IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Music and Theatre

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany

Iowa State University Organ Studio of Dr. Miriam Zach

Saturday, December 6, 2025
1:30 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa

Program

The ISU Organ studio is sharing kindness, inspiration, and mindful beauty via the immaterial medium of organ and vocal music. Repertoire is international and eternal. If you would like to read English text, hymn numbers refer to *The 1982 Hymnal* in the pews. Following our musical presentation that is played without applause or intermission, you are invited to fellowship hall to interact with "Piper" one-manual pipe organ from the Central Iowa American Guild of Organists.

ADVENT

anticipation of the birth of Jesus that begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas

Hymn 54 based on Hymn 55: *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*
***(Savior of the Nations, Come)* ..... Dietrich Buxtehude**
(1637-1707 Germany)

Nicholas Riesen

Hymn 56: *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*
***(O Come, O Come Emmanuel)* ..... 9th-century plainsong**

sung in Latin by the Schola from St. Thomas Aquinas Church and Catholic Student Center:
Javoni Jackson, Joshua Knott, Rivers Nelson, Lucas Wuebker

***Communion* ..... Juliette Folville**
(1890-1946 Belgium)

Isabel Barnett

CHRISTMAS

annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ

Hymn 112: *Meditation on "In the Bleak Midwinter"* ..... Paul Fey
(b. 1998 Germany)

Joshua Knott

"2. Canon" from *Sonata Solemnis* ..... František Musil
(1852-1908 Czechia)

Viktor V.I. Vavřínek

Hymn 83: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
***(Latin: Adeste Fideles)* ..... arranged by James C. Kasen**

Rivers Nelson

Hymn 83: "Adeste Fideles" *In an Organ Prelude* (1897)..... Charles Ives
(1874-1954, USA)

Hillary Holmes

Hymn 80: *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her*
***(From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)* …..Johann Pachelbel**
(1653-1706 Germany)

Aspen Forristall

"IV. Le Verbe" from *La Nativité du Seigneur*
***(The Birth of the Lord)* ……. Olivier Messiaen**
(Dec. 10, 1908-1992 France)

Stephen Smith, Ph.D.

Vater unser im Himmelreich, BWV 737
***(Our Father in Heaven)* ……. Johann Sebastian Bach**
(1685-1750 Germany)

Javoni Jackson

Hymn 105: "Theme" from *An Old Christmas Carol*
***(God Rest Ye Merry)* ……. Elizabeth Mounsey**
(1819-1905 England)

Josh Korte

Hymn 100: *Joy to the World* ……. arranged by Virgil Fox
(1912-1980 USA)

Nicholas Sutton

EPIPHANY

sudden profound insight of divine or powerful truth;
celebrated on January 6 to commemorate the revelation of Christ to Gentiles

Hymn 137: O wondrous type! O vision fair…….…William Knapp
(1698-1768)

Nicholas Sutton

"Epiphania Domini, 3. Élévation, 4. Communion"
in *L'Orgue Mystique,* Cycle de Noël, op.55 ……. Charles Tournemire
(1870-1939 France)

Brannigan du Preez

"Fanfare in D" from *École d'Orgue* (1862)…….Jacques-Nicholas Lemmens
(1823-1881 Belgium)

Lucas Wuebker

ABOUT ORGELKIDS USA (fondly dubbed"Piper")

Piper was designed in the Netherlands in 2009, built by Lambert & Fralick Organ Builders in Eugene, Oregon, and delivered to the Central Iowa American Guild of Organists (CIAGO) in September 2020 to give people the opportunity to build and play a working pipe organ. Piper is the only one in Iowa, and one of few in the midwestern USA.

ABOUT THE POSTER

Jan van Eyck (1390-1441 Belgium) - "The Ghent Altarpiece: Angels Playing Music"
https://visit.gent.be/en/heavenly-notes-and-angelic-song

PROGRAM NOTES

***Nun komm den Heiden Heiland* -** Lutheran chorale (hymn 54) with German text by Martin Luther (1483-1546) based on Latin plainsong (hymn 55) "Veni redemptor gentium" by Ambrose of Milan (c.339-c.397).

***O Come, All Ye Faithful* - a**ttributed to John Francis Wade (1711 England-1786 France).

Adeste Fidelis: "These high chords should be like distant sounds from a Sabbath horizon."-Ives

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her - Lutheran chorale on the Nativity of Jesus.

La Nativité du Seigneur is comprised of nine meditations on the birth of the eternal into earthly that Messiaen composed in 1935 in Grenoble and premiered in 1936 in Paris at Église de la Sainte Trinité, the Catholic Church where he was *organiste titulaire*.

Dr. Miriam Zach wrote the following program notes for her organ concert at the University of Florida on December 10, 1989 of the complete cycle of *La Nativité du Seigneur* offered in celebration of Olivier Messiaen's 81st birthday:

" Messiaen's preface to "The Birth of the Lord" outlines five principal theological ideas in his composition: 1) predestination realized through the incarnation of the Word (III); 2) God living among us, God suffering (IX and VII); 3) the three births of the eternal Word, the temporal Christ, and the spiritual birth of Christians" (IV, I, and V); 4) the description of various personages giving a special poetry to the festival of Christmas (VI, VIII, and II); and 5) the provision of "nine pieces in all to honor the maternity of the Holy Virgin."

Each meditation is preceded by a quotation from scripture relevant to its theological content. Compositional elements found in this cycle include Messiaen's own modes, major and minor tonalities, Indian rhythms, plainsong, numbers (e.g. three as symbolic of the Trinity), and birdsong. Experiences of time, i.e. extremely slow or fast tempos, looping, and irregular rhythms contribute to freeing the mind from the ordinary.

IV. Le Verbe ("The Word") *The Lord said to me: You are my son. From his bosom, before the dawn existed, he created me. I am the image of the goodness of God, I am the word of life, from the beginning.* (Psalms, John). In the first section a thundering falling pedal theme depicts the descent of God into the world, and a fast polyrhythmic passage combines two Indian rhythmic patterns. In the slow second section, there is constant rhythmic unpredictability within modal phrases that settle always on G. It is as if a single loop of time is rotating past the present in a process that could continue forever."

Joy to the World - Christmas carol written by the English minister and hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748). The hymn is usually sung to arrangement by the American composer Lowell Mason (1792-1872) on a tune attributed to German-British Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759).

L'Orgue Mystique: As *organiste titulaire* at Basilique Sainte-Clothilde in Paris, Tournemire created his monumental *L'Orgue Mystique* that he subtitled "51 offices de l'année liturgique inspirés du chant grégorien et librement paraphrasés." The 51 services are grouped in three cycles: Christmas, Easter, and cycle following Pentecost, and are based on Gregorian chants that he improvised from the *Liber Usualis*. Each of the offices consists of *1. Prélude à l'Introït; 2 Offertoire; 3 Élévation; 4. Communion; 5. Pièce terminale.* He created unique sonic experiences with a magnificent three-manual Cavaillé-Coll pipe organ, and wrote of "ineffability" (too great to be expressed in words). Tournemire's artistic medium was organ music to express theology, influenced by *L'Année Liturgique* by Dom Prosper Guéranger (1805-1875) Benedictine abbot of Solesmes 1837-1875, and *Le Symbolisme* (Symbolist Manifesto) that emerged in poetry published in Le Figaro in 1886 by poet Jean Moréas (1856-1910) who wrote about 'clothing the Ideal in sensible form,' i.e. using subjective symbols to represent intangible ideas rather than directly describing the external world.

- Program Notes by Dr. Miriam Zach

THANK YOU

Our families who encourage us to create; Charles and Mary Sukup of Sheffield, Iowa, for supporting the Iowa State University organ program, renovating the Brombaugh pipe organ, and helping Dr. Miriam Zach encourage growth of the next generation of organists-scholars; University of Florida School of Music Dr. David Z. Kushner, Musicologist, Professor Emeritus of Music for expert mentoring of scholarly research into music, and Willis Bodine, Professor Emeritus of Music; Jobst-Hermann Koch (Lemgo, Germany); Iowa State University Department of Music and Theatre Brad Dell, Chair; Lawrence Curry, Facility/Technical Director; and Chad Jacobsen, recording wizard; Dean C. Zenor and Patrick Thieszen, Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Lake City; St. John's Episcopal Church Rev. Tom Early, Rector, and lovely Dobson pipe organ; generous scholarships by Central Iowa American Guild of Organists, and Mark W. Fleming and Laurel L. Fleming for the Fleming Award in Organ Study, and score donations by William Staplin in honor of his father Carl B. Staplin; and many unnamed people for behind the scenes cooperative collective support and encouragement.

St. John's Episcopal Church organ scholars:
Aspen Forristall, Brannigan du Preez, Nicholas Riesen, Dr. Stephen Smith, Nicholas Sutton

Fleming Award in Organ Study scholarship awardees:
Nicholas Sutton, Lucas Wuebker, Rivers Nelson

Central Iowa American Guild of Organists (CIAGO) scholarship awardees:
Isabel Barnett, Aspen Forristall, Nicholas Sutton

2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 1:30pm, "30th International Festival of Women Composers" organized by Dr. Miriam Zach, Founder/Creative Director, ISU Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 1:30pm, ISU Organ Studio of Dr. Miriam Zach, "Sight and Sound" concert, ISU Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall

2025 Upcoming Events

Ames Piano Quartet
Saturday, December 6, 4:30 pm
Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall

ISU Theatre presents Ten-Minute Play Festival 2025
Saturday, December 6, 7:30 pm
Fisher Theater

Holiday Concerts: Choirs, Orchestra, and Concert Bands
Sunday, December 7
Choirs and Orchestra, 3:00 pm; Concert Bands, 7:00 pm
C. Y. Stephens Auditorium

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