

# L'Organo 2023



## *Free recital series featuring the organs of Charleston*

Opening the L'Organo series this season is a young superstar from Germany, now studying at the Juilliard School in New York City. **Raphael Attila Vogl**, who performs at Grace Church Cathedral on **Monday May 29<sup>th</sup>** at 10am, hails from Passau in Bavaria, where he has played many recitals on Europe's largest pipe organ in the Cathedral. His program includes many of his own signature transcriptions (notably Bach's 4th Brandenburg Concerto) as well as music by Reger and Arno Landmann.

It promises to be a stunning season opener!



Organist and harpsichordist **Ryan Chan**, whose concert is at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church on **Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup>** at 10am, is originally from Hong Kong, and is now finishing his doctoral studies at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Winner of the Arthur Poister Organ Competition in 2018, and finalist in the 2022 National Young Artists competition, his program on the 1967 three-manual Austin organ opens with the brilliant Prelude and Fugue in B of Marcel Dupre and finishes with the dazzling Toccata of Duruflé; in between is music of William Grant Still, E.H. Lemare, Schumann, and Philip Glass.

Representing the musical leadership of the Carolinas this year is **Dr. Patrick Pope**, from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter in Charlotte; his recital is at 10 am on **Wednesday May 31<sup>st</sup>** at Grace Church Cathedral. Reflecting his wide performing experience in Europe and the UK, including recitals at Westminster Abbey and King's College Chapel in Cambridge, along with performances in Paris and Rome, his program concludes with the stirring *Marche Heroique* of Sir Herbert Brewer (giving Grace's Tuba stop a good workout!), and commences with the "Flourish for an Occasion" by Sir William Harris. In between comes music of Frank Bridge, William Bates of South Carolina, and the celebrated centenarian Margaret Sandresky of North Carolina.





With degrees in Economics as well as piano and organ, **Valentina Huang** is currently a graduate student at Indiana University; she is a passionate believer in "the magic and joy that music can bring into peoples' lives." Playing the beautiful Gabriel Kney tracker organ at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul (installed under Benjamin Hutto, one of the founders of L'Organo), her program, at 10 am on **Thursday June 1<sup>st</sup>**, includes the dramatic Prelude and Fugue on BACH by Franz Liszt, as well as music by Bach, Schumann, Buxtehude and Petr Eben.

L'Organo is particularly pleased to welcome **Jared Lamenzo** of New York City to play the historic 1845 Erben organ in the French Huguenot Church, at 10am on **Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Graduate of Harvard University, and subject of a feature article in the New York Times, Jared now presides over another historic Henry Erben organ, the 'younger big brother' of the Charleston instrument, at the Basliica of Old St. Patrick's, an instrument built twenty years later and with three manuals rather than two. He knows how to bring out the very best of Charleston's Erben with music of Bach, John Bennett, Thomas Arne, Francois-Adrien Boieldieu, Philip Trajeta, and Fanny Mendelssohn.



For L'Organo's annual "Off the Peninsula" recital, we present rising star **Jihye Choi**, playing at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in West Ashley on **Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm**. Native of Korea, she has studied at the University of Cincinnati, and is currently pursuing a doctorate at Indiana University studying with Janette Fishell. She has won prizes in Korea, Australia and the US. Her brilliant program includes Mendelssohn's 4th Sonata, and works of Bach and Schumann; she finishes with the stupendous *Etude Symphonique* of Enrico Bossi, a tour de force for the pedals (so we're going to try and arrange for people to see her virtuosity on the feet, as well as hearing it!)



Doyen of Charleston church musicians, **Lee Kohlenberg** is known to many in the Holy City through his frequent work as substitute organist in a wide variety of local churches. His program is at First Scots Presbyterian Church on **Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>** at 10 am. Before retiring, Lee served a number of congregations, most recently St. Michael's in Charleston, where he designed the Kenneth Jones organ in 1994. He has presented recitals in New York City at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Washington DC, Chicago, Austin TX, and many other US cities; his program includes the stirring *Carillon de Westminster* of Vierne, the *Toccata, Adagio and Fugue* of Bach, and music of Bruhns, Howells, Franck and Elgar.

"Ascend the Mountain; A Walk with Dr. King" by James Lee III is centerpiece of the recital by **Paul Byssainthe, Jr.**, at 10 am on **Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**, at Grace Church Cathedral. Paul is currently completing his studies for a DMA at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore; his resume includes stints as a freelance musician in Nashville, music directing at Ford's Theatre and the Arena stage in Washington DC, and co-founding the Zamar Worship Collective in NYC. His recital program also includes works by Liszt, Alain and David Hurd.



Sir Edward Elgar's monumental Organ Sonata in G concludes **Eddie Zheng's** recital on the oh-so-British Kenneth Jones tracker organ at St. Michael's Church, at 10 am on **Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>**. Born and bred in New York City, Eddie is a master's degree student of Paul Jacobs at the Juilliard School; he has performed in Philadelphia, Montreal and Beijing. His program also includes music of Bach and J.P. Redmond; when not playing the organ, he loves motorcycles, symphonies, and espresso.



## PICCOLO SPOLETO

Charleston, SC

**Scott Watson,**  
Director, Office of Cultural Affairs  
**Murray Forbes Somerville, DMA**  
L'Organo Committee Chair



Professor of Organ at Fisk University in Nashville, **Anthony Williams** has gained a wide reputation for his performances and promotion of modern African-American organ repertoire. His program, at First (Scots) Presbyterian on **Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10 am, will include music of Adolphus Hailstork and Ralph Simpson, concluding with the First Sonata for Organ by the increasingly acclaimed early twentieth century composer and performer Florence Price. Other works on the program are by Robin Dinda and Leo Sowerby, and he begins with the dazzling Concert Variations on "The Star-Spangled Banner" by nineteenth century American virtuoso Dudley Buck.



Closing with the rousing and brilliant Finale from Widor's 8<sup>th</sup> Symphony, **Dr. Margaret Harper** brings the series to a close on the Bedient organ at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on **Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**, at 10 am, with a French program on Charleston's most Gallic organ, complete with ventils, brilliant reeds, *flûtes harmoniques*, *voix humaine*, and the most luxurious acoustic in the Holy City. Other works on the program include music of Boëly, Franck, and the transcendent virtuoso Jeanne Demessieux. Dr. Harper has performed across the US as well as in central Europe and southeast Asia; she holds the Performer's Certificate in addition to a DMA from the Eastman School of Music. Founding co-director of the RSCM-America's Boys Course based at St. Michael and All Angels in Dallas, this year she has been Visiting Instructor of Organ at Baylor University. This stunning combination of instrument, artist, acoustic and repertoire is sure to round out the 2023 L'Organo Series in thrilling style.

**Special Event**

*Mother Emanuel AME Church,  
Calhoun St.*

*Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 pm*

***"JAZZIN' UP THE ORGAN!"***

**Mayor John Tecklenburg** with **Wesley Hall**,  
Yale organ graduate and Tik-Tok whizz



Charlestonians know Mayor Tecklenburg as a brilliant jazz pianist, from his days studying at Boston's venerable Berklee School of Music, and coming from a lineage of musicians including famous Hollywood names. The Mayor has agreed to combine his keyboard skills with those of Yale School of Music graduate Wesley Hall, whose humorous Tik-Tok videos of organ-related themes have gained him thousands of hits. L'Organo is honored to present, for the first time, a recital in this historic church.

***This promises to be a unique and ground-breaking event!***

