

CONCERTS *at* SAINT THOMAS

PRESENTS

THE GRAND ORGAN SERIES BRUCKNER AND BEYOND



LUKAS HASLER, ORGAN

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

3 P.M.

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

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CONCERTS *at*
SAINT THOMAS

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH FIFTH AVENUE

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NOVEMBER 23, 2024
3 P.M.

KINDLY REMEMBER
TO SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Scherzo from Symphony No. 0 *Anton Bruckner*
(1824-1896)
arr. Erwin Horn

Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582 *Johann Sebastian Bach*
(1685-1750)

Organ Sonata No. 4 in B-flat major, Op. 65 *Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy*
(1880-1944)

- i. Allegro con brio
- ii. Andante religioso
- iii. Allegretto
- iv. Allegro maestoso e vivace

Toccata ma non troppo *Peter Planyavsky*
(b. 1947)

Sonata in G Major, K. 283 *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*
arranged for two pianos, E.G. 113, No. 1 (1756-1791)
Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)
arr. Lukas Hasler

- i. Allegro
- ii. Andante
- iii. Presto

Piano Sonata No. 14, "Moonlight Sonata" *Ludwig van Beethoven*
(1770-1827)
arr. Lukas Hasler

- i. Adagio sostenuto

Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H *Franz Liszt*
(1811-1886)

PROGRAM NOTES

Anton Bruckner – Scherzo from Symphony No. 0 (arr. Erwin Horn)

Anton Bruckner, an Austrian composer known for his symphonies, masses, and motets, composed his Symphony No. 0 in D minor in 1869, which he humorously referred to as "Die Nullte" (The Zero). The Scherzo from this symphony is characteristic of Bruckner's robust orchestral style, featuring dynamic contrasts and intricate rhythms. This particular arrangement by Erwin Horn allows the piece's grandeur and complexity to be appreciated in a more intimate setting.

J.S. Bach – Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582

Johann Sebastian Bach's Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582, is one of the most revered pieces in the organ repertoire. Composed around 1706-1713, the passacaglia features a repeating bass line over which Bach develops a series of increasingly complex variations. The fugue, seamlessly following the passacaglia, demonstrates Bach's masterful counterpoint and structural ingenuity.

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy – Organ Sonata No. 4 in B-Flat major, Op. 65

Felix Mendelssohn, a German composer, pianist, and conductor, contributed significantly to the Romantic period. His Organ Sonata No. 4, composed in 1844, is a prime example of his lyrical style and command of organ composition. The sonata features four movements:

- * Allegro con brio – A lively and energetic opening.
- * Andante religioso – A reflective and serene second movement.
- * Allegretto – A lighter, more playful third movement.
- * Allegro maestoso e vivace – A majestic and vibrant finale.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Sonata in G major, K. 283 for two pianos (Arr. Lukas Hasler)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, an Austrian prodigy, composed the Sonata in G major, K. 283, in 1775. Originally written for solo piano, expanded with a second piano by Edvard Grieg, this piece has been arranged for organ by Lukas Hasler. The sonata includes three movements:

- * Allegro – A cheerful and lively opening.
- * Andante – A graceful and lyrical middle movement.
- * Presto – A fast and virtuosic conclusion.

Ludwig van Beethoven – Moonlight Sonata (Arr. Lukas Hasler)

Ludwig van Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor, Op. 27, No. 2, commonly known as the "Moonlight Sonata," was completed in 1801. This arrangement by Lukas Hasler brings a new dimension to the beloved piece. The sonata's first movement, Adagio sostenuto, is particularly famous for its haunting beauty and introspective quality.

Franz Liszt – Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H

Franz Liszt, a Hungarian composer and virtuoso pianist, composed the Prelude and Fugue on B-A-C-H in 1855 as a tribute to Johann Sebastian Bach. Using the notes B-flat, A, C, and B-natural (which spell out Bach's name in German notation), Liszt creates a piece that is both an homage and a showcase of his own compositional prowess. The prelude and fugue are marked by their dramatic contrasts and technical demands, reflecting Liszt's innovative spirit.

Lukas Hasler, 2024

BIOGRAPHY

Lukas Hasler currently lives and works as a doctoral student at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles where he studies with Cherry Rhodes. He graduated with distinction in 2022 from his organ studies under Ulrich Walther at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, Austria. In 2020 he spent a year abroad at the Académie Supérieure de Musique de Strasbourg in France under the tutelage of Johann Vexo. Further stays abroad also took him to New York City. Lukas completed his studies in cultural and media management at the University of Hamburg, Germany, where he finished in 2019 with a Master's degree.

In addition to his participation in the opening ceremony of the Salzburg Festival, he has also performed at the Tyrolean Festival Erl, the St. Florian Organ Summer, the Methuen Memorial Music Hall in Boston, the International Organ Festival in Düsseldorf, as well as the Russian Music Festival of the Volgograd Philharmonic.

He has a thriving international concert career, which has already taken him to Europe, Asia, and Australia, as well as some of the largest cathedrals in the United States. In 2022, he was the first classical musician to perform in Ukraine after the start of the war and played two benefit concerts in the Lviv Concert Hall for the victims of the war. Lukas won the “Prima la Musica” music competition for organ twice, and in 2019 won the “Grand Prix” at the International Organ Competition in Malta. In 2014, he also won the “Bärenreiter-Special” prize for his interpretation of a work by J.S. Bach. A year later, “Jugend komponiert”, a competition for young composers, named Lukas as a finalist for his piano and violin suites. The young organist and composer has attended master classes with Jean Guillou, Ton Koopman, Ludger Lohmann and Skip Sempé. Lukas is gaining recognition for his colourful and passionate musicality.

In addition to his concert tours, Lukas has appeared as choirmaster and arranger of transcriptions for organ. *A Portrait*, which was released in the summer of 2019, is the title of his first solo CD with organ music by Bach, Liszt Dupré, and his own compositions. In the following year, he was named “rising star” by the Austrian newspaper *Kleine Zeitung*. With more than 80,000 followers on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, he is one of the most successful organists on social media.





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Christmas on Fifth Avenue

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Bridget Kibbey, *harp* Nicolas Haigh, *organ*

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January 18, 2025 | Saturday at 3pm

The Grand Organ Series

Cycles Through Time

Kimberly Marshall, *organ*

February 22, 2025 | Saturday at 3pm

The Grand Organ Series

Franz Liszt: The Greater Organ and Piano Works

Jeremy Filsell, *organ and piano*

April 10, 2025 | Thursday at 7:30pm

J.S. Bach: Mass in B Minor

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Holy Week Musical Meditations
April 14, 2025 | Monday at 6:45pm
A Choral Meditation
Vasari Singers
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Holy Week Musical Meditations
April 15, 2025 | Tuesday at 6:45pm
J.S. Bach: Cello Suites
Guy Fishman, *cello*
Nicolas Haigh, *organ*

May 15, 2025 | Thursday at 7:30pm
An Ode to St. Cecilia
The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys
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