

**RELEASE**

For further information please call

Julie Robinson, Rubenstein Communications, Inc.  
(212) 843-9341 / [jrobinson@rubenstein.com](mailto:jrobinson@rubenstein.com)

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

---

**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE PRESENTS  
ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE CONCERT FOR PEACE**

*Combined Cathedral Choirs and Orchestra Perform Handel, Bach, Briggs, Hoiby, and  
Rheinberger*

*Kent Tritle, Conductor  
David Briggs, Organ*



*Photo: Neal Slavin*

**New York (November XX, 2019)** – The Cathedral of St. John the Divine presents their annual New Year's Eve Concert for Peace on **Tuesday, December 31 at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), Manhattan.** The Cathedral Choirs will join forces under the leadership of **Kent Tritle**, Director of Cathedral Music and one of America's leading choral conductors. This signature event is one of many comprising the 2019–2020 season of *Great Music in a Great Space*.

This year, the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra will perform music ranging from Baroque works of Handel and Bach to contemporary works of Briggs and Hoiby, including Lee Hoiby's poignant setting of *Last Letter Home*. The latter was a letter sent by Jesse Givens, Private First Class, U.S. Army, who drowned in the Euphrates River on May 1, 2003 in the service of his country. His letter to his wife Melissa was sent with the directions, "Please, only read if I don't come home."

The Cathedral Choir's own Jamet Pittman will again lead the audience in *This little light of mine* as we light candles to welcome the new year with hope, joy, and affirmation. The night will also feature special guest appearances and performances by Judy Collins, Jason Robert Brown, Paul Winter, David Briggs, and host Harry Smith.

General Admission seats are free and open to the public on the night of the show. There are also premium seats and preferred seating available for purchase. For more information or to purchase tickets please visit <https://www.stjohndivine.org/calendar/29432/new-years-eve-concert-for-peace>.

## **PROGRAM**

### **George Frideric Handel**

Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 9

### **David Briggs**

*Ubi caritas et amor*

*Set me as a Seal*

### **Lee Hoiby**

*Last Letter Home*

### **Josef Rheinberger**

Concerto in F: Finale

### **Johann Sebastian Bach**

*Dona nobis pacem (B minor Mass)*

### **Traditional/spiritual**

*This little light of mine*

####

### **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 organ 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**

One of America's leading choral conductors, Kent Tritle has been called "the brightest star in New York's choral music world" by *The New York Times*. Director of Cathedral Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, he is also Music Director of Musica Sacra, the longest continuously performing professional chorus in New York; and Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New York, the acclaimed 200-voice volunteer chorus.

In addition, Kent is Director of Choral Activities at the Manhattan School of Music and is a member of the graduate faculty of The Juilliard School. Also an acclaimed organ virtuoso, Kent Tritle is the organist of the New York Philharmonic and the American Symphony Orchestra and a member of the organ faculty of the Manhattan School of Music. Recently, he was featured in Episode 6 of the first season of the WIRED video series "Masterminds," an installment titled, "What Conductors Are Really Doing." [www.kenttritle.com](http://www.kenttritle.com)

### **About David Briggs**

David Briggs is an internationally renowned organist whose performances are acclaimed for their musicality, virtuosity, and ability to excite and engage audiences of all ages. With command of an extensive repertoire spanning five centuries, he is known across the globe for his brilliant organ transcriptions of symphonic music by composers such as Mahler, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Bruckner, Ravel, and Bach. Fascinated by the art of Improvisation since a child, David also frequently performs improvisations to silent films such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, *Nosferatu*, *Jeanne d'Arc*, and *Metropolis*, as well as a variety of Charlie Chaplin films.

David's schedule includes more than 60 concerts a year, spanning several continents. Deeply committed to making organ music vibrant for future generations, he enjoys giving pre-concert lectures designed to make organ music more accessible to audiences. In addition, he teaches at the University of Cambridge, frequently serves on international organ competition juries, and gives masterclasses at colleges and conservatories across the U.S. and Europe.

David Briggs is also a prolific composer whose works range from full scale oratorios to works for solo instruments. He has recorded a DVD and 30 CDs, many of which include his own compositions and transcriptions.

David is currently Artist in Residence at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, New York.

### **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 and 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.

The Cathedral is open 7 days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please visit [stjohndivine.org](http://stjohndivine.org) for more information and a schedule of public programs.