

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

SERIES CONCERT
Virtuoso

JOEL BACON | ORGAN

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, FORT COLLINS

JANUARY 22, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten, BWV 691

Prelude and Fugue in A Major, BWV 536

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685–1750)

Sonata in A minor, K. 310

Allegro maestoso
Andante cantabile con espressione
Presto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756–1791)

The Burning Bush

Herman Berlinski

(1910–2001)

Three Psalm-Preludes, Set 1, op. 32

Herbert Howells

(1892–1983)

Ps 34:6 “This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.”

Ps 37:11 “But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.”

Ps 23:4 “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

Toccata (2019)

James MacMillan

(b. 1959)

JOEL BACON is the Stewart and Sheron Golden Chair of Organ and Liturgical Studies and the Fr. Don Willette Chair of Catholic Studies at Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

As a concert organist, his recent performances have focused on music by W. A. Mozart, Herman Berlinski, and Petr Eben, as well as works for organ and orchestra. His teaching and research are centered on topics related to Catholicism and the creative arts, especially Gregorian chant.

He has performed throughout Europe and North America, and his performances have been broadcast on Austrian Radio and Public Radio International. He has played with numerous orchestras and chamber groups, including the Borromeo String Quartet and the Canadian Brass.

He directs and teaches an annual summer course for young organists (CSU Organ Week) and has directed many Pipe Organ Encounters of the American Guild of Organists. He has taught at the Oundle International Festival (Cambridge, UK), at organ courses of the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna, and at numerous other courses in the US and Canada. He has been a juror for regional and national competitions of the American Guild of Organists.

He earned a Ph.D. in historical musicology through a joint degree program of Vienna’s University of Music and Performing Arts and the University of Vienna, with a dissertation on the use of the organ in orchestral music. In his work as a musicologist, he has lectured widely on topics related to the organ and liturgical music. Most recently, he has researched the composer Herman Berlinski (1910–2001), whose organ concerto, “The Tetragrammaton,” he performed in a world premiere in Munich in 2019.

From 2008 to 2020 he conducted the St. John XXIII Schola Cantorum, a choir specializing in Gregorian chant. He is currently organist and artist in residence at First United Methodist Church, Fort Collins.