

Slowing Down the Present: An Organ Sound Bath

Alexander Meszler, Organist
Admiral Congregational Church
Seattle, Washington
Sunday, May 20, 2018

Letting Go

Präludium und Fuge in a-moll (1856)

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

The Peace may be exchanged (from "Rubrics") (1988)

Dan Locklair

Hymn #417 – "This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

Learning to Be

Praeludium in e, BuxWV 143

Dieterich Buxtehude

Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach

Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel Herunter, BWV 650

(1685-1750)

Hymn #286 – "Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

Peace and Simplicity

Adoration

Florence Beatrice Price

Ciacona

Georg Muffat
(1653-1704)

Simple Gifts (2010)

Arranged by Joe Utterback

Hymn #571 – "O God of Love, O God of Peace"

Appreciation

Abstraction (2013)

Sam Peters

The Revd Mustard his Installation Prelude (2012)

Nico Muhly

Aria (2018)

Huw Morgan

Salem Suite (2008)

Margaret Vardell Sandresky

VI. Celebration: Toccata for the Full Organ

(b. 1921)

Alexander Meszler is a Phoenix-based organist from upstate New York. Concerned with the future of the organ in an increasingly secular society, he dedicates himself to a wide range of research and performance addressing this issue. He was recently awarded a Fulbright to study this issue in France. He is currently a doctoral student at Arizona State University where he studies with Kimberly Marshall. In addition to his studies, he serves as Director of Sacred Music at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Parish in Sun City West, Arizona.

A strong advocate of music by living composers, he currently serves as a member of the national American Guild of Organists' Committee on New Music. He has collaborated with composers George Katehis and Hon Ki Cheung in the premiere of their organ works for the 2014/15 and 2015/16 American Guild of Organists' Student Commissioning Project.

In 2017, he was awarded a substantial grant from the Arizona Center for Renaissance and Medieval Studies for a project titled "Crossroads for the Organ in the Twenty-First Century: A Precedent for Secularism in the First Decades of Sixteenth-Century Print Culture." In the Spring of 2016, Alexander was a finalist in the Poister Competition and won second prize at the Westchester University Organ Competition.

Alexander completed a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance and Music Theory at the University of Kansas where he studied organ with Michael Bauer and James Higdon. He earned a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance from Syracuse University where he worked with Kola Owolabi.