

CONCERTS *at* SAINT THOMAS

PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS ON FIFTH AVENUE



The Boys of the Saint Thomas Choir
Music Advancement Program String Ensemble,
The Juilliard School

Nicolas Haigh, Organ
Jeremy Filsell, Conductor
Catherine Birke, Conductor

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023
5:30 P.M.

We are extremely grateful to all our donors who support and enhance the activities of *Concerts at Saint Thomas*. This evening's concert is underwritten in part by the following generous individuals:

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CONCERTS *at* SAINT THOMAS

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

The Reverend Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*
Dr. Jeremy Filsell, *The Nancy B. & John B. Hoffmann Organist and Director of Music*
Mr. Christopher Seeley, *Head of School*
The Saint Thomas Choir School

PROGRAM

Hodie Christus natus est	<i>Plainchant</i>
What sweeter Music	<i>John Rutter</i> (b. 1945)
Blessed Virgin's Cradle Song	<i>Edward Bairstow</i> (1874-1946)
I sing of a maiden	<i>Bruce Neswick</i> (b. 1956)
Concerto for Two Violettas in G Major	<i>Georg Phillip Telemann</i> (1681-1767)
A Christmas Greeting	<i>Edward Elgar</i> (1857-1934)
What Child is This (Greensleeves)	<i>Traditional</i> arr. Joanne Martin
Song of Wisdom	<i>Charles Villiers Stanford</i> (1852-1924)
Cantilena from String Quartet No. 1	<i>Heitor Villa-Lobos</i> (1887-1959)
This Joy	<i>Bob Chilcott</i> (b. 1955)
Little Lamb, who made thee?	<i>William Bradley Roberts</i> (b. 1947)
A New Year Carol	<i>Benjamin Britten</i> (1913-1976)
Angels We Have Heard on High	<i>Traditional</i> arr. Joanne Martin
The twelve days of Christmas	<i>Traditional</i> arr. Barrera

NICOLAS HAIGH, *Organ*

Nicolas Haigh serves as Associate Organist at Saint Thomas Church in New York City where he appears regularly with the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. Originally from the United Kingdom, Nicolas previously held positions with the multiple Gramophone Award-winning Choir of New College, Oxford, and York Minster. He is a recipient of the coveted Limpus Prize from the Royal College of Organists and held the Sir William McKie Organ Scholarship at Clare College, Cambridge. Active as a historical keyboardist, continuo performer, and conductor, Nicolas appears regularly with American Bach Soloists, Oxford Bach Soloists, and Bach Akademie Charlotte. He is also the co-founder of early music consort L'Académie du Roi Soleil with which he has performed throughout the United States and the United Kingdom. Nicolas has been privileged to perform as both a soloist and accompanist to countries including Australia, France, Italy, Hong Kong, The Netherlands, and Israel. He can be heard on numerous recordings including *Veni Emmanuel* and *Imogen Holst: Choral Works* (Harmonia Mundi USA) and has performed frequently on radio (BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio 4). Nicolas' teachers have included Malcolm Archer, Clive Driskill-Smith, James McVinnie, and Jonathan Moyer.

JEREMY FILSELL, *Conductor*

Jeremy Filsell is one of only a few virtuoso performers as both a pianist and organist. He has appeared as a solo pianist in Russia, Scandinavia, New Zealand and Australia and throughout the USA and UK. His concerto repertoire encompasses Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Shostakovich, John Ireland, and the Rachmaninov cycle. He has recorded the piano music of Herbert Howells, Bernard Stevens, Eugène Goossens and Johann Christoph Eschmann, and recent releases have included albums of Rachmaninov's piano music, that of Francis Pott, and the first and second Rachmaninov Concertos. Jeremy is on the international roster of Steinway Artists and has recorded for BBC Radio 3, USA, and Scandinavian radio networks in solo and concerto roles. His discography comprises more than 35 solo recordings as both pianist and organist, and as a solo artist he has toured across the USA and UK, in Germany, France, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Australia and New Zealand. In North America, he concertizes under the auspices of Philip Truckenbrod Concert Artists. Jeremy Filsell studied first as an Organ Scholar at Oxford University, then as a pianist at the Royal College of Music in London, and gained a PhD in Musicology from Birmingham City University. Before moving to the USA in 2008, he held Academic and Performance lectureships at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music, and was a lay clerk in the Queen's choir at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. In the US, he has served programs at the Church of the Epiphany, and the National Cathedral in Washington DC, and was Professor of Organ at Peabody Conservatory, before moving to New York in 2019 to become Organist & Director of Music at Saint Thomas, Fifth Avenue.

CATHERINE BIRKE, *Conductor*

Catherine Birke is an energetic and passionate conductor, violinist, and educator. She is the Music Director of the Music Advancement Program (MAP) at Juilliard, the Music Director of the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra (MYO) Nassau Symphony Orchestra, and the Director of Orchestras at Herricks High School, in New Hyde Park, NY. At Herricks, her four thriving orchestras have consistently won numerous awards at local and national levels. For six years, Birke served as the Director of Strings at the New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) School of Orchestral Studies, an intensive residential summer program for advanced high school musicians co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Orchestra. Ms. Birke is also an adjunct faculty member at Hofstra University in the Music Education Department,

currently teaching Undergraduate and Graduate level String Methods. Ms. Birke is a sought after Guest Conductor for collegiate orchestras and All State festivals across the country. She maintains active membership in numerous professional organizations, and has served as both an orchestra chairperson and a Vice-President on the Executive Board of the Nassau County Music Educators' Association (NMEA). When she is not teaching, she can be found playing violin with numerous orchestras and opera companies, most notably as Concertmaster of both the South Shore Symphony and Long Island Lyric Opera. Ms. Birke holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Temple University (where she studied with co-concertmaster of the Philadelphia Orchestra, William DePasquale), a Master of Music degree from the University of the Arts, and an Advanced Certificate in Music Theory from Berklee College of Music. She is a trained vocalist and opera lover, an enthusiastic advocate for new music, and is deeply committed to diversity in all of her programming. She strives to make every performance exciting for orchestra and audience alike, and her favorite thing in the world is being on the podium in front of a group of young musicians.

SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

Founded in 1919, the Saint Thomas Choir School is the only boarding school solely for choristers in the United States, and one of only three schools of its type remaining in the world today. The Choir School offers a challenging pre-preparatory curriculum, interscholastic sports and musical training for boys in grades three through eight. Following graduation, boys move on to highly competitive independent boarding and day schools across the country.

The Saint Thomas Choir School is committed to training and educating talented musicians without regard to religious, economic, or social background. Generous financial aid is available to all successful applicants. Inquiries from interested families are sought throughout the year.

THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL MUSIC ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

The Juilliard School's Music Advancement Program is a tuition-free Saturday program for intermediate and advanced music students from New York City's five boroughs and the tristate area, ages 8-18, who demonstrate a commitment to artistic excellence. The program actively seeks students from diverse backgrounds underrepresented in the classical music field. Through a rigorous curriculum, performance opportunities, and guidance from an accomplished faculty, MAP students gain the necessary skills to pursue advanced music studies while developing their talents as artists, leaders, and global citizens.

MAP is led by Artistic Director Anthony McGill and is generously supported through an endowed gift in memory of Carl K. Heyman. Together, under the direction of Dean and Director Weston Sprott, MAP and Juilliard's Pre-College comprise the School's Preparatory Division, serving close to 400 young people each Saturday. Learn more at www.juilliard.edu/map.

MAP ADMINISTRATION

Weston Sprott, *Dean and Director of the Preparatory Division*

Anthony McGill, *Artistic Director*

Rebecca Reuter, *Administrative Director*

Mason Kinread, *Manager of Curriculum and Student Advisement*

Megan Zhang, *Administrative Manager of the Preparatory Division*

Elaine Li, *Principal Librarian, Preparatory Division*

Carla Fortmann, *Administrative Apprentice*

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2. The Francis S. Falconer Choristership
3. The John G. Scott Memorial Choristership
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7. The William C. Stubing and Ronald L. Thomas Choristership
8. The Rev. Charles Wallace Choristership

THE JUILLIARD SCHOOL MUSIC ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM STRING ENSEMBLE

Violin 1

Fiona Kuo, Concertmaster ²
Kylie Nakash ¹
Matthew Keng
Gizelle Jimenez
Sasha Kirby
Marlene Meyo-Hernandez
Luciana Velez

Violin 2

Catalin Wong, principal
Richard Celiceo
Nadia Sayed
Sayuri Deshmukh
Reina Frias
Aerie Lim
Elijah Jean-Bruce

Viola

Hazel Peebles, principal
Lucy Harris
Lucas Kim

Kiroto Middleton
Josephine Duguid
Mirabelle Duguid
Maya Davis
Aurelie Duguid

Cello

ZsaZsa Zervas, principal
Andrew Wu
Olivia Tang
Jaemin Shah
Emma Damdinsuren
Lee Lugo

Double Bass

Neil Sanchez-Cruzalegui, principal
Devon Lee
Ben Diemoz
Quadiar Dunn
Paul Muniz Barreto
Emma Felipe

¹ Violin 1 soloist for Elgar's *Christmas Greeting*

² Violin 2 soloist for Elgar's *Christmas Greeting*

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CONCERTS AT SAINT THOMAS

Friends of Music share a passion for choral music and a commitment to upholding the tradition of excellence maintained by the world-renowned Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. *Friends of Music* enjoy a host of benefits including concierge ticketing and invitations to social and educational events throughout the season.

Friends are loyal. Friends have heart. Friends listen.
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CONCERTS *at* SAINT THOMAS

Upcoming Concerts

January 27, 2024 | Saturday at 3pm

A Keyboard Extravaganza for Organs and Piano
Jeremy Filsell, David Briggs, and Wayne Marshall
Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue

March 21, 2024 | Thursday at 7:30pm

Rachmaninoff Piano Concert No. 3 & Poulenc Stabat Mater
The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Modus Operandi Orchestra
Jeremy Filsell, *piano*
Justin Bischof, *conductor*
Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue

April 20, 2024 | Saturday at 3pm

The Rite of Spring: Stephen Tharp plays Stravinsky and Bartok
Stephen Tharp, *organ*
Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue

May 16, 2024 | Thursday at 7:30pm

The Place of the Blest: Music of Hallock, Thompson, and Vaughan Williams
The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
Modus Operandi Orchestra
Jeremy Filsell, *conductor*, Justin Bischof, *conductor*
Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue

For tickets and more information, visit www.SaintThomasChurch.org/Concerts

SAINT THOMAS CHOIR SCHOOL

A Small School in a Great City



Saint Thomas Choir School educates the treble choristers of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. The boys are nurtured and educated in grades three through eight and live together in the heart of Manhattan at the only boarding choir school in the U.S.

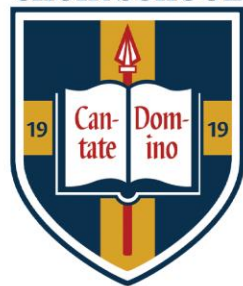
Life at the Choir School extends far beyond the choir stalls and classroom —boys enjoy animated conversations at the dinner table with resident faculty, quiet stories read before bed, outings to shows, and Central Park as their backyard. These formative experiences inspire many graduates to recall their time at the Choir School as the “privilege of a lifetime.”

The Choir School invites you to visit and learn more about this distinctive educational opportunity. Tuition is modest and generous scholarships are available.

Call to take the next step: Nora Thomson, Director of Outreach & Enrollment, 212-247-3311



SAINT THOMAS
CHOIR SCHOOL



choirschool.org