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**FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT:
SUNDAYS AT 4 PERFORMANCE
AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE**



Recital includes U.S. debut of new work by James K. Wright

Baritone David John Pike and celebrated organist David Briggs present music that looks back on our experience over the last twenty months and forward to Advent, on **Sunday, December 12 at 4 pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street).**

Selections will include the New York and United States debut of composer James K. Wright's *Briefe an die unsterbliche Geliebte*, haunting settings of Ludwig van Beethoven's famous love letters for piano and baritone, expressing Beethoven's longing for, isolation from, and adoration of the mysterious object of his affections. From their recent release on the Analekta label, the Davids will also perform selections from Gustav Mahler's *Rückert-Lieder*, *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, *Kindertotenlieder* and *Lieder des Knaben Wunderhorn*, with Briggs's virtuosic transcriptions for organ. The short recital will be rounded off with an uplifting interpretation of *The Trumpet Shall Sound* from Handel's *Messiah*.

A ticket to this performance is included with \$5 admission to the Cathedral. All visitors to the Cathedral are required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination for entry. For more information, [visit the Cathedral's website.](#)

PROGRAM

Briefe an die unsterbliche Geliebte (Letters to the immortal beloved)

Wo ich bin, bist du mit mir (Where I am, you are with me)

Mein Engel (My angel)

Unsterbliche Geliebte (Immortal beloved)

Text by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), music by James K. Wright

New York and USA début

Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen (Songs of the wayfarer)

Ging heut' Morgen über's Feld

Text and music by Gustav Mahler (1860-1911)

Rückert-Lieder

Blicke mir nicht in die Lieder (Glance not into my songs)

Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen (I am lost to the world)

Kindertotenlieder (Songs of the death of children)

Nun will die Sonn' so hell aufgeh'n (Now the sun will rise so brightly)

Text by Friedrich Rückert (1788-1866), music by Gustav Mahler

Des Knaben Wunderhorn (The boy's magic horn)

Urlicht (Primeval light)

Text anonymous, music by Gustav Mahler

Messiah

Behold, I tell you a mystery! The trumpet shall sound

Text 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, music by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

About the Artists

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. Consistently ranked as one of the finest organists of his generation, David's extensive repertoire spans five centuries. He has also become one of the foremost organ transcribers of symphonic works, thereby giving listeners the opportunity to experience the organ in a new way. He has transcribed orchestral compositions by Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Bruckner, Ravel, and Bach, as well as Mahler's Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth symphonies.

Described as "an intrepid improviser" by Michael Barone, host of American Public Media's *Pipedreams*, David performs more than 50 concerts a year at international venues, teaches performance at Cambridge University, frequently serves on international organ competition juries, and gives master classes at colleges and conservatories across the U.S. and Europe. David is also a prolific composer whose works range from full scale oratorios to works for solo instruments. He has recorded two DVDs and 37 CDs, many of which include his own compositions and transcriptions. David is currently Artist in Residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. For more information, please visit david-briggs.org.

Canadian/Luxembourg baritone **David John Pike** has a widely varied repertoire ranging from early music, oratorio, song recital, opera and contemporary works. Operatic roles have included Marcello and Schaunard in *la Bohème* (Bamberg), Curio in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* (Glyndebourne, cover) *Don Giovanni* (Luxembourg), Emirenus in *Otto* by Telemann/Handel (Magdeburg), Scarpia in *Tosca* (Pacific Opera Victoria) and Luna in *il Trovatore* (Scottish Opera, cover). In concert, recent projects include recitals with the celebrated Gryphon Trio, Fauré Requiem with the Vancouver Symphony, Matthäus-Passion with Potsdammer Cammermusik, Messiah under the late John Scott and Jeremy Filsell at St. Thomas' Fifth Avenue, New York and at Gloucester Cathedral, Bach St. John Passion at York Minster, Martinu's *Epic of Gilgamesh* and Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony* at the Grant Park Festival, Chicago, a BBC Shakespeare live broadcast from Stratford-upon-Avon with actor David Suchet, opera galas with l'Orchestre philharmonique du Luxembourg, world premiers of Canadian composer Andrew Ager's *The Unknown Soldier*, recital tours in Canada and Europe with pianists Matthew Larkin and Iain Burnside, a premier of American composer Kerry Turner's *The Ballad of Annabel Lee*, English song projects with the Orchestra of the Swan at the English Music Festival, a gala concert marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in the Konstantin-Basilika in Trier, Germany, Bach B-Minor mass and Brahms Requiem at Magdeburg Cathedral and Durufé Requiem with the Oratorio Society of New York, and Bruckner *Te Deum* and commissioned works with the Hong Kong Bach Choir. Current projects include Beethoven 9 and *Carmina Burana* at la Philharmonie Luxembourg, Messiah in Toronto, Magdeburg and San Diego, Bach B minor mass in Ottawa, recitals for the American Beethoven Society at San José University, and Beethoven *Missa solemnis* at the Marvão International Music Festival,

His latest recording, the much-awaited *Mahler Orchestral Songs: the Organ Transcriptions* with organist David Briggs, was released recently on Analekta. Writing about his previous Analekta album, *Immortal and Beloved*, a collaboration with the Gryphon Trio, featuring Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte* and songs by James Wright, Frédéric Cardin of Radio-Canada compared Pike's performance with those of Christian Gerhaher and Matthias Goerne. *Whither must I wander?*, his début disc on Signum Records, a recital of English songs by Vaughan Williams, Quilter and Finzi, earned a five-star review in *BBC Music Magazine*, was nominated for the International Classical Music Awards and for Recording of the Year by MusicWeb International.

David studied with William Perry at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, under Theresa Goble at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London and privately with American bass Daniel Lewis Williams in Germany. He has worked with Sherill Milnes, Ian Bostridge, Gerald Finley and Metropolitan Opera assistant conductor Joan Dornemann. David lives with his family on the Luxembourg Moselle. www.davidjohnpike.com

David's appearance on December 12 is supported by Kultur:lx Arts Council Luxembourg.

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.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cathedral has responded to changing needs in the local

community and across the city and state. People from many faiths and communities worship together in daily services held online and in person; the soup kitchen serves roughly 50,000 meals annually; social service outreach has an increasingly varied roster of programs to safely provide resources and aid to the hardest-hit New Yorkers; the distinguished Cathedral School prepares young students to be future leaders; Advancing the Community of Tomorrow, 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.

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