



January 16, 2020
David Briggs, *organ*

Program

Overture to 'The Wasps'

Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1872-1958)
transcribed by David Briggs

Clair de Lune (from *Suite Bergamasque*)

Claude Debussy
(1862-1918)
transcribed by Alexandre Cellier

Hungarian Dance No. 5 in G Minor

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)
transcribed by David Briggs

Adagietto (from *Symphony No. 5*)

Gustav Mahler
(1813-1883)
transcribed by David Briggs

Improvisation: Variations on a theme submitted by the audience

David Briggs is an internationally renowned organist whose performances are acclaimed for their musicality, virtuosity, and ability to excite and engage audiences of all ages. Consistently ranked as one of the finest organists of his generation, David's extensive repertoire spans five centuries. He has also become one of the foremost organ transcribers of symphonic works, thereby giving listeners the opportunity to experience the organ in a new way. He has transcribed orchestral compositions by Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Bruckner, Ravel, and Bach as well as Mahler's Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth symphonies. Described as 'an intrepid improviser' by Michael Barone, host of American Public Media's Pipedreams, David also frequently performs improvisations to silent films such as Phantom of the Opera, Hunchback of Notre-Dame, Nosferatu, Jeanne d'Arc, Metropolis, King of Kings, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, the General, and a variety of Charlie Chaplin films.

At the age of 17, David obtained his FRCO (Fellow of the Royal College of Organists) diploma, winning the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians. From 1981-84 he was Organ Scholar at King's College, Cambridge University, during which time he studied with Jean Langlais in Paris. The first British winner of the Tournemire Prize at the St Albans International Improvisation Competition, he also won the first prize in the International Improvisation Competition at Paisley. Subsequently David held positions at Hereford, Truro and Gloucester Cathedrals.

Deeply committed to ensuring organ music remains relevant and vibrant, David enjoys giving pre-concert lectures and demonstrations that help make organ music more broadly accessible. He teaches performance at Cambridge University, frequently serves on international organ competition juries, and gives master classes at colleges and conservatories across the U.S. and Europe. David Briggs is also a prolific composer and his works range from full scale oratorios to works for solo instruments. He has recorded two DVDs, and 37 CDs, many of which include his own compositions and transcriptions. David is currently Artist-in-Residence at the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City. For more information, Please visit: www.david-briggs.org.

Upcoming events at St. Paul's Chapel:

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 1pm

Pipes at One: Renée Anne Louprette of Bard College and Rutgers University

Music Staff

Julian Wachner, Director

Melissa Attebury, Associate Director

Melissa Baker, Senior Artistic Administrator

Anne Damassa, Music Education

Farah Dupoux, Production & Library Assistant

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Thomas McCargar, Choral Contractor

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