

Atlanta's Finest Organists in Recital
Hosted by Alan Morrison
3.1.25

Program

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Pre-Concert Talk Hosted by Alan Morrison
2:15 pm | Spivey Hall

Flourish for an Occasion

William H. Harris
(1883-1973)

Elegiac Romance

John Ireland
(1879-1962)

Rhapsody No. 3, Opus 17

Herbert Howells
(1892-1983)

Oliver Brett

Prelude in D Minor from Op. 37

Felix Mendelssohn
(1809-1847)

The Rev'd Mustard His Installation Prelude

Nico Muhly
(b. 1981)

Choral dorien

Jehan Alain
(1911-1940)

Voices of the World

Iain Farrington
(b. 1977)

Käthe Wright Kaufman

Intermission

Fanfare for the Common Man
(Transcribed by Will Buthod)

Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

Star Wars Suite
(Transcribed by Will Buthod)

John Williams
(b. 1932)

Will Buthod

Refractions

Will Buthod
(b. 1981)

Will Buthod and Käthe Wright Kaufman

Litanies, Op. 79, no.3

Jehan Alain

“When the Christian soul no longer finds new words in its distress to implore God’s mercy, it repeats ceaselessly and with a vehement faith the same invocation. Reason has reached its limit. Alone, faith continues its ascent.”

Wade in the Water

Adolphus Hailstork
(b. 1941)

Solemn Prelude on a Theme of Thomas Tallis

Gerald Near
(b. 1942)

Toccata, Opus 7, no. 3

Augustin Barié
(1883-1915)

Joyce Johnson

Spivey Hall Friends Sponsor

Janet Love

Today’s host, Alan Morrison, holds The McGehee Family
Organist Residency at Spivey Hall

About the Artists

(Alan Photo)

Alan Morrison

Alan Morrison is recognized as one of America’s premier concert organists. His performances across North America, South America, Europe, and Russia have garnered enthusiastic praise for his quality programming, colorful use of the organ, and interpretive integrity. Honored by the Philadelphia Chapter of The American Guild of Organists with the Distinguished Achievement Award, Morrison has been recognized for his teaching and his

career. He has appeared in concert with ensembles such as Chanticleer, Empire Brass, Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass, and the U.S. Army Chorus, as well as orchestras throughout the U.S., performing concertos by composers including Jongen, Poulenc, Paulus, Barber, Sessler, Handel, Chilcott, and others. Morrison is a regular performer at Philadelphia's Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center, both as a soloist and concerto soloist, collaborating with choral and brass groups and The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Collaboration is central to Morrison's career. For over a decade, he toured with his mother, pianist Jeannine Morrison, performing major works and transcriptions for piano and organ. The duo was featured at the 2006 National AGO Convention in Chicago and recorded *Festive Duo* at Spivey Hall. In Philadelphia, he has worked with prominent choral ensembles, including Choral Arts Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Singers, Mendelssohn Club, and Singing City; he appeared with the Dolce Suono Ensemble as a harpsichordist and organist. As a pianist, Morrison has been featured as a concerto soloist, performing works like Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, Gershwin's Concerto in F, Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, and Gillingham's Concerto for Piano and Percussion Orchestra. He has appeared in TV episodes of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, and he played at Fred Rogers' memorial service at Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh, where other guests included Yo-Yo Ma, Hilary Hahn, and Isaac Stern.

Morrison is a founding member of The Orlando Chambers Soloists, which has received awards from Chamber Music America and the National Endowment for the Arts. He has partnered with renowned cellist Andrés Díaz at the Brevard Music Festival and Spivey Hall, performing major works by Rachmaninoff, Martinu, Lutoslawski, and Debussy. Recent collaborations include performances with soprano Karen Slack, principal trumpet Christopher Martin (NY Phil), principal flutist Christina Smith, concertmaster David Coucheron (Atlanta Symphony Orchestra), and pianists Min Kwon and Michelle Cann. A champion of American composers, Morrison has premiered works by William Bolcom, Adolphus Hailstork, Rachel Laurin, David Conte, Dan Locklair, Emily Maxson-Porter, Mary Beth Bennett, Eric Sessler, Kyle Smith, Jon Spong, Brent Weaver, Daniel Crozier, and others, including the American premiere of *Dances for Organ and Orchestra* by Bob Chilcott. His CD *American Voyage* features an all-American program with works by Creston, King, Crozier, Locklair, Stover, and Sessler.

Morrison has performed at five AGO conventions (Atlanta '92, New York City '96, Philadelphia '02, Chicago '06, and Atlanta '20 as the Saint Cecilia Recitalist/Artist) and numerous regional conventions. In 2002, he was appointed head of the organ department at the Curtis Institute of Music, where he holds the Haas Charitable Trust Chair in Organ Studies. He has served as College Organist at Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA, since 1995, and as Organist-in-Residence at Spivey Hall, where he holds the McGehee Family Organist Residency.

A graduate of both the Curtis Institute of Music (BMus in Organ and MMus in Piano Accompanying) and the Juilliard School of Music (Professional Studies in Organ), Morrison studied with Sarah Martin, Cherry Rhodes, and John Weaver (organ), and Robert Harvey, Vladimir Sokoloff, and Susan Starr (piano).

Alan Morrison is managed exclusively by Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc. (Cleveland).



Joyce Johnson

Joyce Finch Johnson, AAGO, is a professor emerita of music and former college organist at Spelman College, where she served as chair of the Department of Music from 1989–1994 and again from 1995–2001. Her musical journey began with early training from her mother, followed by piano studies with William Duncan Allen at Fisk University, Beryl Rubinstein at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Jose Echaniz at the Eastman School of Music. She further honed her skills under Louis Crowder and Gui Mombaerts at Northwestern University, where she earned both a Master of Music degree and a Doctor of Music in Piano Performance. She studied organ with Richard Enright and Karel Paukert at Northwestern and David Craighead at Eastman. In 1989, she became an Associate of the American Guild of Organists (AAGO) through a rigorous certification examination.

An accomplished performer, Joyce Johnson gives solo piano and solo organ recitals, conducts workshops, performs with chamber music groups, and collaborates with distinguished artists. She has concertized in Haiti, the West Indies, and Brazil, where she performed piano concerts in São Paulo as part of an international music festival. She was also an Artist-in-Residence at the Pernambuco Conservatory of Music in Recife, Brazil, and performed piano concerts throughout South America. Johnson is recognized as a “pianist extraordinaire,” with audiences praising her for her formidable technique, sensitivity in playing emotional, lyrical melodies, warmth and richness of tone, and impeccable musicianship. Her playing exhibits self-assurance and authoritative control. In recognition of her artistry, she was elected to The International Roster of Steinway Artists.

A child prodigy, Johnson gave her first concert at the age of eleven. Following her college years, her performance opportunities grew to include chamber music, collaborations with distinguished artists, and guest solo appearances with symphony orchestras. She debuted with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in the Atlanta premiere of John La Montaine’s Pulitzer-Prize-winning *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*. She has performed concertos by Franck, Liszt, Mozart, Beethoven, and Rubinstein with renowned conductors such as Robert Shaw, Louis Lane, Christian Badea, Michael Palmer, and Andre Raphael Smith. Her extensive performance repertoire includes works by 20th-century composers like Elliott Carter and Leon Kirchner, Ravel’s *Gaspard de la Nuit*, and the Liszt sonatas.

As an organist, Johnson was the chosen performer for the nationally televised Communion Service reuniting the Northern and Southern Presbyterian churches at the 195th General Assembly in Atlanta, attended by 12,000 people. She later served as the Assembly Organist for the Quadrennial Ecumenical Assembly of 4,000 Church Women United at Purdue University and was invited back for the Faith Works convention, a United Church of Christ event of nearly 4,000 people. Additionally, she served as organist for the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Ecumenical Service at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.



Will Buthod

<https://www.holytrinitydecatour.org/newpage> (website only)

Will Buthod is a pianist, organist, composer, and conductor with 29 years of experience in church ministry. Known for his versatility, Buthod seamlessly blends a range of musical styles, from gospel to salsa and bluegrass, and is in demand across multiple musical genres. He has served congregations in New York, Paris, Phoenix, Atlanta, Oklahoma, and New Jersey.

As a performer, Buthod has earned numerous accolades, including victories in the Albert Schweitzer National Organ Competition, the Tulsa Young Artist Competition, and the Charlotte Bagnall Scholarship for Church Musicians. He has performed or recorded with esteemed artists such as Jimmy Heath, Denyce Graves, Martina Arroyo, Ben Vereen, Jay-Z, Fat Joe, Alicia Keys, Swizz Beatz, Mashonda, Maiysha, Autumn Rowe, Nolan Williams, James Abbingtion, Roland Carter, and André Thomas. Buthod recorded a live album with Grammy®-nominated artist Maiysha at the Blue Note jazz club in New York City. In Paris, he served as pianist for the American Ambassador and was Organist/Assistant Choir Director at the American Cathedral, while also co-founding a touring gospel group.

Buthod's extensive gospel music background led to his role as pianist for the Harlem Gospel Choir, where he played for renowned preachers such as Al Sharpton, Timothy Wright, James A. Forbes Jr., Johnny Ray Youngblood, and Albert Jamison, Jr. As a composer, he has written over 300 works, ranging from classical trios to R&B tunes. His

deep understanding of sacred music and its history has made him a sought-after clinician and speaker.

In addition to his role as Minister of Music at Holy Trinity, Buthod is on the faculty at Candler School of Theology (Emory University), where he serves as Director of the gospel choir, **Candler Voices of Imani**, and is a frequent guest lecturer in the Episcopal and Anglican Studies Program. He is also the founder and co-director of **Voices Found**; a community choir focused on social justice. He has served as Music Director for the North Georgia Annual United Methodist Conference for five years.

Buthod earned his Master of Arts in Music from Hunter College (New York), specializing in organ and composition. He has also studied at Brooklyn College, the Paris Conservatory (CNR), and Westminster Choir College.



Oliver Brett

Oliver Brett, born in Kent, UK, in 1985, is an accomplished organist and music educator. He was a music and academic scholar at Tonbridge School and later became an organ scholar at King's College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 2007 with a degree in music. Following his studies, Oliver held positions at Westminster Cathedral, Durham Cathedral, and St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.

In 2021, he earned his Doctorate from the Eastman School of Music, studying under David Higgs. Between 2019 and 2024, Oliver served as associate organist and choirmaster at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta, where he also founded the Peachtree Road Music Academy.

Oliver's organ and harpsichord studies have been with renowned teachers including Sarah Baldock, Thomas Trotter, David Sanger, David Briggs, Dame Gillian Weir, David Higgs, Edoardo Bellotti, and William Porter. His achievements include receiving second prize and the Royal Canadian College of Organists' Prize at the Canadian International Organ

Competition in October 2017. In 2019, he was also a prize winner at the Tariverdiev International Organ Competition in Kaliningrad, Russia.

Oliver is currently the Director of Music at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church in Tulsa, OK.

“Brett, a real gem for the city, made Peachtree Road’s Great Organ sing and thunder and speak with depth, touching on real profundity.”

– *Pierre Ruhe, Arts Atlanta*



Käthe Wright Kaufman

Käthe Wright Kaufman is the Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts at Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church and Chapel Organist at the Candler School of Theology, both located on the campus of Emory University in Atlanta, GA. In April, she will transition to Columbia, SC, to serve as the Associate Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.

Previously, Käthe was the Organ Scholar at Peterborough Cathedral (2019-2020). She completed her Master’s degree at the Eastman School of Music, where she studied under David Higgs, following her Bachelor of Music in 2016. During her time at Eastman, she also studied organ with William Porter and Edoardo Bellotti. Between her degrees, Käthe spent a gap year in Truro, UK, as the Organ Scholar at Truro Cathedral (2016-2017).

Käthe is both a passionate church musician and an active recitalist. She has performed on the radio program *Pipedreams Live!* and has played in venues across the United States and the UK. Her numerous awards include the Gerald Barnes Award for Excellence in Pipe

Organ (2013), the inaugural VanDelinder Prizes in Liturgical Organ Skills (2014 & 2015), and first place at the West Chester University International Organ Competition (2015). Käthe is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists and a published composer with Selah Publishing Company.