

**Organ Concert Program
Transcriptions for Organ**

Sunday, April 25, 2021

2:30 PM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Creve Coeur, MO.

Concerto No. 2 in A Minor after Vivaldi (BWV 593)

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

Allegro - Adagio senza Pedale a due Clav.- Allegro

Water Music Suite

George F. Handel
(1685-1759)

Allegro Vivace - Air - Hornpipe – Minuet – Allegro Giocoso – Allegro Maestoso

Panis Angelicus

César Franck
(1822 – 1890)

Triumphal March

Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)

Evening Prayer from Hansel and Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck
(1854-1921)

Londonderry Air

Irish Folk Song

Hungarian Dance No. 5

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Humoresque

Antonin Dvorak
(1841-1904)

Elite Syncopations

Scott Joplin
(1867-1917)

Finale from Overture to William Tell

Giacchino Rossini
(1792-1868)

JOHN J. HAMILL III



John J. Hamill III is a native St. Louisan. He has bachelor degrees in Music Performance and Music Education from the St. Louis Conservatory of Music and UMSL, respectively. He also holds a Master's Degree in Organ Performance from Webster University. He has been playing the organ since 8th grade and has held director positions in several Catholic Churches. He has also held music positions at Jennings Presbyterian Church, Jennings MO., Christ Presbyterian Church, Moline Acres, Mo., Hamilton Christian Church in Creve Coeur and currently organist at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Creve Coeur. Mr. Hamill is the 1985 Young artist's competition winner of the American Guild of Organists, St. Louis Chapter.

PROGRAM NOTES

A **transcription** is an arrangement or adaptation of a piece of music for a voice or instrument other than that for which it was originally composed. None of this program's music was originally written for the organ but instead for orchestra, vocal solo with accompaniment or piano. A transcription is not necessarily a note for note playing of the music but a use of the idioms and special features of the medium for which it is being transcribed-in this case, the organ.

One anecdote told by a Bach biographer was that after the death of Bach's parents, he was sent to live with his older brother. His older brother was a musician and had an extensive library of music. As the story goes the young J.S. would steal away to the library at night and make copies of some of the music by moonlight, unbeknownst to his brother. In fact copying the music of others was one way to learn the musical compositional craft. Antonio Vivaldi was roughly a contemporary of Bach. Vivaldi's **Concerto in A minor** was originally written for two solo violins, strings and Basso continuo.

George Frederic Handel was a contemporary of Bach and surprisingly both composers were born within 80 miles of each other and in the same year, 1685, yet never met. Unlike Bach who spent his life within a 30 mile area of his birth, Handel would seek more international fame. Handel was called away to England to become the court musician for King George I. The story of the **Water Music Suite** was that the King decided to have a party on the royal yacht on the Thames River. As he wined and dined his guests, musicians in attendant barges would play music. This music became known as the Water Music.

Panis Angelicus is a work by César Franck written as a vocal solo. Catholics will know it by its Latin name but Protestants as "O Lord Most Holy" roughly translated from the Latin as "Bread of the Angels."

Edvard Greig is Norway's pre-eminent composer. Well known for his Concerto in A Minor for Piano and Orchestra and Peer Gynt Suite especially "In the Hall of the Mountain King." His **Triumphal March** was originally written for orchestra.

Evening Prayer comes from Engelbert Humperdinck's opera, Hansel and Gretel.

Londonderry Air often goes by its more popular name "O Danny Boy." The piece was originally written and sung as a folk song.

Johannes Brahms wrote a series of dances for orchestra based on Hungarian themes. **Hungarian Dance No. 5** is one of his most familiar dances often used in cartoons and commercials.

Antonin Dvorak hails from Czechoslovakia. His **Humoresque**, a work of humorous or fanciful nature, was originally written for Violin and Piano. It is in Rondo Form: ABACA. A Rondo is a piece of music that contains a recurring section

Known as the "King of Ragtime, Scott Joplin defined the ragtime form. Ragtime form is sectional in nature like the Rondo but tacks on a new section at the end, thus giving the form of all ragtime music as ABACD. Each section is repeated, except the second A section. The organ is naturally suited for this type of music with the pedals playing the "boom" and the left hand on the manual playing the "Chuck." The right hand is free to play the melody. Often times there is an introduction as in **Elite Syncopations**.

The Music of Italian Opera Composer, Giacchino Rossini, wraps up the concert with the **Final from William Tell**. This transcription is by the 19th, early 20th century organist and composer, Dudley Buck.

Special Thanks to: Pastor Janice Hawley

Technical set-up: Pat Goertzen

Sound and Video: Marcus Benson, Donovan Lucas

Free will Offerings are accepted to Support Holy Cross Music Ministry.