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## RELEASE

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### THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE CELEBRATES FRENCH ORGAN MUSIC WITH PERFORMANCE BY DAVID BRIGGS



*Includes the world premiere of David's transcription of César Franck's Symphony in D minor*

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The Cathedral of St. John the Divine's Great Music in a Great Space concert series presents a performance by Artist in Residence David Briggs, **on Tuesday, March 15 at 7:30pm, preceded by a free pre-concert lecture at 7pm, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street).**

The performance kicks off with a veritable 18<sup>th</sup> century firework from France, in the form of the dazzling *Dialogue in C* by Louis Marchand, who famously competed against the one and only Johann Sebastian Bach at an interview and withdrew when he found out the stiffness of the competition, taking the next stagecoach back to Paris. This is followed by a *Scherzo Symphonique improvisée* by the great organist of Notre-Dame, Pierre Cochereau. Originally improvised in concert in 1968, David Briggs has made a transcription of this stunning tour de force, note by note from the original recording. This is followed by David's recent transcription of the Cinq Interludes from *Pelléas et Mélisande*, some of the most ravishing and sumptuous

music to come from the pen of Claude Debussy. The concert comes to a climax with the world premiere of David's transcription of the beautiful Symphony in D minor by César Franck, music guaranteed to evoke the opulence of late nineteenth century Paris. The transcription of the Franck Symphony was commissioned by Byron Nimocks and Emilie Murphy, in honor of Alfred Nimocks' 100th birthday in two years time. This work is one of Alfred's favorite symphonies.

The concert will be held in person and available to livestream. All visitors to the Cathedral are required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination and wear a mask for entry. For tickets and more information, [visit the Cathedral's website](#). Students are eligible for one free ticket at the door with a valid ID.

For more details and information on all the Cathedral's programs and services, visit [stjohndivine.org](http://stjohndivine.org).

## PROGRAM

Louis Marchand (1669-1732)  
Dialogue in C

Pierre Cochereau (1924-1984)  
Scherzo Symphonique improvisée

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)  
Transcription by David Briggs (b. 1962)  
Cinq Interludes (*Pelléas et Mélisande*)

César Franck (1822-1890)  
Transcription by David Briggs  
Symphony in D minor  
    Lento; Allegro ma non troppo  
    Allegretto  
    Finale: Allegro non troppo

### **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. 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](http://david-briggs.org).

### **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. The beloved holiday traditions of the Christmas Concert and New Year's Eve Concert for Peace are an integral part of our concert series. Joined by Rose of the Compass, Musica Sacra, and the Oratorio Society of New York, the Cathedral Choirs, Orchestra, and a remarkable artistic team of organists and soloists bring the beloved space of the Cathedral to life with this transcendent music.

### **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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