

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MEDFORD

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Classical Vespers



Southern Oregon Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Sunday, March 26, 2023
5:00 PM

Program

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam BuxWV 180Dietrich Buxtehude

Dietrich Buxtehude (ca. 1637-1707) was a Danish organist and composer of the Baroque period. His compositional style greatly influenced other composers, such as Johann Sebastian Bach. Buxtehude is considered one of the most important composers of the 17th century.

Rob Griswell-Lowry

Welcome Murray Richmond

Praise and Thanksgiving (Bunessan) Dale Wood

Bunessan is a hymn tune based on an Irish folk melody. It was popularized as *Morning has Broken* by singer Cat Stevens. Dale Wood (1934-2003) was a composer, organist, and choral director. At age 13, he won a national hymn writing contest for the American Lutheran Church.

Praise and Thanksgiving (Bunessan) Johannes Matthias Michel

Johannes Matthias Michel (b. 1962) has published over 200 works for organ, choir, and wind instruments. He is from Heidelberg, Germany.

In Joyful Praise..... Laurence Lyan

Laurence Lyan began composing when he was 12. He received a BA from the University of Utah and a PhD from Eastman School of Music. He was a professor at Western Oregon University for 30 years.

Linda McGuire

Reading..... Murray Richmond

Hymn Prelude on Slane..... Robert Train Adams

This setting of the hymn tune *Slane* is one of five preludes for organ and piano written in 2015 for a choir member who played organ. In many hymnals, *Slane*, an Irish folk melody, is associated with the hymns *Be Thou My Vision* and *Lord of All Hopefulness*.

Rob Griswell-Lowry and Robert Train Adams

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound..... George Shearing

This set of variations on the familiar tune *New Britain* was composed by the blind jazz pianist George Shearing (1919-2011). He worked closely with Dale Wood, editor of The Sacred Music Press, to arrange his piano versions of nine hymn tunes for organ. This work uses several of the colors of the organ.

Prelude in d minor, Op. 37, No. 3.....Felix Mendelssohn

Mendelssohn (1809-1847) was known in his day as a pianist and organist as well as a composer. He reinvigorated interest in the music of J. S. Bach through his performance of the St. Matthew Passion. Mendelssohn’s best-known organ works are the 6 Sonatas published in 1845. He wrote the Opus 37 set of three preludes and fugues in 1837 when he was working in Leipzig. His use of counterpoint shows Bach’s influence.

Margaret R. Evans

MeditationMurray Richmond

Variations on Noël Nouvelet.....Robert Train Adams

The name *Noël Nouvelet* comes from the French text with which this melody is associated. The text dates from the fifteenth century; the music is a few centuries younger. While the title suggests Christmas, several hymnals use the tune with the Easter text *Now the green blade rises*. You will hear the theme followed by eight short variations, the last being an adaptation of a piano piece written for the composer’s granddaughter Ali.

Robert Train Adams

ClosingMurray Richmond

Prelude in C Major BWV 547..... Johann Sebastian Bach

Scholars haven’t been able to pinpoint when Bach (1685-1750) wrote this work, with dates ranging from as early as 1719 to as late as the 1740s. In any event, Bach displays his masterful composition technique in this work. It starts off as a canon, with the left hand copying the right for the first several measures. This happens again and again with all sorts of modifications. Notice that the pedal has its own recurring theme. It may have been the last to enter the discussion, but it gets the last word...

Robert Train Adams

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***Thank you, friends, for the generous freewill offerings
that you put in the entrance basket to keep our
Vespers programs going.***

The Performers

Rob Griswell-Lowry has been Music Minister at St. Mark's since 2017, with a brief hiatus in Tennessee before returning to the Rogue Valley. He has a varied and extensive background which includes many years of experience playing the piano and organ.

Linda McGuire has an AA degree in organ from Chaffey College and a BA degree in organ from the University of Redlands. She continued her organ studies at Claremont School of Theology. After moving to the Rogue Valley in 1973, she has been an organist in several churches and taught in public schools. She studied locally with Margaret R. Evans.

Margaret R. Evans is professor emerita in music from SOU, as well as being adjunct instructor of organ. She served as national vice president of the American Guild of Organists for four years, has been dean of the Southern Oregon Chapter for many years, and has held several regional positions. After nearly 50 years, she is now retired as a church musician.

Robert Train Adams has flunked retirement several times. He retired from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, having also chaired the music departments at Susquehanna University and the University of Montevallo. Within a few years of retirement, he was a full-time Minister of Music at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Orinda, California. Again, he retired... but is still working at First Presbyterian Church!

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Special Thanks to

Rev. Murray Richmond & Robin Blomquist

Southern Oregon Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Rob Griswell-Lowry ~ Linda McGuire ~ Margaret Evans ~ Robert Adams

Fran Yates – Artist / Photographer

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First Presbyterian Church, Medford

and you, the community participants,

for supporting this endeavor.

