

# Bach Festival Society

O F W I N T E R P A R K

JOHN V. SINCLAIR

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

**REBECCA KLEINTOP OWENS, ORGAN**

Sunday, February 20 at 3:00pm

## Program

Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne BuxWV 137	Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)
Now Thank We All Our God	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) arr. Virgil Fox
Ich ruf zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ (BWV 639)	Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude and Fugue in a minor (BWV 543)	Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude, Fugue, and Variation, Op. 18	Cesar Franck (1822-1890)
Introduction and Passacaglia in d minor	Max Reger (1873-1916)

## INTERMISSION

Fanfare	John Cook (1918-1984)
Moravian Hymn Medley Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice—Join We All With One Accord—Jesus Still Lead On	Setting by Rebecca Kleintop Owens
O Herzlich tut mich verlangen (BWV 727)	Johann Sebastian Bach
Cortège et Litanie	Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)
Outer Hebrides <i>A Fantasia on Three Traditional Celtic Melodies</i>	Paul Halley (b. 1952)
Andante Sostenuto from Symphonie Gothique, Op. 70	Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
Toccata from Symphonie No. 5	Charles-Marie Widor

## Biography

**Rebecca Kleintop Owens** has been the Director of Music and Organist of the historic Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, since 2002. She is also the Organist and Choir Director for the Moravian Theological Seminary. She was previously the Senior Organist at the internationally televised Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as well as assistant organist of Philadelphia's famed Wanamaker Grand Court Organ, the largest playing musical instrument in the world. *A magna cum laude* graduate of Moravian College, Rebecca graduated with an Artist Diploma in organ performance from the world-renowned Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. An active solo recitalist, accompanist, and clinician, Rebecca has performed throughout the United States as well as in Europe. Rebecca has recorded several CDs with the King's Brass and the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church choir, two CDs with the Central Moravian Church Choir—*Christmas Eve at Central Moravian Church* and *Favorite Hymns of Central Moravian Church*—and a solo CD—*An Old Fashioned Moravian Christmas*. Warner Brothers Publications has also published her collection of hymn introductions and interludes, titled *The Coral Ridge Collection*.

## PROGRAM NOTES

### **Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne BuxWV 137 - Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)**

Dietrich Buxtehude was a German organist and composer whose music profoundly impacted the music of Johann Sebastian Bach as well as George Frideric Handel and Georg Philipp Telemann.

### **Ich ruf zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ (BWV 639) – J. S. Bach**

“I call to you, Lord Jesus Christ” comes from the *Orgelbüchlein* ("Little Organ Book") which was written by J. S. Bach during the period of 1708–1714, while he was court organist at the ducal court in Weimar. It was planned as a set of 164 chorale preludes spanning the liturgical year; however, Bach completed only forty-six chorale preludes.

### **Prelude and Fugue in a minor (BWV 543) – J. S. Bach**

This prelude and fugue was composed during Bach’s tenure as court organist to the Duke of Saxe-Weimar between the years 1708 and 1717. The Toccata-like prelude bears the marks of Bach's early, north German-influenced style, while the fugue could be considered a later product of Bach's maturity.

### **Prelude, Fugue, and Variation, Op. 18 - Cesar Franck (1822-1890)**

Cesar Franck was professor of organ at the Conservatoire de Paris and organist at the Basilica of Saint Clotilde. In 1858, the parish installed a new three-manual Cavaillé-Coll instrument. Between the influence of his early piano training and the sheer beauty of this new instrument, Franck was inspired to write some of the most important organ repertoire in the French genre.

### **Introduction and Passacaglia in d minor – Max Reger (1873-1916)**

Max Reger was a progressive composer in Germany who drew upon the traditional 18th- and 19th-century forms of Bach, Mozart, and Brahms while speaking the music language of Richard Wagner and Franz Liszt. Although he died prematurely at the age of 43, Reger attained fame through his organ works and through his significant contributions in the fields of chamber music, lieder, and choral and orchestral composition.

### **Fanfare – John Cook (1918-1984)**

John Cook was an Anglo-American organist, composer, and church musician. He studied at Christ's College, Cambridge, as an organ scholar but left his studies to drive an ambulance during the blitz of London. Following the war, Cook worked as a copyist for Ralph Vaughan Williams and with Benjamin Britten. Eventually, Cook became Organist and Choirmaster at Church of the Advent in Boston and joined the faculties of the Longy School of Music in Cambridge and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

### **Moravian Hymn Medley – Setting by Rebecca Kleintop Owens**

Jesus Makes My Heart Rejoice—Join We All With One Accord—Jesus Still Lead On  
Music was a cherished part of everyday life as the Moravians settled Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1741. The Singstunde was a special Moravian service in which the sermon was delivered through the singing of congregational hymns. The three hymns featured in this medley are still sung frequently in Moravian churches today.

### **Cortège et Litanie – Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)**

Marcel Dupré, a student of Charles-Marie Widor and Alexandre Guilmant, was one of the great French organists of the 20th century. He performed over 2000 recitals around the world during his life and was famous for his improvisations. From 1906 until his death, he was organist at the church of St Sulpice, Paris.

**Outer Hebrides – Paul Halley (b. 1952)***A Fantasia on Three Traditional Celtic Melodies*

Paul Halley was born in Romford, England, in 1952 and received his early musical training in Ottawa, Canada, where he studied piano, organ, and singing. Halley became Organist and Choirmaster at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City where he served for thirteen years, 1977 to 1990, transforming the Cathedral's music program into a rich combination of classical and contemporary music. Concurrent with his tenure at the Cathedral, Halley became a principal member of The Paul Winter Consort and earned four Grammy Awards for his contributions as featured writer and performer on many Consort recordings.

**Andante Sostenuto from Symphonie Gothique, Op. 70 Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)**

Charles Marie Widor, a French composer, was organist for 63 years at the church of St Sulpice, Paris. He succeeded Cesar Franck as professor of organ at the Paris Conservatoire and was later appointed the school's professor of composition; his students included such later-eminent musicians as organists Marcel Dupré, Louis Vierne, and Albert Schweitzer, with whom he collaborated on an annotated edition of the organ works of J. S. Bach.