

Preludes & Postludes

Online Concert

December 20, 2020

Jan Kraybill, organist

Christmas Variations

- Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol** *Carol of the Bells*..... Gerald Near
(b. 1942)
- Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern** *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* BWV 739..... Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)
- Variations sur un Noël** Op. 20 Marcel Dupré
1886–1971)

PROGRAM NOTES

Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol, by Gerald Near

American composer Gerald Near was raised in the Twin cities area of Minnesota by adoptive parents Clarence and Viola Near. His maternal grandmother lived in a small town in southern Minnesota, and she arranged access for Near to play her church's Reuter pipe organ as a child. He says, "From that point on I was hooked." Near earned degrees at the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, the University of Michigan, and the University of Minnesota, and he began publishing his organ and choral compositions while in college. In 1982 he was one of the first recipients of the prestigious McKnight Foundation Fellowship. Many organizations, including the American Guild of Organists, have commissioned his works. He has served as organist, choirmaster, musical director, and composer-in-residence for churches in Rochester (MN), Dallas, Denver, and Santa Fe (NM). His Carillon based on the tune popularly known as "Carol of the Bells" was composed in 2006. The tune comes from a choral work called Shchedryk, based on Ukrainian folksongs, written in 1914 by Mykola Leontovych.

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, by Johann Sebastian Bach

Bach's brilliant mind, obsessed as he was with both music and math, would be delighted that in the numerically-balanced year of 2020 we celebrate significant anniversaries of both his birth (335th) and his death (270th). The score for this piece is the oldest surviving manuscript in Bach's handwriting, written when he was a young composer, sometime between 1690 and 1705. Bach shows his mastery

and his youth by playfully presenting various aspects of the hymn tune in this free-form fantasy celebrating the joy of the hymn's text. The "morning star" is the nickname for Venus, which shines brightly in the sky just before dawn. In the hymn, it's used as a metaphor for Christ.

Variations sur un Noël, Op. 20, by Marcel Dupré

Marcel Dupré was a product of the organ world centered on the Paris Conservatory at the turn of the 20th century – a world of great virtuosity and intense competition. He had been an extraordinarily talented child prodigy, raised in a home described as a "temple of music": his parents and many of his family were professional musicians, and some of France's best musicians and organ-builders were family friends. Dupré became a professional church musician at age eleven. He entered the Paris Conservatory in 1904, studying organ and composition with the great French organist-composers Guilmant, Vierne, and Widor. In 1926 he became a professor at the Conservatory, and in 1934 he succeeded Widor as organist at the Paris church St-Sulpice. He served there until the very day of his death in 1971, having played for two services that morning.

Dupré's international reputation as a performer was secured in the early 1920s with a series of ten recitals of the complete works of Bach, performed in Paris, entirely from memory. Soon after these performances, the Wanamaker department store in Philadelphia sponsored Dupré's first U.S. tour, and from 1922 to 1925 he spent almost six months of each year performing here to great critical and audience acclaim. His Variations on a Noël were originally improvisations during a British/American tour in 1922, and were written down during Dupré's train journeys between engagements. He performed 94 concerts on that tour, and later said that each of the Variations recalled a different city, inspired by organs and people he encountered in London, Liverpool, Edinburgh, New York, Philadelphia, Montreal, Chicago, St. Paul, Vancouver, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Each of the short variations is based on the traditional French carol Noël nouvelet, to which English-speaking congregations often sing the text "Sing We Now of Christmas." These variations are fascinating explorations of organ techniques and tonal colors. Dupré premiered the completed work on September 29, 1923, at the Wanamaker Auditorium in New York.

Dr. Jan Kraybill, DMA, FAGO

GRAMMY-nominated artist Jan Kraybill is a musical leader and dynamic speaker; a concert organist, pianist, and harpsichordist; an educator, church musician, and consultant; and an enthusiastic advocate for the power of music to change lives for the better.

In addition to maintaining a very active concert schedule, Dr. Kraybill is Organ Conservator at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, Organist-in-Residence at the international headquarters of Community of Christ in Independence, Missouri; and Organist at Village on Antioch Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Overland Park, Kansas. She plays and oversees the care of the Kansas City metro area's three largest pipe organs: at Community of Christ, the Auditorium's 113-rank Aeolian-Skinner (installed in 1959) and the Temple's 102-rank Casavant (1993), and at the Kauffman Center's Helzberg Hall, the 102-rank Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant (2012).

Throughout her career Jan has performed as both a solo and collaborative musician, designed and led international hymn festivals, taught workshops on a variety of topics, and inspired audiences and

congregations. While in high school in Colby, Kansas, Jan was invited to play her first European piano recital in Andover, England. Since then, she has performed in many venues in North America and in Australia, Europe, Russia, South Korea, and Tahiti. She has undertaken multiple tours of the United Kingdom, including organ concerts at the grand cathedrals of Chester, Exeter, and St. Paul's in London. In 2015, she designed and led a hymn festival at the International Gathering of Hymn Societies at Cambridge University.

Jan has been a featured artist and teacher at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the American Choral Directors Association, the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, and other musicians' organizations, and has been heard on many broadcasts of American Public Media's national program Pipedreams. She has collaborated with many ensembles, including the Bach Aria Soloists, the Phoenix Chorale, Kantorei Denver, the GRAMMY-winning Kansas City Chorale, the GRAMMY-nominated Kansas City Symphony and Symphony Chorus, and others.

Several solo CDs and collaborative recordings are available. Jan's first solo CD, *Two by 2: Two Organ Symphonies on Two Magnificent Organs*, features both of Community of Christ's pipe organs. *Rejoice and Remember* contains hymn arrangements for piano. The Auditorium Organ: Fifty Years of Excellence celebrated that organ's 50th anniversary in 2009. Solo CDs of the Julia Irene Kauffman Casavant were released by Reference Recordings in 2014 and 2019: *Organ Polychrome* features music by French composers, and *The Orchestral Organ* is a disc of transcriptions. Jan has recorded for Reference with the Kansas City Symphony on several occasions. Their disc containing Saint-Saëns' "Organ" Symphony was nominated for a GRAMMY in 2015, and her most recent solo disc, *The Orchestral Organ*, was nominated as Best Classical Instrumental Solo album in 2020.

Dr. Kraybill's degrees in music education and piano and organ performance were earned at Kansas State University and the Conservatory of Music and Dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In 2010 she achieved the distinction of Fellow of the AGO, organists' highest certification level. She has served in many local, regional, and national roles in the AGO, The Hymn Society, and the Master Teacher Institute, most recently as Executive Director of The Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada. She is a member of Mensa. Her extra-musical interests include antiques, lace making, and riding her Harley-Davidson with her husband, Allan.

Explore www.jankraybill.com for more information and Jan's concert schedule.

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Schantz Organ Company

Orrville, Ohio

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4 Manuals, 53 Stops, 65 Ranks (3684 pipes)

Multiple enhancements, changes & additions by both the Schantz Organ Co.
& the Reuter Organ Company of Lawrence, Kansas

Great Organ II

16' Spitzflöte
8' Principal
8' Bourdon
8' (PD) Nachthorn
4' Octave
4' Spillflöte
2' Doublette
IV Fourniture
III Scharf
8' Trumpet
Tremulant
Cymbelstern
Chimes

Choir Organ I (expressive)

8' Spitz Principal
8' (SW) Pommer
8' Flute Dolce
8' Flute Celeste (TC)
4' Koppelflöte
2' Blockflöte
8' Clarinet
8' English Horn
8' Royal Trumpet
8' (ANT) Imperial Trumpet
Tremulant
Harp (61 bars)
Celesta (49 bars)
Chimes

Accessories

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Multiple Memory Levels
Sequencer, Transposer
Digital Recorder
All Reeds Off (reversible)
Manual to Pedal Piston Couplers
Full Complement of Couplers & Pistons

Swell Organ III (expressive)

16' Pommer
8' Flûte à Cheminée
8' Viole da Gamba
8' Viole Celeste
4' Prestant
4' Loch Gedackt
2 2/3' Nazard (TC)
2' Octave
2' Flûte à Bec
1 3/5' Tierce (TC)
1 1/3' Larigot
IV Plein Jeu
16' Basson
8' Trompette
8' Hautbois
8' Vox Humana
4' Clarion
Tremulant
MIDI

Positiv Organ I

8' Nazon Flöte
8' (GT) Spitzflöte
4' Spitz Octave
2 2/3' Nazat
2' Principal
1 3/5' Terz
1' Siffelöte
III Zimbel
8' Krummhorn
Tremulant

Pedal Organ

32' Bourdon
16' Open Wood
16' Contrebasse
16' Bourdon
16' Gedeckt
16' (GT) Spitzflöte
16' (SW) Pommer
10 2/3' (GT) Quint
8' Open Wood
8' Principal
8' Bourdon
8' Spitzflöte*
8' Gedeckt
4' Octave
4' Nachthorn*
2' Nachthorn*
III Mixture
32' Bombarde
16' Bombarde
16' (SW) Basson
8' Bombarde
8' (CH) Royal Trumpet
4' Bombarde
4' (CH) Clarinet
8' (ANT) Imperial Trumpet
** Stops affected by Great Tremulant*

Antiphonal IV (Coupling Manual)

8' (SW) Flûte à Cheminée
16' (SW) Basson
8' (GT) Trumpet
8' (SW) Hautbois
8' (CH) Clarinet
8' (CH) Royal Trumpet
16' Imperial Trumpet (TC)
8' Imperial Trumpet
Harp
Tower Chimes (10 Deagan Chimes)

