PRESS INFORMATION: for immediate release

BACH’S BIRTHDAY BASH, March 21, 2020
a multi-venue festival co-sponsored by the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the Bach Society of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota School of Music, the Saint Paul Conservatory of Music, and Classical Minnesota Public Radio/American Public Media’s Pipedreams.

This year’s annual festival features five free hour-long performances at diverse locations on or near Summit Avenue in Saint Paul. The music is drawn from the work of Johann Sebastian Bach (and one of his early 20th century disciples). Performers are members and friends of the TCAGO and the University of Minnesota School of Music.

9:00-10:00AM – St Mary Chapel of the Saint Paul Seminary (2260 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul)
2000 Noack organ (2 manuals, 27 ranks, mechanical action)

BACH: Prelude in E-flat, BWV 552/1
--Kris Rizzotto, organ

BACH: Allemande, fr Cello Suite No. 1 in G, BWV 1007
--William Kim, marimba

BACH: Aria, Ich habe genug, fr Cantata BWV 82a
--Sarah Brailey, soprano; Paul Jacobson, flute; Conor O’Bren & Ginna Watson, violins; Steven Staruch, viola; Charles Asch, cello (Bach Society Ensemble)

BACH: Partita (Variations), O Gott, du frommer Gott, BWV 767
--David Jenkins, organ

BACH (trans. Feruccio Busoni): Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659
--Michael Min, piano

BACH: Fugue in E-flat (St. Anne), BWV 552/2
--Kris Rizzotto, organ

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

10:30AM – St Paul Conservatory/Center for Art and Innovation (1524 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul)
1976 Wicks organ (2 manuals, 20 ranks, direct-electric action)

BACH: Prelude & Fugue in b, BWV 544
--Thomas Ferry, organ

BACH: English Suite No. 2 in a, BWV 807
Prelude – Allemande – Courante – Sarabande – Bouree I & II - Gigue
--Juhee Park, piano

BACH: Trio Sonata in E-flat, BWV 525
--David Townsend, clarinet; John Varona, organ

BACH: Vivace (i.), fr Double Violin Concerto in d, BWV 1043
--St. Paul Conservatory Suzuki Program students: Tova Kimbell, Callan Logan, Lukas Thames (1), and Grace Plath, Helena Lume, Will DeRuyter (2)/Leif Peterson, director; Koki Sato, piano

BACH: Prelude & Fugue in D, BWV 532
--Sarah Palmer, organ
**A BRIEF BREAK FOR LUNCH (11:30AM-1:00PM)**

1:00-2:00PM – **St. Thomas More Church** (Summit Avenue at Lexington Avenue, Saint Paul)
1926 Casavant organ (3 manuals, 56 ranks, electro-pneumatic action)

BACH: Prelude & Fugue in C, BWV 547  
--Brother Jacob Berns, organ

BACH: Solo Cello Suite No. 2 in d, BWV 1002  
  *Prelude* (i.) – *Allemande* (ii.) – *Courante* (iii.)  
  --Käthe Jarka, cello

BACH: 3 Settings of the Advent Hymn *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659-660-661  
1. Ornamented soprano chorale with accompaniment  
2. Two-part Invention (left hand and pedal) plus ornamented soprano chorale  
3. Three-part keyboard fugue with chorale in pedal  
   --Lee Treml, organ

BACH: Solo Cello Suite No. 2 in d, BWV 1002  
  *Sarabande* (iv.) – *Minuets* (2)(v.) – *Gigue* (vi.)  
  --Käthe Jarka, cello

MAX REGER: Fantasy and Fugue in d, Op. 135b (Straube edition)  
--Adrian Volovets, soloist

2:30-3:30PM – **St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church** (60 Kent Street North, Saint Paul)
1921 Skinner-2008 Schantz organ (4 manuals, 55 ranks, electro-pneumatic action)

BACH: Prelude & Fugue in c, BWV 549  
--Caleb Walker, organ

BACH: Partita No. 5 in G, BWV 829  
  *Praeambulum* – *Allemande* – *Corrente* – *Sarabande* – *Tempo di Minuetto* – *Passepied* -  
  *Gigue*  
  --Margaret Wang, piano

BACH: Flute Sonata in C, BWV 1033  
  *Andante-Presto* – *Allegro* – *Adagio* – *Minuets 1 & 2*  
  --Libby Laufers, flute; Carolyn Diamond, piano

BACH (trans. Siloti): Prelude in g, BWV 535  
--Carolyn Diamond, piano

BACH: 3 *Orgelbüchlein* Chorale-preludes (Wir danken Dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 623; Hilf Gott, dass mir's gelinge, BWV 624; Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten sein, BWV 641)

BACH: Prelude & Fugue in G, BWV 541  
--Mary Joy Rieder, organ

4:00-5:00PM – **House of Hope Presbyterian Church** (797 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul)  
**C. B. Fisk organ, Opus 78 (4 manuals, 97 ranks, mechanical action)**

BACH: Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C, BWV 564  
--Ju Young Lee, organ

BACH: Sonata No. 3 in E, BWV 1016  
  *Adagio* – *Allegro* – *Adagio ma non tanto* - *Allegro*  
  --Yu Chia Hsu, violin; Sofia Mycyk, piano
BACH (trans. Busoni): Three Chorale-preludes

(Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645; Ich ruf zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ, BWV 639; Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g’mein, BWV 734)

--Joan Wallace, piano

BACH: Prelude & Fugue in e, BWV 548 (Wedge)

--Aaron David Miller, organ

David Johnson will provide ‘transitional music’ on House of Hope’s Noyes Memorial Carillon this afternoon!

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 & www.pipedreams.org; also the Twin Cities Chapter, AGO www.tcago.org

Performers:

Charles Asch performs locally with Lyra Baroque Orchestra and Bach Society of Minnesota. He completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Minnesota, and his Master of Music degree at Juilliard. He has performed locally in the Bach Roots Festival, Twin Cities Early Music Festival and in recitals at the Schubert Club Courtroom, The Baroque Room, and University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Brother Jacob Berns, O.S.B., is a monk of Saint John’s Abbey. In 2014, he completed his Bachelors degree in Theology and Music at Saint John’s University and at present is pursuing a Masters degree in Liturgical Music, studying organ with D. Kim Kasling. He has fifteen years experience of music ministry in parishes in upper and central Minnesota, and serves as chaplain for the National Catholic Youth Choir. In addition to accompanying many of the Abbey’s liturgies, Jacob has assisted in the production of hymn collections, Gregorian chant materials, and other resources for the Abbey’s liturgical use.

Hailed by The New York Times for her "radiant, liquid tone,” “exquisitely phrased,” and “sweetly dazzling” singing, soprano Sarah Brailey is in demand as a soloist and chamber music artist in all genres of classical music. She has performed Steve Reich at Carnegie Hall, Handel’s Messiah with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and with Kanye West and GRAMMY® Award-winning alternative-classical vocal band Roomful of Teeth at the Hollywood Bowl.

Pianist and organist Carolyn Diamond has served as Staff Musician at Central Lutheran in Minneapolis and is a regularly featured musician at Wayzata Community Church. She also is active with the Friday Club, the TCAGO, and as an Artist Member of Thursday Musical. She has been a frequent performer at the TCU/Van Cliburn Piano Institute, and was a winner of their Piano Concerto Competition, performing with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra.

Thomas Ferry has been Director of Music Ministries at Como Park Lutheran Church for over twenty years. He holds a Bachelors degree in organ and music theory from Eastman School of Music, and a Masters in organ from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mr. Ferry is a regular performer in the Twin
Cities and throughout the Midwest. In addition to his private studio, he teaches organ at the University of Minnesota, and has taught for the South Dakota Organ Academy and American Guild of Organists Pipe Organ Encounters. An active member of the American Guild of Organists, and the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. Mr. Ferry has held a variety of leadership positions with these organizations at the local, regional, and national levels.

Born in Taiwan, **Yu-Chia Hsu** is currently a first-year DMA student in University of Minnesota studying with Prof. Sally O’Reilly. Yu-Chia has participated in numerous master classes and attended several festivals with full scholarship. He won the Grand Tainan Music Competition first prize in 2009, Japan Classical Music Competition first prize in 2011, honorable mention prize in Schlem International music festival and Yong Siew Toh conservatory of music concerto competition first prize in 2014. Yu-Chia began his studies at the age of seven, and at fourteen entered into the Affiliated Senior High School of National Taiwan Normal University to study with the Prof. Juin-Ying Lee. He completed his bachelor degree with full scholarship at the National University of Singapore Yong Siew Toh Conservatory with Prof. Zuo Jun and the New England Conservatory with Prof. Ayano Ninomiya.

**Paul Jacobson** has played baroque and classical flute for 40+ years with early music ensembles throughout the United States, including the Lyra Baroue Orchestra, of which he is a cofounder. He debuted with the Bach Society of Minnesota as flute soloist for its co-production with Lyra in 1990 of the entire Bach Christmas Oratorio. Paul is also a composer, arranger, and transcriber.

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 Jenkins** is director of liturgical music at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, University of St. Thomas, where he teaches church music and directs the worship music of the Seminary. Dr Jenkins also is the organ and harpsichord instructor for the St. Thomas music department. He holds a DMA in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music, and degrees from the University of Iowa and Oberlin Conservatory. In 1980-1981 he studied organ in Copenhagen at the Royal Danish Music Academy under a Marshall Fellowship. His teachers have included Howard Don Small, Garth Peacock, Delbert Disselhorst, Grethe Krogh, and Russell Saunders. He serves Twin Cities Chapter Dean of the American Guild of Organists.

**William Kim** is a senior honor roll student at Mounds Park Academy, studying percussion there with Dr. Adam Rappel as a PSEO student. He has performed side-by-side performances with the Minnesota Orchestra and the University of Minnesota Symphony, the University of Minnesota Summer Orchestra, University of Minnesota Steel Pan Ensemble, the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphony Orchestra, and as soloist with the Mounds Park Academy Concert Band. William toured Eastern Europe as a member of the GTCYS Orchestra in 2018 and will be touring Southern Italy again with GTCYS in 2020. William was selected by Classical MPR as a Minnesota Varsity Featured Artist this year. He is also an award-winning pianist, and enjoys chess and watching his favorite hockey team, the Winnipeg Jets.

**Libby Laufers** received her BM degree from the University of Minnesota and her MM from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She is an Artist level performer with Thursday Musical, and has been involved on the boards of the Upper Midwest Flute Association and the Suzuki Association of Minnesota. Libby teaches flute, piano, and organ from her home and is the organist of Our Savior
Lutheran in Excelsior. She and her husband recently welcomed twins to their family, joining little brother, Zachary.

**Ju Young Lee** is an organist, pianist, and conductor from South Korea. She earned her BA in organ performance and church music under Dr. Myung-Ja Cho and an MM in choral conducting under Dr. JW Park at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. She has worked as a conductor, music director, accompanist and singer in South Korea and the USA. She taught at the Gangreung-Wonju National University, Korea Open University, and Kwangshin University in South Korea. She was a visiting scholar in the choral activities at the University of Wisconsin River-Falls. Currently, she is a DMA student in Organ Performance at the University of Minnesota under Professor Thomas Ferry and a recipient of the Henry Brooks Organ Fellowship and the Stefania Denbow Fellowship.

Korean-American pianist **Dong-Suk Michael Min** is a DMA student of Kyung Kim at the University of Minnesota. He received his BM degree from Sahm-Yook University in Seoul and his MM degree from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) as a student of Eun-byol Ko and Adam Clark. He has been on the faculty at MTSU, the Minnesota International Piano Summer Camp, and Mount Calvary Academy of Music, and also maintains a private studio. Notable honors include first prizes in the Seoul National Symphony Orchestra Competition, the 2019 Golden Classical Awards International Competition, the University of Minnesota’s School of Music Concerto Competition, and the American Protégé International Competition, which included a Carnegie Hall recital debut.

**Aaron David Miller** is Music Director and Organist at House of Hope Presbyterian Church. Current composition commissions include works for the 2020 Congress of the North American Guild of Carillonneurs, the 2021 Porgorzelski-Yankee Commission for the AGO, and a new work on Native American themes for First Lutheran Church in Bemidji, MN. Aaron is also an active forensic musicologist for Donato Music in New York.

**Pianist Sofia Mycyk** has performed as soloist with the Hart House Orchestra in Toronto and has been featured at the Landowska Harpsichord Society in Chicago, the Dekker Centre, in the Lyell Gustin Recital Series, and the Ritornello Chamber Music Festival. In 2018 Sofia was twice featured in LOFT recital concerts in Minneapolis, was the winner of the University of Minnesota Bands Concerto Competition and subsequently performed in Ted Mann Concert Hall with the University of Minnesota Chamber Winds, as well as released her first album entitled *Hutzulian Watercolours*, featuring solo piano music by Ukrainian composers. In the summers of 2018 and 2019 she performed at the Lakes Area Music Festival, and presented a solo piano recital for Thursday Musical Community Concerts. Sofia is an advanced doctoral student at the University of Minnesota and holds a Teaching Assistantship in Collaborative Piano. Her advisors are Dr. Timothy Lovelace and Dr. Michael Kim.

Irish violinist **Conor O’Brien** moved to Minnesota in 2004 and has since become a central figure in the musical life here. In demand as a modern and baroque instrumentalist, Conor also manages a successful string quartet, works as an orchestra contractor, and records frequently for TV and radio. He earned Master’s and Doctorate degrees at the University of Minnesota, and shares his love of music with young students, college students, and adult players alike.

**Sarah Palmer** is a sophomore at St. Olaf College and studies with Catherine Rodland. Previously she studied piano at the Manhattan School of Music (Precollege Division).
Juhee Park entered Dong-eui University as a scholarship student and graduated summa cum laude with a BM in piano performance. She was third place winner of the Korea Music Competition, and the top prize winner at the Joongang National Music Concours in 2012. She also received a “Scholarship for the Talented Students of Art” from the Scholarship Committee of Busanjin-Gu. She is currently a Master of Music degree candidate in the studio of Dr. Kyung Kim and a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Minnesota School of Music.

Leif Petersen is Chair of the Suzuki Department at the St Paul Conservatory of Music, having studied at the University of South Carolina, the University of Montana, and the University of Minnesota.

Mary Joy Rieder recently completed a 21-year tenure as Music Director and Organist of The Church of St. Mary in downtown St. Paul. She has performed on recital series at St. Louis, King of France, St. Barnabas in Plymouth, House of Hope in St. Paul (the Elizabeth Chapel Series), Wayzata Community Church and in Tuftingen, Germany. A member of the Twin Cities AGO Chapter, she has served on the TCAGO Executive Board and as Chapter Dean.

Dr. Kris Rizzotto has played concerts throughout South America, Europe, and North America, and is passionate about performing works of living composers. Kris was named a member of The Diapason's 20 Under 30 Class of 2017, which recognizes young leaders in the fields of organ, harpsichord, carillon, and church music, and previously was the organist at the Benedictine Abbey of Rio de Janeiro, built in 1590 and owner of one of the oldest organs in South America. Kris holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance from the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma, a Master of Music in Organ Performance and Sacred Music from East Carolina University, and a Bachelor’s degree in Piano Performance from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Magna cum Laude. Kris’s doctoral dissertation was about the importance of music in the formation of the national identity of the Latvian people, focusing on organ compositions by Aivars Kalējs which represent the values and spirit of the Latvian heritage. Kris is organist at Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Koki Sato is a native of Tokyo, Japan, and has performed with many Japanese orchestras, having won a number of concerto competitions. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree with Alexander Braginsky at the University of Minnesota and is a member of the piano faculty at the St. Paul Conservatory of Music.

Steven Staruch practices his art as a freelance violist and singer in the region. Creator of the popular Friday Favorites request program, Steve is the afternoon drive time host at Classical MPR. One of his passions is yoga. He is currently pursuing a 500-hour yoga teacher certification program.

Clarinetist David Townsend is a soloist, educator, and woodwind repair technician residing in Rochester. He was principal clarinetist of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra for 32 years, and for 36 years has been in business as a restoration and repair specialist serving woodwind musicians nationwide. He is a founding member of the Rochester Chamber Music Society, but also enjoys the jazz idiom and performs with the Generation II Big Band, the JP Big Band in Winona, and Two O’clock Jump, a regional swing/blues band.

Lee Treml, a native of Durham, NC, earned a BA in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2018. While at UNC, Lee played harpsichord for the Baroque Ensemble, sang in the Men’s Glee Club, and was music director at St. Titus Episcopal Church. He is working on his Master of Arts in Liturgical Music at Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville as a
student of Dr. K.R. Kasling. This past summer he toured with the Saint John's and Saint Benedict's Choral Arts Ensemble as the organist, performing in multiple cities across Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria. Currently, Lee serves as the organist at St. Michael's Catholic Church in St. Cloud, MN and as the choir director for the College of Saint Benedict’s Campus Ministry in St. Joseph, MN.

John Varona is organist at Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester. A pupil Catharine Crozier, John believes in the power of music to communicate directly with audiences. His repertoire spans six centuries and includes works of Messiaen, Langlais, Widor, Vierne, Reubke and Bach. He has performed throughout the world including providing live accompaniment for silent films. John is the Owner and CEO of Midwestern Home Staging and for recreation enjoys composing, cross country skiing, photography and travel.

Adrian Volovets is a multi-instrumentalist who plays flute, oboe, tenor/soprano saxophone, violin, cello, piano, harpsichord, and pipe organ. He is working towards his Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance at the University of Minnesota and will graduate in May of 2020, after which he will pursue his Master's and Doctorate in Organ Performance and Music Theory. His biggest influence is the legendary conductor, organist, and harpsichordist, Karl Richter (1926 - 1981). Adrian is currently studying the organ works of Max Reger, liturgical playing, and improvisation with Dr. Kim Kasling, Organist and Director of Liturgical Music Studies at St. John’s University.

Caleb Walker is an undergraduate student in organ performance at the University of Minnesota studying with Thomas Ferry, and previously with Dean Billmeyer. He has been playing organ for close to two years and also plays harpsichord (four years) and piano (18). Alongside his studies, he is currently writing his own book for exercise etudes for piano.

Joan Wallace is a doctoral student in piano at the University of Minnesota, where she studies with Dr. Paul Shaw. She also holds degrees from the Universities of Michigan and Oklahoma. Joan has been teaching music since 2011, and taught piano at an international school in India for three years. She is currently on the piano faculty at MacPhail.

Margaret Wang is a senior at Eastview high school. She began playing piano at the age of six, and has been studying with Professor Alexander Braginsky at the University of Minnesota for 10 years. Margaret has received international and national recognition, including a prize for the best performance of Bach at the International Arthur Rubenstein Competition in 2017. Most recently, she performed with the Brunesis Orchestra led by Uri Segal in Perugia, Italy in August of 2019.

Ginna Watson is the violin instructor at Hamline University. In addition to performing with the Bach Society, she plays baroque violin and viola with the Lyra Baroque Orchestra and medieval bowed strings and harp with The Rose Ensemble.

Organ Information:

http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ_Webpages/St._Paul,_St._Paul_Seminary,_Noack_sp.html
http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ_Webpages/St._Paul,_St._Paul_on_the_Hill_Episcopal,_Wicks_sp.html
http://www.pipeorganlist.com/Organ_Webpages/St._Paul,_St_Thomas_More_Catholic_%28East_Campus%29,_Casavant_sp.html
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