Presented by the Christ Presbyterian Church Concert Series
and the Canton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

JOSHUA STAFFORD
Concert Organist

Christ Presbyterian Church
Canton, Ohio
Friday, January 19, 2024 ★ 7:00 PM

Toccata in F, BWV 540
J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

Improvisation on “Nearer, my God, to thee”
Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933)

Pièce héroïque, M37
César Franck (1822–1890)

Rondo Capriccio, Op. 64
Edwin Lemare (1865–1934)

Symphony No. 8, Op. 88
I. Allegro con brio
Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)
transcribed by Joshua Stafford

Intermission

Fantasy and Fugue on “Ad nos, ad salutarem undam,” S. 259
Franz Liszt (1811–1886)

All are invited to a reception in Westminster Hall following the concert,
graciously prepared by Kathy Rockhold, Hospitality Coordinator.

Video and audio recordings, as well as photography, are strictly prohibited during the concert.

Joshua Stafford is represented in North America exclusively by Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, LLC
The meticulous technique, innate yet highly mature musicality, and constant musical engagement exhibited by Joshua Stafford compelled the jury of the 2016 Longwood Gardens International Organ Competition to name him, out of 12 stellar competitors, the Pierre S. du Pont First Prize Winner of this illustrious event.

Already in demand as a recitalist, improviser, choral accompanist, and silent film accompanist, Joshua has performed at many notable venues, including the Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C., Philadelphia’s Kimmel Center, Ocean Grove Auditorium in New Jersey, the Chautauqua Institution in New York, the Cohan Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly University (California), and Spivey Hall in Georgia. His recital at the 2015 Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians was hailed as “technically flawless yet exceptionally nuanced and spontaneous.” Joshua has appeared with the Curtis Symphony Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra, and recordings of his performances have been aired on Minnesota Public Radio’s Pipedreams and WRTI’s Wanamaker Organ Hour. In June 2018, Joshua gave the premier performance at The Kimmel Center in Philadelphia of a transcription for organ of Stravinsky’s Firebird Suite which accompanied the animated film “Who Stole the Mona Lisa” produced as directed by Micah Chambers-Goldberg. He was a featured artist for the national convention of the Organ Historical Society (Dallas), the regional AGO convention (Buffalo, NY) in 2019.

A native of Jamestown, New York, Mr. Stafford received the Bachelor of Music Degree from the Curtis Institute of Music in 2010 as a scholarship student of Alan Morrison. In 2012 he received his Master of Music degree from the Yale School of Music as a student of Thomas Murray (organ performance) and Jeffrey Brillhart (organ improvisation). Joshua was the recipient of both a full-tuition scholarship and the Robert Baker Award, given to a first-year organ student who exhibits exceptional promise and achievement in their field of study.

In March 2023, Joshua Stafford was installed as Minister of Music at First Congregational Church in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to his Columbus appointment, he held positions at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida and St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Morristown, New Jersey. In 2020, he was named Director of Sacred Music and the Jared Jacobsen Chair Organist of the Chautauqua Institution in western New York State.

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Jiji and Danbi Um, guitar and violin

February 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Guitarist Jiji plays an extensive range of music, from traditional and contemporary classical music to free improvisation, while violinist Danbi Um captivates audiences with her virtuosity, individual sound, and interpretive sensitivity.

Duruflé Requiem

April 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

The Christ Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, in anticipation of traveling to France later in 2024, presents the Requiem of Maurice Duruflé. One of the most celebrated choral masterworks of the twentieth century, the Requiem seeks to soothe and comfort the living while exalting the dead, much in the same manner as other Requiems by Fauré and Rutter. A devout Catholic, Duruflé used plainsong chants as source material to construct lush textures of great emotional impact.
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Steve & Byrdie Stocker
In Honor of the Marriage of Kathy Kettlewell and
David Gariepy from Steve & Byrdie Stocker
Terry & Betty Stoffier
Janice Stuckey
Kimberly Tittle
Carol Krider Vaughn
Hoy V. Whipkey
Diana White
Ken Wulff
Carol Zeh

Financial support for this concert is also provided by the Gibbs Music Fund.