

**Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue
New York City**

Richard Tanner, *Organist and Director of Music*
Nicolas Haigh, *Associate Organist*
Maks Adach, *Associate for Musical Studies and Assistant Organist*



Sunday Recital Series

Christian Alejandro Almada, organ
Rome, Italy

Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 5.15p.m.

Romanian Folk Dances

- I. Joc cu bătă. Allegro moderato
- II. Brăul. Allegro
- III. Pê-loc. Andante
- IV. Buciumeana. Moderato
- V. Poargă românească. Allegro
- VI. Mărunțel. L'istesso
- VII. Mărunțel. Allegro vivace

Béla Bartók
(1881-1945)
trans. Almada

Pictures at an Exhibition

- Promenade
- 1. Gnomus
- Promenade
- 2. The Old Castle
- Promenade
- 3. Tuileries
- 4. Bydlo
- 5. The Ballet of the Unhatched Chicks
- 6. Samuel Goldemberg & Schmuyle
- 7. The Market at Limoges
- 8. Catacombae – Con mortuis in lingua mortua
- 9. Baba Yaga
- 10. The Great Gate of Kiev

Modest Mussorgsky
(1839-1881)
trans. Liégeon

CHRISTIAN ALEJANDRO ALMADA was born in Born in Tancacha (Córdoba, Argentina). He graduated in piano performance from the Superior Conservatory of Music in Córdoba under Maestro Humberto Catania, while simultaneously refining his skills with Maestro Eva Havas (a disciple of Béla Bartók). He further honed his piano studies at the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in Rome with Maestro Cinzia Damiani. Under the guidance of Maestro Theo Flury, he obtained first and second level degrees in organ and organ composition from the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome. His latest educational journey involved regular trips to the Netherlands to deepen his knowledge of organ literature—particularly French symphonic organ repertoire—with Maestro Ben van Oosten. Specializing in Gregorian Chant, to which he has dedicated himself daily for over 25 years, he collaborates with numerous monastic communities in Italy, Argentina, Spain, and the USA.

Since 2007, he has been the chief organist at the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls (Rome), beginning a close and lasting collaboration with the Benedictine monks of the aforementioned Abbey, where since September 2015, he has been responsible for the Musical Office he created for the Basilica. During the Jubilee of Mercy, he founded and began directing several choral groups for the liturgical service of the celebrations at this Papal Basilica, including the “Polyphonic Liturgical Choir of Saint Paul Outside the Walls” and the women’s choir “D. Isidoro.” For these liturgical groups, he composes vocal and organ pieces. He has also created and artistically directs the complete organization of the now well-known International Organ Festival: “Organ and…” as well as the new International Sacred Choral Festival “Cum Novo Cantico.” His career is marked by an intense concert activity as a solo pianist and accompanist, as well as being the principal singer and director of Gregorian chant, and a solo organist (Italy, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, USA, Spain, Germany, Hungary, Russia, France, Malta, Switzerland, Slovakia, Lithuania). He has collaborated as a guest lecturer with the Superior Conservatory and the Faculty of Fine Arts of the National University of Córdoba (Argentina), with the Superior Conservatory of Music in Seville (Spain), and with the course “Music for Liturgical Pastoral” at the Vicariate of Rome at the Pontifical Athenaeum of Saint Anselm. He played and sang at various pontifical celebrations presided over by Popes John Paul II, Benedict XVI, Francis and Leo XIV. In 2016, he published “The Voice of the Lord is Power”: Responsorial Psalms set to music for all Sundays and feast days of the liturgical year, as well as the Saints’ calendar, which are used in numerous parishes and monasteries in Italy. Formerly the Choir Master and principal singer at the Pontifical Athenaeum of Saint Anselm (2004-2010) and a lecturer at the Monastic Institute of that Athenaeum (2008-2010), he regularly gives lectures and lessons related to these fields in Italy and abroad, and guides various lay groups in reflecting on faith.

Thank you for attending this evening’s concert, part of our Sunday Recital Series. To support this programming, please use the QR code below or visit <https://saintthomaschurch.tpsdb.com/Give/one-time-donation> and select ‘Sunday Recital Series’ from the drop-down menu. We are grateful for your commitment to live music in this sacred space.

Suggested donation: \$10



Upcoming Recitals at Saint Thomas Church

Sunday, September 21 at 5.15 p.m.

SEBASTIAN THOMSON, organ

Works by *Briggs, Reubke, and Tournemire*

Sunday, October 12 at 5.15 p.m.

MICHELLE ZARCO, flute

OLGA RADOVIĆ, piano

For further information, please visit the Organ Recitals page on the church website:

<https://www.saintthomaschurch.org/events/categories/music/sunday-recital-series/>

Email: organrecitals@saintthomaschurch.org