

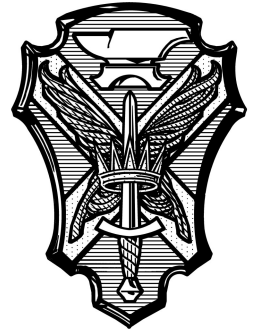
THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL

MARK W. HAYES, ORGAN

NOVEMBER 30, 2020, 4:30PM



FANTASIA & FUGUE IN G, BWV 542

J.S. BACH (1685-1750)

THREE FESTIVE TRUMPET TUNES

FRANKLIN D. ASHDOWN (B.1942)

- I. FANFARE—TRUMPET TUNE
- II. TROMPETTE DE NOËL
- III. JUBAL'S TRUMPET

SYMPHONY NR. 1, OP. 14

LOUIS VIERNE (1870-1937)

- V. ANDANTE
- VI. FINAL

ABOUT THIS EVENING'S REPERTOIRE

In 1720, J.S. Bach applied for the post of music director at St Jacob's Church in Hamburg. As part of the audition, Bach performed an organ recital lasting more than two hours. In the end, establishment politics prevented Bach from winning the job, but the level of his playing left the audience stunned. After hearing Bach's improvisations, the 97-year-old Dutch organist, Johann Adam Reinken, said, "I thought this skill had died out, but I see it lives on in you." It is believed that one of the works Bach performed on this occasion was the mighty **Fantasia and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542**. This is surely some of the most haunting and tempestuous music in all of Bach's output. The stern opening bars of the Fantasy draw us into a spine-chilling drama. Ghostly recitative lines end in flailing flourishes. Voices weave around each other like snakes (c. 1:10) amid writhing chromaticism, sharp dissonance, and unsettling harmonic instability. The fugue subject is based on an ebullient Dutch song, *Ik ben gegroet van*. After two exhilarating trips around the circle of fifths, the fugue culminates in a triumphant resolution. (NB: Bach notes by Timothy Judd)

Franklin Ashdown is a retired medical doctor and composer—dual careers he has enjoyed for over three decades. His music is widely-published, and has been featured on American Public Radio's *Pipedreams*, National Public Radio's *All Things Considered*, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's CBS broadcast, *Music and the Spoken Word*. Dr. Ashdown resides in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and enjoys a full life as an internist, composer, and organist-choir director for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The **Three Festive Trumpet Tunes** are short, contrasting pieces featuring the reed colors of the organ. The middle piece, *Trompette de Noel*, actually features the cornet stop on the organ. Although it does not incorporate any familiar tune we associate with the Christmas season, it evokes a feeling of the Nativity through the slow, rocking rhythm, and a lyric melody.

(continued on next page)

French organist, composer, and recitalist Louis Vierne was organist at Notre-Dame in Paris from 1900 until his death in 1937. He was a student of the French composer-organists César Franck and Charle-Marie Widor. On the program today, you will hear two movements of Vierne's **Symphony No. 1 for Organ**, which is one of six he composed. This work was premiered in 1899, encompassing six movements. Movement V (*Andante*) is quiet and contemplative, featuring the string stops, solo flute stops, and the foundations of the instrument. Movement VI (*Final*) is often performed as a solo piece, and is recognizable to many, due to its popularity. From beginning to end, it is loud, non-stop motion and excitement, often showcasing the melody in the pedal.

THE FINAL STRETCH OF OUR ORGAN PROJECT...PLEASE READ!

This is our last year of recitals on the Möller pipe organ, to which we will bid a fond farewell in January 2021. As has been mentioned over the past decade, the current organ has rapidly decayed under the triple burdens of crumpling pipe metal, deteriorating action, and poor layout. After years of consultation with architects, organbuilders, organists around the world, and with the blessing of Bishop Robert J. Baker, in 2019 the Cathedral signed a contract for Opus 164 of the Noack Organ Company, a three-manual instrument of 75 ranks of pipes, to be named the **Anna Catharine Grace Memorial Pipe Organ**. This organ will reuse a number of pipes from the previous Moller instrument, integrating them into an eclectic instrument of French Classical and Symphonic influences well-suited to the Cathedral's fine acoustic and the strengths of our music apostolate. It will be an instrument equally at home in the liturgy as it is in concert; one that preserves (and enriches) many of the heroic aspects of the Moller instrument while substantially increasing quieter options for accompaniment of singers and choir. The Noack organ will be installed by installed in April 2021 and should be fully playable by late August 2021. **While Mrs. Grace's gift has secured just over 60% of the total cost of the project (removing the present organ, making the necessary structural and HVAC preparations for the new instrument, and building the Noack organ), donations are still urgently needed to cover the remaining portion of the contract price and related contracting needs. Updated figures of the current financial need for this project may be found on the front page of the Cathedral website, www.stpaulsbhm.org.** For more information, please visit the Noack organ's website (www.stpaulsbhm.org/pipe-organ-project/new-organ) or contact the Director of Music, Mr. Bruce Ludwick, Jr., at Ludwick@stpaulsbhm.org or (205) 251-1279 x107. A donation to a project such as this is a perfect way to give glory to God and pay tribute to a loved one, helping their memory "sing on" for years to come.

