



The Cathedral
Church of **Saint John**
the Divine

1047 Amsterdam Ave.
at 112th Street
New York, NY 10025
T (212) 316-7490
stjohndivine.org

RELEASE

For further information please call

Julie Robinson, Rubenstein Communications
(212) 843-9341 / jrobinson@rubenstein.com

Isadora Wilkenfeld, Cathedral of St. John the Divine
(212) 316-7468 / iwilkenfeld@stjohndivine.org

**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE AND THE ORATORIO SOCIETY OF
NEW YORK UNITE
FOR A STIRRING PERFORMANCE OF DURUFLÉ AND RACHMANINOFF**

Kent Tritle to conduct the Oratorio Society of New York and soloists

(October XX, 2019 – *New York, NY*) – The Cathedral of St. John the Divine’s 2019-2020 season of Great Music in a Great Space continues on Tuesday, November 5 at 7:30 pm with a performance by the Oratorio Society of New York of profoundly moving works by Maurice Duruflé and Sergei Rachmaninoff at the **Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.**

Kent Tritle, Director of Cathedral Music and Organist, will lead the Oratorio Society of New York and soloists in renditions of Maurice Duruflé’s *Requiem* and Sergei Rachmaninoff’s a cappella *Vespers* (also known as *All-Night Vigil*), mvts. 1-6. Composed in the shadows of the two World Wars, these works draw upon the traditions of chant in the Eastern and Western rites, and offer a sublime transcendence that will shimmer in the Cathedral’s resonant acoustics.

Tenor John Riesen and contralto Kirsten Sollek will be the featured soloists in the Rachmaninoff *Vespers*. Ms. Sollek and baritone David Pike will be joined by Arthur Fiacco, Jr. (cello) and Artist in Residence David Briggs (organ) to perform Duruflé’s *Requiem*.

This concert is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

Tickets start at \$30. To purchase tickets and for more information please visit:
<https://www.stjohndivine.org/calendar/29422/durufle-requiem-and-rachmaninoff-vespers-mvts-1-6>

Soloists

Kirsten Sollek, *contralto*

John Riesen, *tenor*
David Pike, *baritone*
David Briggs, *organ*
Arthur Fiacco, Jr., *cello*

Program

Sergei Rachmaninoff
Vespers (All-Night Vigil), Op. 37 (excerpts)

Maurice Duruflé
Requiem, Op. 9

About Great Music in a Great Space

Revived in 2011, Great Music in a Great Space reprises the legendary concert series first held at the Cathedral in the 1980s. Great Music in a Great Space presents choral, orchestral, and instrumental music in the magnificent, deeply spiritual setting of the world's largest Gothic cathedral. Concerts take place in many locations: the vast space of the Crossing, the more intimate setting of the Great Choir, and the exquisite Chapels of the Tongues. The beloved holiday traditions of the Christmas Concert and New Year's Eve Concert for Peace are an integral part of our concert series.

About Kent Tritle

Kent Tritle is one of America's leading choral conductors. Called "the brightest star in New York's choral music world" by *The New York Times*, he is also Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed 200-voice avocational chorus. In addition, Kent is Director of Choral Activities and a member of the organ faculty at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School, serving its Vocal Arts Department. An acclaimed organ virtuoso, he is also the organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra.

Among his recent honors are the 2017 Distinguished Achievement Award from Career Bridges and the 2016 President's Medal for Distinguished Service from the Manhattan School of Music. Kent is on the advisory boards of the Choral Composer/Conductor Collective (C4) and the Clarion Music Society, and was the 2016 honoree at Clarion's annual gala.

About the Oratorio Society of New York

Since its founding in 1873, the Oratorio Society of New York has become the city's standard for grand choral performance. It has given world, U.S., and New York premieres of works as diverse as Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem* (1877), Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette* (1882), a full-concert production of Wagner's *Parsifal* at the Metropolitan Opera House (1886), Britten's *The World of the Spirit* (1998), Filas's *Requiem* (2015), Moravec's *Blizzard Voices* (2013) and *Sanctuary Road* (2018), and Rajbaran's *We Are One* (2018). On its 100th anniversary the Oratorio Society received the Handel Medallion, New York City's highest cultural award, in recognition of these contributions.

About the Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is the Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. It is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership.

People from many faiths and communities worship together in services held more than 30 times a week; the soup kitchen serves roughly 25,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Adults and Children in Trust, the renowned preschool, afterschool and summer program, offers diverse educational a nurturing experiences; the outstanding Textile Conservation Lab preserves world treasures; concerts, exhibitions, performances and civic gatherings allow conversation, celebration, reflection and remembrance—such is the joyfully busy life of this beloved and venerated Cathedral.

###