

THE SAINT MARK'S
MUSIC

SERIES
2024-2025



Flentrop Organ Concert

Isabelle Demers, organ

Friday, February 7, 7:30 pm

In-person and livestreamed from
Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.

Flentrop Organ Concert

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PROGRAM

Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 65
Allegro moderato e serio
Adagio
Andante Recitativo
Allegro assai vivace

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Variations on a theme of Handel, Op. 24

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
trans. Rachel Laurin

INTERMISSION

Sweelinck Variations, Op. 96

Rachel Laurin (1961-2023)

The Firebird Suite
Introduction
The Firebird and its dance
The Firebird's variation
The Princesses' Dance
Infernal Dance of King Kashchei
Berceuse
Finale

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)
trans. Isabelle Demers

ABOUT THE ARTIST



There is no shortage of organists who make their instruments roar; and while her power was never in question, Demers made the instrument sing.”

(Peter Reed, Classical Source.com, England, 2016)

With playing described as having “bracing virtuosity” (Chicago Classical Review) and being “fearless and extraordinary” (Amarillo-Globe News), organist Isabelle Demers has enraptured critics, presenters, and audience members around the globe for her entrancing performances. Her 2010 recital for the joint International Society of Organbuilders-American Institute of Organbuilders convention so enchanted the audience that she “left the entire congress in an atmosphere of ‘Demers fever.’” That same year, her national convention of the American Guild of Organists, in Washington, D.C., was received with great acclaim not only by critics, who deemed it “one of the most outstanding events of the convention” (The American Organist), but also by the standing-room-only audience, which called her back to the stage five times.

She has appeared in recital at the cathedrals of Cologne and Regensburg (Germany), the Elb-Philharmonie (Hamburg), St. Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and the Royal Festival Hall (London), the Royal Opera House of Muscat (Oman), Melbourne Town Hall (Australia), Auckland Town Hall (New Zealand), as well as major universities and concert halls in the United States, among them Davies Hall (San Francisco), Disney Hall (Los Angeles), the Kimmel Center (Philadelphia), the Wanamaker Organ (Philadelphia), Yale University, the Eastman School of Music, Benaroya Hall (Seattle), Spivey Hall (Georgia), and the Spreckels Pavilion (San Diego).

Ms. Demers is in continual demand by her fellow colleagues as witnessed by repeat performances for regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (Minneapolis, 2008; Washington D.C., 2010; Hartford, 2013; Austin, 2013; Indianapolis, 2015; Houston, 2016), the joint convention of the American Institute of Organ Builders and International Society of Organbuilders (Montréal, 2010), the Royal Canadian College of Organists

(Toronto, 2009; Kingston, Ontario, 2016), and the Organ Historical Society (Vermont, 2013 and Minnesota, 2017).

Her debut recording on Acis label was met with critical acclaim. On a recent broadcast of Pipedreams, radio host Michael Barone featured the Fugue from Reger’s Op. 73, describing it as “a masterful score, here masterfully played,” and Isabelle Demers as, “definitely a talent to watch, to hear”. The RSCM’s Church Music Quarterly awarded the “exciting, expressive and successful” recording its highest recommendation for its “profound and searching” performances. Fanfare Magazine proclaimed the “superbly produced” and “clear, tightly focused” recording as a “brilliantly played program.” Her second disc, featuring the organ works of Rachel Laurin, was released in June 2011, and her recording of Max Reger’s Seven Chorale-Fantasias in November 2012. Her fourth CD, Bach, Bull, and Bombardes (Pro Organo), was released in May 2013, and includes works of Bach, Bull, Reger, Widor, Tremblay, Mendelssohn, Daveluy, and Thalben-Ball. She also appears as solo organ accompanist in a recording of Maurice Duruflé’s Requiem with the Baylor University Choir, recorded at Duruflé’s church, St. Étienne-du-Mont, in Paris. Her latest CD, recorded at Chicago’s Rockefeller Chapel, was released in January 2020, and includes works of Reger, Laurin, Dupré, Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, and Macmillan.

A native of Québec and a doctoral graduate of the Juilliard School, Dr. Demers is the newly-appointed Associate Professor of Organ at McGill University (Montréal, Québec). She was formerly the Joyce Bowden Chair in Organ and Head of the Organ Program at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

Isabelle Demers is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC.

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT SAINT MARK'S MUSIC SERIES CONCERT

Mystery of Winter Skies

Friday, March 7, 7:30 pm
St. Mark's Cathedral Nave

James Falzone, clarinet & penny whistles,
Luke Fitzpatrick & Alex Guy, violins,
Erin Wight, viola, & Rose Bellini, cello

James Falzone brings his unique style back to Saint Mark's with a sonic exploration of the expansive beauty of creation, through James' own new musical compositions for penny whistles and string quartet.



In-person and livestream tickets available at
saintmarks.org/concerts

AND FOR THE MONTHLY *Organ by Night* SERIES

Organ by Night is presented at Saint Mark's Cathedral on the third Sunday of each month following the Compline service, about 10:00 pm. Informal mini-concerts will introduce you to the power and beauty of a real pipe organ. All are welcome in-person in the nave or join the organist in the loft to get a feel for what playing an instrument of this size is like. Ask questions and learn more about the Flentrop organ after the concert.

NEXT UP on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Amiel Elfert performing:

Meine Seele Erhebt den Herren BWV 648 and *Toccata in E* BWV 566 by J. S. Bach

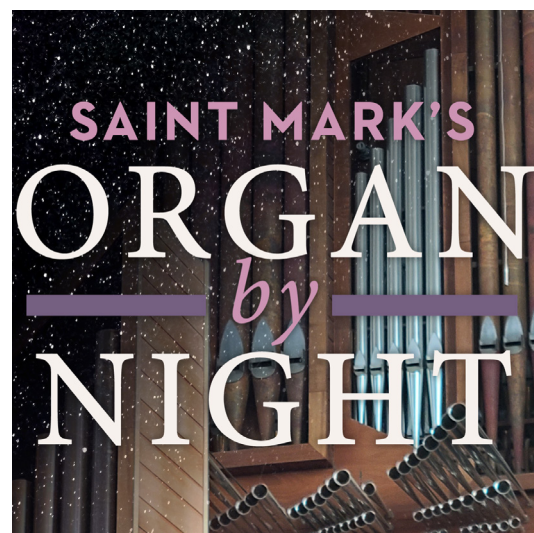
Ut, re, mi, fa, sol, la by William Byrd

Amiel Elfert is a young Canadian Organist based in Victoria, BC. He is currently studying for his BMus degree at the University of Victoria, where he studies in the Organ Performance Program with Dr. Mark McDonald. Amiel currently serves as Organ scholar of Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria. He regularly gives recitals in the United States and Canada. When not pursuing his musical interests, Amiel enjoys going for walks in Greater Victoria and Practicing the Ancient English art of Change Ringing.

MORE UPCOMING *Organ by Night* CONCERTS:

MARCH 16 - Kyle Haugen

APRIL 20 - Michael Kleinschmidt



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With gratitude we acknowledge these Friends of the Music Series who give annually in support of making Saint Mark’s musical riches accessible to all. The donor listing below reflects gifts received since June 15, 2024, for this current season.

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Saint Mark’s Music Series is grateful to the Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists for their support of radio publicity for this concert.





SAINT MARK'S

EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

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