 655; *Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf*, BWV 617; *Meine Seele erhebt den Herrn*, BWV 733)  
 --Allan Mahnke, organ

**V. 4:00-5:00PM** - at **House of Hope Presbyterian Church** (797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul)  
 (1979 C. B. Fisk mechanical action pipe organ, 97 ranks; Bösendorfer grand piano)  
[http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ\\_Webpages/St. Paul, House of Hope Presbyterian, Fisk sp.htm](http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ_Webpages/St._Paul,_House_of_Hope_Presbyterian,_Fisk_sp.htm)  
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**REPERTOIRE:**

- J. S. BACH: Prelude & Fugue in c, BWV 549  
 --Matthew Lehman, organ  
 J. S. BACH: Toccata in e, BWV 914  
 --Austin Cheng, piano  
 J. S. BACH (arr. C.P.E. Bach): *Ich ruf' zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ*, BWV Anh. 73  
 J. S. BACH (arr. Alec Wyton): *Now vengeance hath been taken*  
 (Final Chorus, fr Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248)  
 --Charles Echols, organ  
 J. S. BACH: Solo Cello Suite No. 4 in E-flat, BWV 1010  
 --Käthe Jarka, cello  
 J. S. BACH: Prelude & Fugue in C, BWV 547  
 --Katie Moss, organ

**Johann Sebastian Bach** was born on March 21, 1685. His body of work, such as has survived, includes hundreds of cantatas, several Passion settings, organ music for recital and service use, chamber music and keyboard solos. It constitutes one of the glories of western civilization.

For more information, contact Michael Barone:  
 651-290-1539 or [mbarone@mpr.org](mailto:mbarone@mpr.org)

Twin Cities Chapter, American Guild of Organists:  
[www.Tcago.org](http://www.Tcago.org)

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**Performers:**

**Paul Berget** received his B.F.A. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1972 and continued his studies with the legendary Diana Poulton at the Royal College of Music in London, where he also studied with acclaimed lutenist Nigel North. In addition to playing early music, he has also performed on modern classical and steel string guitar. Recently he has been lutenist in the internationally acclaimed ensemble Minstrelsy. Other early music

collaborations include the Rose Ensemble, Ensemble Polaris, the Minnesota Lute Quartet (MiLQ), and with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

A Twin Cities native, **Cynthia Rapacke Betz** began musical studies at age seven and graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.A. in English from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She furthered her musical studies at the University of Minnesota as an organ student of Dean Billmeyer, and completed an M.A. in Liturgical Music at St. Johns University, Collegeville, where she studied with Kim Kasling. Cynthia is organist at Calvary Lutheran Church, Edina, and previously served as Music Director of the Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee. Cynthia lives in Eden Prairie with her husband and 11-year-old twin son and daughter.

**Austin Cheng** is 15 years old and is a sophomore at Wayzata High School. He has been playing piano since he was 5 years old, and continues to study with Professor Alexandra Braginsky. Austin has won the first place award for the MMTA Senior Young Artist Competition and performed as a soloist at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Additionally, he also was the first place winner of the Thursday Musical Competition. In the past, he has attended the International e-Piano Musikfest, where he participated in chamber music, performance and master classes with world renowned teachers.

**Walter Cogswell** graduated from Hartt School of Music with a double major in viola and organ. He was violist with the Delos Quartet in residence at the University of Delaware (1967-1978), and organist at Gethsemane Episcopal Church, Minneapolis (1995-2011), and currently is principal viola with the Northeast Orchestra in Fridley and a member of the choir at St. John the Evangelist Church, Saint Paul.

**Richard Collman** is a minister-musician with degrees from UMD, Yale Divinity School, the Univ. of Notre Dame, and a career almost equally divided between music and preaching. Retired in Northfield since 2006, he started the Wed. Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals entering their 12th year this summer. He served on the national AGO task force that created the Pipe Organ Encounters (POE) for teens and remains active as an organ teacher, pianist, church musician, and promoter of the organ for all ages.

Cellist **Phoebe Dalton** studied with Janos Starker at Indiana University and received her DMA from the University of Minnesota with Tanya Remnikova. She has performed as orchestral soloist and recitalist in Europe, North and South America. Dr. Dalton has been principal cellist of the South Dakota Symphony and on the faculty of St. Cloud State University. She maintains a private cello studio in the Twin Cities.

**Immanuel Davis** is one of the most versatile flutists of his generation. Equally at home on the modern and baroque flutes, Immanuel has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and abroad. He has performed as soloist and chamber player with such early music ensembles as Early Music New York, ARTEK, Lyra Baroque, REBEL and the Bach Society of Minnesota and Mercury Orchestra of Houston. He just recorded a CD of music from the Court of Louis XIV with Barthold Kuijken, which will be released in 2019.

**Charles Echols** is an emeritus professor of St. Cloud State University in Minnesota, where he taught organ, piano and music history. He is currently Principal Organist at Salem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. He recently edited the first volume of *Organ Music of James H. Rogers*, published by Wayne Leupold Editions. His performance of three organ sonatas of Rogers is available on a compact disc issued by Raven Records.

**David Fielen** is Emeritus Professor of Music and former Cantor of Christ Chapel at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, where he also served as Provost and Dean of the College before retiring. Currently he serves as collaborative pianist/organist with three choral groups in the St. Peter/Mankato area, and with the Brass Art Quartet. Fielen is a frequent substitute organist for and has a long record of performances around the United States and in Europe, including five European tours with Gustavus Brass Ensembles and the Gustavus Wind Orchestra. In 2005, he edited five volumes of organ works by Jan Bender for Concordia Publishing House, and last September he played two organ recitals in the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

**Pascal Givot** is 13 years old and in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Twin cities German Immersion School in Saint Paul. He has been a piano student for six years with Oleg Levin at the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music, and for 1.5 years with Arkus in Villach, Austria. He began organ studies with James Callahan at age 12. Pascal loves model trains and trying out different organs (favorites being St. Michael's Church in Hamburg and Jesus College, Oxford).

A violinist for more than 18 years, **Mary Alice Hutton** was born and raised in Minneapolis and began studying violin at age five. She was inspired to learn after seeing Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg perform on Sesame Street. Mary Alice attends the University of Minnesota where she studies with Sally O'Reilly and is pursuing her Master's degree. She has won several competitions in the Minneapolis area, most recently the Thursday Musical competition. Ms. Hutton has also been featured as a soloist with multiple ensembles throughout Minnesota.

**Bruce Jacobs** performs frequently in the Twin Cities with Consortium Carissimi, the Eglantine Consort, Waltham Abbey Singers, Ensemble Polaris, Bach Society of Minnesota, Lyra Baroque Orchestra, Elm Ensemble, Hymnus, The Rose Ensemble, The Minnesota Chorale and The National Lutheran Choir. He was a founding member of Banchetto Musicale, a leading baroque ensemble in Fargo-Moorhead. Jacobs studied organ performance with Ruth Berge at Concordia College in Moorhead and continuo through the Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute. He is Chief Technologist at Twin Cities Public Television.

Cellist **Käthe Jarka**, a graduate of Juilliard, student of Leonard Rose, and a Fulbright Scholar, has performed in 25 states, as well as in Asia and Europe. She has appeared with the Shanghai Quartet and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and in collaboration with the Juilliard Quartet, Gil Shaham, and Yo-yo Ma, as well as at the Marlboro Music Festival and with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

**David P. Jenkins** is director of liturgical music at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Dr. Jenkins also is UST organ instructor and interim director of the UST Liturgical Choir, the chapel choir for UST campus ministry. He earned degrees in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music, the University of Iowa, and Oberlin Conservatory, and studied in Denmark on a Marshall Fellowship. Dr. Jenkins is active in the Twin Cities AGO, currently as Sub-Dean. Since 1998 David, guitarist Chris Kachian, and art historian Michelle Nordtorp-Madson have performed as "The Society for the Doctrinal Affectation of Baroque Music."

**Sharon Kleckner** holds degrees in organ performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where she studied with Garth Peacock, and Syracuse University where she earned the Master of Music under Arthur Poister. She has taught at Keuka College in upstate New York and Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter MN, and has held organist/choirmaster positions in various churches. She is active as a recitalist and substitute organist and is a former Sub-dean of TCAGO.

Flutist **Ming-Hui Lin** is a doctoral student in performance and theory at the University of Minnesota studying with Immanuel Davis. In 2015, she received her Masters degree in flute and was awarded lifelong membership of the National Music Honor Society Pi Kappa Lambda at Boston University where she studied with Elizabeth Ostling. Ming-Hui is an active soloist, orchestral and chamber musician who has participated in many concerts in Taiwan, Japan, China, Europe and the United States. She is also an experienced teacher and is a mentor with the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies. She also won 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the Upper Midwest Flute Association Young Artist Competition.

**Allan Mahnke** holds an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary in St Louis and a DMA in organ from the University of Minnesota where he was a pupil of Heinrich Fleischer. He is organist at Cross of Glory Lutheran Church in Brooklyn Center.

**Michael Min** is in the DMA program in piano performance with Dr. Kyung Kim at the University of Minnesota. He received his B.A degree from the Sahm-Yook University in Seoul, Korea where he was a student of Sook-Jin Lee and Joo-Soon Lee, and completed his M.A. degree in Piano Performance from Middle Tennessee State University, where he was faculty-staff pianist and his teachers were Dr. Eun-byol Ko, and Dr. Adam Clark. Michael won the Grand Prize in the Seoul National Symphony Orchestra Competition, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in the Music Education

Newspaper Company Competition in Seoul. He also was a prize winner in the Venusto Music Competition supported by the Mayor of Seoul.

**Katie Moss** is currently organist and handbell director at Messiah United Methodist Church in Plymouth. She is a candidate for the Doctor of Music in Organ and Church Music through Indiana University (having studied with Dr. Christopher Young) and is writing her final project on Minneapolis-based composer David Evan Thomas. She has performed across the United States as a solo organist, including in the "Organists of Iowa" annual series (Iowa State University) and the "Supernova" annual series (Piedmont College, Georgia). She is the 2011 Schubert Club Organ Scholarship winner and won second place in the 2011 RCYO Competition (Region VI).

**Geoff Olson** has been a church organist in the Twin Cities since 1965. He has been the organist at St. Paul's United Church of Christ on Summit Avenue since 1986. He started organ studies with Earl Rymer. After winning a TCAGO scholarship competition, he studied with Heinrich Fleischer at the University of Minnesota. After retiring from a career in city planning, he studied with Dean Billmeyer at the U. Since then he has been recording YouTube organ videos and overseeing the installation of a Hauptwerk virtual organ system at St. Paul's Church.

Praised by the New York Times for the "limpid sweetness" of his baroque flute playing, **David Ross** performs frequently as a baroque flute soloist with the Sebastians in NYC, as principal flutist with Mercury in Houston, and with other ensembles including the English Concert, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Washington Baroque Consort, Trinity Wall Street Baroque Orchestra, REBEL, New York Baroque Incorporated, Early Music New York, and Lyra Baroque Orchestra.

**Mark Spitzack** studied church music and Christian education at Concordia University in St. Paul and received the Master of Sacred Music degree from Luther Seminary, in conjunction with St. Olaf College. He is a member of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis where he formerly served as Director of Children's Ministries. He also served as Organist/Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on-the-Hill and as a Lay Clerk at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church. He is currently Director of Music at Olivet Congregational Church (UCC) in St. Paul.

**Sonya Subbaya Sutton** is an organist, pianist, conductor, and blogger who is in the Twin Cities as the Interim Music Director at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in St. Paul. At home in Washington, D.C. she works as an interim musician and consultant for church music programs, while also serving as Music Director of the World Bank/IMF Chorus. She has led choirs on tours of Italy, France, Czech Republic, and Austria, and in residence at Wells Cathedrals, and has been organist for choirs during residencies at Durham and Canterbury Cathedrals.

A pupil of Catharine Crozier, **John Varona** is known for making his concert programs both informative and entertaining. John has performed classical repertoire at venues throughout the world, and has provided accompaniment for silent films. He works full time in his own firm, Midwest Home Staging & Design Co. ([www.midwesthomestaging.com](http://www.midwesthomestaging.com)) and currently is Associate organist at Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester MN.

**Adrian Volovets** is a multi-instrumentalist who plays flute, soprano/tenor saxophone, violin, cello, piano, harpsichord and organ. He is working towards an Organ Performance and Conducting major at the University of Minnesota. His biggest influence is the legendary conductor, organist, and harpsichordist Karl Richter. Adrian is proud to be a part of the Saxon German Romantic tradition of playing the works of Bach.

**William Wilson**, native of Philadelphia, studied organ with Roger Davis at Hope College and David Craighead at Eastman School of Music. His professional life went from musician to software designer to pastor. In retirement Bill enjoys volunteering as a docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, taking care of a grandchild, and freelance organ playing in and around the Twin Cities.

**Imala Witherspoon** is a 19-year-old aspiring violinist and violist currently, a college freshman studying with Professors Sally O'Reilly and Korey Konkel at the University of Minnesota. She has performed in masterclasses for

Ida Kavafian, Yair Kless, Itamar Zorman, and others. She performs on a violin generously donated by the Virtu Foundation.