

For the past thirty years, St. Paul's Episcopal Church has become a hospitable place where the human spirit speaks through the arts. St. Paul's Music, a self-supporting 501(c)(3) not for profit organization, has a three-fold purpose. First, the organization supports mission projects such as recordings and tours. Second, St. Paul's Music supports the Choral Scholar Program of St. Paul's Choir School that underwrites private music lessons to deserving youth. Third, the organization continues to feature choral masterworks performed by St. Paul's Choir with orchestra, as well as professional artists from the Indianapolis area and around the world. St. Paul's Music is an organization dedicated to sharing the arts with all people in our community.

St. Paul's Music Presents

The Six Sonatas for Organ, Opus 65

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

Friday, September 25, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Sonata No. 3 in A Major

Con moto maestoso
Andante tranquillo

David Sinden

Sonata No. 6 in D Minor

Chorale and Variations: Andante sostenuto
Allegro molto
Fuga
Finale: Andante

Frank Boles

Sonata No. 1 in F Minor

Allegro moderato e serio
Adagio
Andante recitativo – Allegro assai vivace
Edie Johnson

Sonata No. 2 in C Minor

Grave-Adagio
Allegro maestoso e vivace
Fuga: Allegro moderato

Lisa Johnson Mott

Sonata No. 5 in D Major

Andante
Andante con moto
Allegro maestoso

Michael Bennett

Sonata No. 4 in B Flat Major

Allegro con brio
Andante religioso
Allegretto
Allegro maestoso e vivace

Michael Messina

Prior to the work of Felix Mendelssohn, no composer of international stature had made a significant contribution to the composition of organ literature since the death of J.S. Bach in 1750. This nearly century-long hiatus in organ literature was a result of increasing secularization throughout Europe and the Age of the Enlightenment. The organ, which had once been a well respected and loved instrument throughout the west, lost its appeal. Composers of this era such as Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven favored orchestras, chamber ensembles and a new instrument, the piano, over the organ.

Felix Mendelssohn, born in Hamburg in 1809 to a respected family of artists, intellectuals and bankers, changed the course of organ literature in the nineteenth century. Mendelssohn began his musical studies with violin, viola and piano and he performed in his first concert as part of a trio at only nine years old. As a youth, he also took lessons in harmony, counterpoint and composition. Mendelssohn studied organ with August Wilhelm Bach (no relation to J.S. Bach), an instructor who had great influence on the compositional output of young Felix. A.W. Bach was a proponent of the traditional prelude and fugue format for organ music; he produced four volumes of literature between 1820 and 1824, giving renewed impetus to the composition of music for the organ.

Mendelssohn composed a few of his early works for organ as a pupil of A.W. Bach. In 1829, Mendelssohn traveled to England and was highly regarded as a fine organist. He made frequent trips to England for the remainder of his life and often played at St. Paul's Cathedral. In 1833, Mendelssohn dedicated his *Three Preludes and Fugues* (Opus 37) for organ to Thomas Attwood, organist of St. Paul's.

Extensive travel throughout Europe had a major impact on Mendelssohn's compositions. Visits to England, Scotland, Italy and Paris exposed him to a variety of musical styles and significant composers and performances. His music embraced the classical ideals of clarity and form. From Bach, he inherited fugal technique, from Handel, driving rhythms and harmonic progressions, from Mozart clarity of textures and forms, and from Beethoven facile instrumental techniques. All of these influences combined to create Mendelssohn's unique individual style, one which also incorporated geographical and extra-musical influences.

In 1844, Charles Coventry of the British publishing firm, Coventry and Hollier, asked Mendelssohn to compose a set of three voluntaries for the organ. Mendelssohn quickly agreed; however, when beginning the work, he was uncertain about the term "Voluntary," so he requested a change to the title, "Sonata." The ensuing result was a set of six pieces unlike any other previously written for the organ. Mendelssohn combined previously written works with new compositions to form this set. The Six Sonatas of Opus 65 present a wide variety of forms, textures and moods. This significant opus was published simultaneously in Leipzig, Milan, London and Paris on September 15, 1845, a date which William Little, editor and Mendelssohn Scholar, states "...marks the beginning of a new era in the history of organ music."

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

David Sinden is the Assistant Organist and Choirmaster of historic Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis, Indiana, where he accompanies four choral ensembles and directs the Christ Church Singers. Mr. Sinden holds a master's degree from Indiana University, where he studied organ with Larry Smith, and a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College, where he studied with David Boe. This summer, Mr. Sinden accompanied the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys on a two-week European tour, including a week-long residency at Ely Cathedral and a concert at Chartres Cathedral. Earlier this year he accompanied the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys in the world premiere of *A Living Hope* by Grayston Ives and the American premiere of *Missa Sancta Pauli Apostoli* by Gregory Rose. He accompanied the choir in the East Coast premiere of Ned Rorem's *A Song of Hosea* at the Washington National Cathedral in 2008. Mr. Sinden can be heard with the Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys twice weekly on WICR-FM (88.7), Indianapolis.

Frank Boles has been Organist and Associate for Music at St. Paul's Church since 1979. Under his direction, the church established, *St. Paul's Music*, an outreach music series; the St. Paul's Choir School and Choral Scholar Program for boys and girls ages eight and up; and Indianapolis Pro Musica, a chamber choir of trained singers in the Indianapolis community. Frank graduated from Pfeiffer College in Misenheimer, N.C. and completed graduate studies at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J.

Edie Johnson is the Assistant Organist/Choir Director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Indianapolis, and she serves as Seminary Organist and Affiliate Professor of Church Music at Christian Theological Seminary. She completed both the Master and Doctor of Music degrees at Indiana University where she studied with Larry Smith. In 1996, she received a B.Mus. in organ, *magna cum laude*, from Furman University where she studied with Charles Tompkins. She began organ study at age 13 with Johnny Bradburn at Christ United Methodist Church in Greensboro, N.C. Edie resides in Indianapolis with her husband, Jason Overall and their toddler son, James.

Lisa Johnson Mott is the Associate Organist/Accompanist at Geist Christian Church in Indianapolis, a private piano teacher, and the proud mother of an active 11-month old. A native of Toms River, New Jersey, she received the Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from The Cleveland Institute of Music, as a student of Todd Wilson. She also earned the Master of Music degree (with distinction) in Piano Accompanying and the Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Baylor University. Mrs. Mott holds the *Colleague* and *Service Playing Certificates* from the American Guild of Organists and serves on the Executive Board of the Indianapolis AGO Chapter.

Michael J. Bennett is Director of Music at St. John's Episcopal Church, Lafayette, where he oversees the parish's sacred music program, directs the multi-generational choir program and is organist. Michael, a native of Roanoke, VA is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Music where he received Bachelor's and Master's degrees of Music in Organ Performance and Choral Conducting. His primary instructors there were William Jon Gray, Marilyn Keiser, and Larry Smith. Mr. Bennett is Vocal Music Director at Lafayette Jefferson High School, where he directs their award winning Varsity Singers, freshmen girl's choir and teaches beginning and advanced class piano. For the previous five years he also was Associate Conductor of the Lafayette Bach Chorale Singers.

Michael Messina is Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church and Organist of St. Richard's School, Indianapolis. Since his earliest days as a chorister, Michael has been making music in the church; he held his first church position at the age of sixteen in Kansas City. Michael continued his choral training in high school and then at Saint Olaf College, where he sang in the Saint Olaf Choir and was graduated *magna cum laude* with the BMus degree in Church Music. He holds the Master and Doctor degrees in Organ and the Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. At Trinity, Michael directs a mixed intergenerational choir that sings for weekly liturgies, choral evensong and concerts on the Music at Trinity series. The choir has made two pilgrimages to England, singing daily services at Winchester, Chichester, Bristol and Durham cathedrals. In 2003 Michael founded the Meridian Vocal Consort, a 16 voice professional choir, with countertenor Steven Rickards. He currently serves as Past President of the Association of Anglican Musicians, and has taught and administered the Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations in the Diocese of Indianapolis. Michael also has nineteen years experience serving Reform Jewish congregations, and directs the High Holy Day Choir at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. He has served as Dean of the Rochester chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Treasurer of the Indianapolis chapter. He has competed in and won several local and national organ competitions. Michael makes a home with his partner, Mark, and their Shih Tzu, Norbu.

Future Events at St. Paul's Church

October 11, Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG: Celebrating the Anniversary of Henry Purcell.

St. Paul's Choir is joined by members of the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra to celebrate the anniversary of Henry Purcell's birth (1659-1695). Featuring music for choir and instruments: Magnificat, Nunc Dimittis in G Minor, Sing unto the Lord, Rejoice in the Lord Always, Evening Hymn, and Sound the Trumpet.

November 8, Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG: The Consecration of Samuel Seabury

St. Paul's Choir sings anthems and hymns celebrating our Scottish heritage. All will participate in a solemn procession with bagpipes.

November 13, Friday at 7:30 p.m.

PRO ARTE SINGERS: Johann Sebastian Bach's *B Minor Mass*

Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music presents the Pro Arte Singers with and the IU Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Dr. William Gray.

November 22, Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

INDIANAPOLIS BAROQUE ORCHESTRA: Bach Project

Admission: Adults \$15, Students with ID \$10. Tickets at the door.

The Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra will perform three of J.S. Bach's most famous and beloved works. Featuring acclaimed oboist John Abberger as guest conductor, the orchestra invites you to join us for a magical afternoon as we celebrate Bach and the upcoming Advent season. The concert will include two Advent cantatas, *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* and *Wachet Auf*. The orchestra will conclude the program with the dazzling Brandenburg Concerto No. 1.

December 13, Sunday at 4:00 p.m.

ADVENT FESTIVAL: Indianapolis Pro Musica

Indianapolis Pro Musica sings this festive service featuring ancient motets, anthems and Advent hymns. Majestic settings for brass, timpani and congregation will help us usher in this solemn season of preparation and anticipation.

December 24, Christmas Eve

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS at 5:00 p.m.

This beautiful service, based on the medieval vigil, was first held at Truro Cathedral in England. It has since become a favorite throughout the world. Lessons telling the story of Christ's birth are read by choristers and members of the community, while carols and anthems resound the message of Christmas. Organ prelude begins at 4:30 p.m.

December 24, Christmas Eve

FESTIVAL CHORAL EUCHARIST at 11:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Choir celebrates the Feast of the Nativity with brass and organs. A prelude with carols for choir and the congregation begins at 10:20 p.m.

Friends of St. Paul's Music

St. Paul's Music is a self-supporting organization, and is a 501(c)(3) not for profit tax-exempt corporation under the umbrella of the Indianapolis Episcopal Diocese. Continuation of concerts depends upon loyal contributors such as those listed below. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. If you would like to be a contributor or be on our mailing list, please call 253-1277. If you would like to receive notice of events by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to fboles@stpaulsindy.org.

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