



First Lutheran
Musical Arts Series

Great American Organists Concert

Dr. Stephen HAMILTON

Sunday, Nov. 9, 2025 ♦ 3 p.m.



First Lutheran Church

1000 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

319-365-1494 firstlutherancr.org/music-arts      @firstlutherancr

GREAT AMERICAN ORGANISTS CONCERT

Presents: STEPHEN HAMILTON, organist

First Lutheran Church – Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Musical Arts Series

Sunday, November 9, 2025, at 3:00 PM

Choral Variations on *Veni Creator*

Maurice Duruflé
(1902-1986)

Litanies, JA 119

Jehan Alain
(1911-1940)

Le Jardin Suspendu, JA 71

Two Compositions on Ground Basses:

Partita Sopra la Aria della Folia de Espagne

Bernardo Pasquini
(1637-1710)

La Romanesca con Cinque Mutanze

Antonio Valente
(1520-1600)

Chorale Prelude:

O Mensch, bewein' dein' Sünde Gross, BWV 622

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Passacaglia, BWV 582

J. S. Bach

Intermission

Choral I in E Major

Cèsar Franck
(1822-1890)

Toccata, Villancico y Fuga (BACH), Opus 18

Alberto Ginastera
(1916-1983)

Parsons Pipe Organ
www.stephenjonhamilton.com

Following today's performance, we invite you to the lower level fellowship hall for refreshments.

About the Artist:

Dr. Stephen Hamilton

STEPHEN HAMILTON, long synonymous with “concert touring organist,” has been prominent on the American organ scene for over forty years. *The New York Times* wrote of Hamilton’s performance of the Bach *Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor*: “Hamilton, as organist at the Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal) obviously knew the instrument’s sonorous capabilities and brought them powerfully to bear in a rousing account.” *The Charleston Daily Mail* reviewed: “This performance had to be one of the supreme moments of music making in this year’s or any other year’s Orgelfest offerings.” Such consistent critical review has earned Hamilton acclaim as an engaging personality and established his reputation as a leading virtuoso.

Highlights of Hamilton’s international touring include recent concerts at Notre Dame in Paris, Westminster Abbey and St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, as well as Merton College-Oxford, St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh, Glasgow Cathedral, St. Andrews University, and St. Peter’s in Regensburg. Appearances at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon, are among hundreds of solo recitals presented in the United States.

Hamilton frequently appears with regional orchestras playing concertos ranging from Handel, Albinoni, and Rheinberger to Hindemith, Piston, Copland, and Poulenc. Additionally, he is a frequent collaborator with vocal and instrumental artists. The concert *Requiems* of Fauré, Duruflé, Mozart, and Vierne, and Handel’s *Messiah* have been among the featured works of collaborations with choral ensembles. He has been heard on national radio broadcasts including *Pipedreams* and *Pipes, Pedals and Pistons*. A mainstay of Hamilton’s repertoire is his sought-after interpretation of Marcel Dupré’s *Le Chemin de la Croix*, in over sixty concert performances. His CD release of *Le Chemin de la Croix* garnered exceptional reviews from magazines and trade journals including *The American Organist*, *The American Record Guide* and *The Diapason*.

Stephen Hamilton is Minister of Music Emeritus at the historic Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal) in New York City. As organist, he also conducted the semi-professional Holy Trinity Choir and was Artistic Director of *Music at*



Holy Trinity, the church’s subscription concert series for twenty years. As of July 2023, Hamilton was named Director of Music and Organist at Olivet Congregational Church in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

An avid educator, Hamilton was Professor of Organ and Chairman of the Fine Arts Division (Music, Dance, Theater, and Art) at Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, Virginia, from 1972 to 1986. In New York City he served on the artist faculties of Hunter College, Manhattan School of Music, and Queens College. In demand as a clinician for master classes and workshops, he frequently lectures on topics related to church music as well as organ pedagogy, performance, and interpretation.

A native of Iowa, Hamilton began his private organ studies in the fourth grade with Russell Saunders at Drake University. His Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees were earned at Southern Illinois University. His study with John Walker earned him the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Manhattan School of Music. He also pursued rigorous private studies with legendary organists Arthur Poister and Marie-Claire Alain.

Stephen Hamilton now makes his home in Minneapolis, where he is actively engaged in the rich cultural life of the Twin Cities, while continuing to concertize internationally.

Thank You for Your Support!

Music is central to the mission of First Lutheran Church. Our newly renovated sanctuary features outstanding acoustics and houses exceptional instruments: the Opus 50 Pipe Organ by Parsons, a Steinway grand piano, and a restored harpsichord.

Through our Musical Arts Series, we share these gifts with the community, offering free concerts that inspire and uplift throughout the year. The series is sustained by voluntary donations, which support artist honorariums, accommodations, publicity, and hospitality.

Join us for our next Concerts ...

Lunch in the Loft: Music for the Season

Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2025, at 12:05 p.m.

Bring a sack lunch or your favorite takeout and come to FLC to enjoy this series of midday and midweek concerts of holiday music performed by organists and musicians from the Cedar Rapids community.

2025 Performers include ...

Dec. 3 - Marilyn Mark, St. Paul Lutheran

Dec. 10 - Robin Wagner, St. Andrew Lutheran

Dec. 17 - Brett & Marita Wolgast, First Lutheran

Acknowledgements

Musical Arts Series – First Lutheran Church

Many thanks to our corporate and individual sponsors, and to all who support the Musical Arts Series at First Lutheran. Your gifts and support are most appreciated.

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