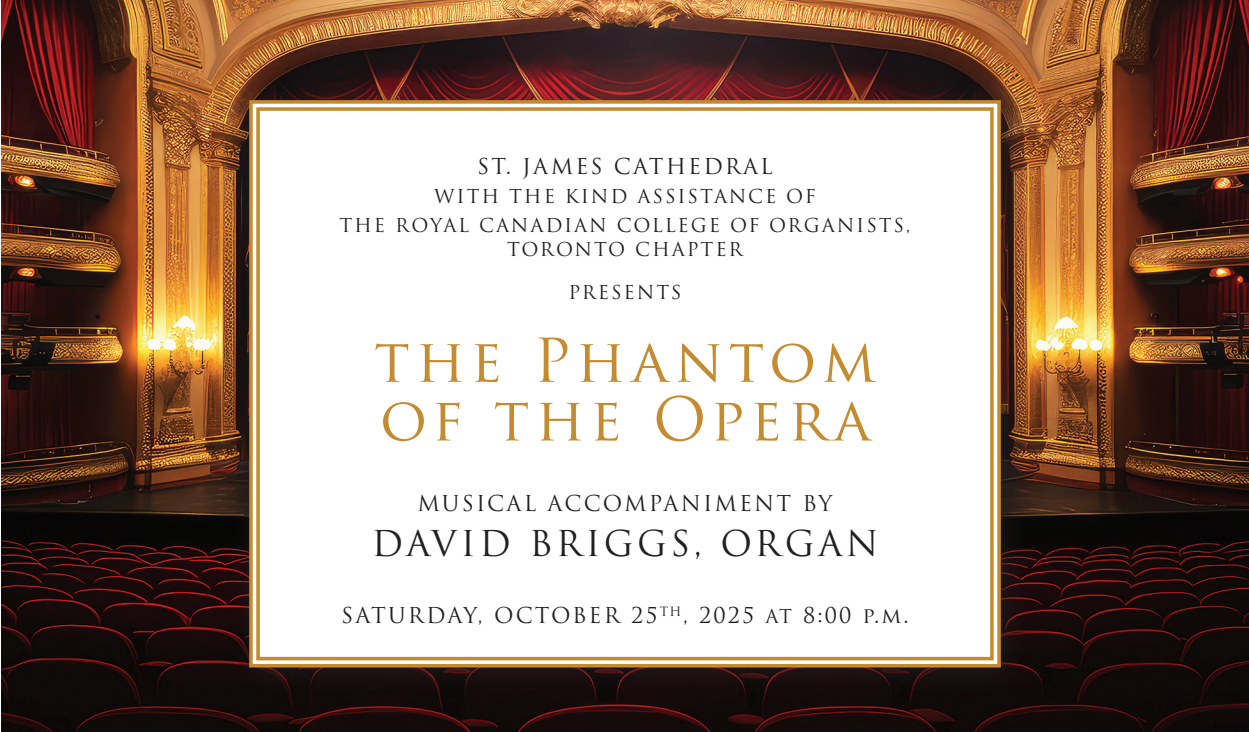




ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL
WITH THE KIND ASSISTANCE OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS,
TORONTO CHAPTER

PRESENTS

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT BY
DAVID BRIGGS, ORGAN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH, 2025 AT 8:00 P.M.

DAVID BRIGGS

*IMPROVISE (verb, transitive): To compose (verse, music, etc.) on the spur of the moment;
to utter or perform extempore.*

David Briggs is among the most important British exponents of the art of improvisation to have lived, his legendary skill not only delighting audiences the world over but inspiring the rising generation of organists to pursue the art seriously.

The ability to sustain improvisation for anything up to two hours for a film accompaniment is something else again. In fact, live musical accompaniment was the norm in the early days of cinema, and the tradition never died out completely, but David Briggs is unique in the extent to which he has made a go of it in our times. Thanks to him, events such as tonight's have become very popular, not least because they are something a bit different, and also because they are definitely not just for organ aficionados.

David's film repertoire is large and growing – he has played accompaniment to dozens of films including Lang's *Metropolis*, Hitchcock's *The Lodger* and shorts by Chaplain and Keaton. For all this, he also remains a repertoire recitalist of the front rank and a highly prolific composer.

THE ORIGINAL PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

The silent film version of *The Phantom of the Opera*, directed by Rupert Julian, is a classic adaptation of Gaston Leroux's novel *Le Fantôme de l'Opéra*.

The film stars Lon Chaney in the title role as the masked and facially deformed 'phantom' who haunts the Paris Opera House, causing murder and mayhem in an attempt to force the management to make the woman he loves a star. It is most famous for Lon Chaney's intentionally horrific, self-applied make-up, which was kept a studio secret until the film's premier.

The film also features Mary Philbin, Norman Kerry, Arthur Edmund Carewe, Gibson Gowland, John St. Polis and Snitz Edwards. The only surviving case member is Carla Laemmle (born 1909), niece of producer Carl Laemmle, who played a small role as prima ballerina in the film when she was about 15.

The movie was adapted by Elliott J. Clawson, Frank M. McCormack (uncredited), Tom Reed (titles) and Raymond L. Schrock. It was directed by Rupert Julian, with supplemental direction by Edward Sedgwick, and Lon Chaney (unconfirmed). - *Jonathan Lilley, Ely Cathedral, UK, used with permission*

ORGAN MUSIC AT THE CATHEDRAL

TOMORROW'S RECITAL

Sunday October 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. | David Briggs (*St. John's Cathedral, New York*)

To be followed by Choral Evensong at 4:30 p.m., with music by C.V. Stanford, Bernard Rose, and David Briggs

UPCOMING TUESDAY RECITALS

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. | Jennifer Goodine (*St. Luke's, Burlington*)

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. | Michael Capon (*Kingston*)

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. | Ian Sadler (*Stratford, Ontario*)

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. | Imre Olah (*Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church*)

Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. | Peter Nikiforuk (*Kitchener*)

Tuesdays take place throughout the year. All recitals are livestreamed.

CATHEDRAL MUSIC OPEN HOUSE ON ST. CECILIA'S DAY

Saturday, November 22, 2025

Celebrate this special day and the gift of music with us! You are invited to join our choirs for an open rehearsal, or to listen to organ recitals and performances from our musicians.

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Children's Community Choir Open Rehearsal (*open to children aged 8-16*)

10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Organ Recital by Cathedral organists Thomas Bell, J.P. Feo, and Joshua Duncan Lee

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Cathedral Choir Open Rehearsal and Performance

12:15 p.m.

St. Cecilia's Day Eucharist with Musicians from the Cathedral Choir

For all enquiries about Music at St. James Cathedral, including singing in one of our choirs please contact Thomas Bell, Director of Music: tbell@stjamescathedral.ca.

MESSIAEN'S "NATIVITÉ"

Friday, December 19, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

with organist Rashaan Allwood

La Nativité du Seigneur is of the most startlingly original works ever created for the organ. Olivier Messiaen, a deeply devout musician, conceived a series of nine musical tableaux which reflect not only upon the actual events of the nativity – the shepherds, the wise men – but the profound implications of these events for us today. The organ portrays the story in music which ranges from quiet, timeless introspection to shattering excitement. Biblical readings and poems by George Herbert, W. H. Auden, Malcolm Guite, Tennyson, and others will intersperse the musical reflections. Admission by donation.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY CHOIR

Know a child who loves to sing? We're inviting all children ages 8-16 who love music and singing to join our free Children's Community Choir. The focus is on choral music, singing techniques, and musical literacy. Rehearsals are on Saturdays 9:30am-10:30am in the Cathedral Centre. For more information, please contact: Cara Halpin, Children's Community Choir Director chalpin@stjamescathedral.ca.

G.F. HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

Back by popular demand and a cherished tradition of the season, St. James Cathedral is delighted to present once again Handel's *Messiah* — a timeless masterpiece that has captivated our hearts for centuries. Featuring the talented Choirs of St. James Cathedral and Trinity College U of T, along with the Orchestra of St. James Cathedral and four outstanding soloists, this much-loved performance returns to uplift and inspire during the Christmas season! From the opening notes of the overture to the final chords, this masterpiece captures our hearts and imaginations. We look forward to your good company as we journey together from the warmth of the opening "Comfort Ye," through the majestic "Hallelujah" Chorus, to the triumphant "Amen." Experience an unforgettable evening of soaring choruses and sublime solos in this true highlight of the season. Don't miss this stunning performance of Handel's timeless masterpiece, *Messiah*. It will be a night to remember! - *Thomas Bell*

PERFORMERS:

Maeve Palmer, *Soprano* | Hillary Tufford, *Mezzo-soprano* | Bud Roach, *Tenor* | Clarence Frazer, *Baritone*
Thomas Bell, *Conductor*

TICKETS:

Note: Last year's performance sold out. We strongly encourage you to purchase tickets in good time.

- Early Bird: \$40 each (*until November 1, 2025*)
- Regular: \$45 each (*from November 2, 2025*)

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE:



- Eventbrite.ca
(*Search for: St. James Cathedral Toronto*)
- Further information:
stjamescathedral.ca/messiah2025
info@stjamescathedral.ca
416-364-7865

PATRON PACKAGES:

- \$300 Patron Package: 2 tickets, reserved seating, names in the program, wine and cheese reception (6:00pm-7:00pm) before the concert, and a charitable tax receipt of \$250 will be issued in January.
- \$150 Patron Package: 1 ticket, reserved seating, name in the program, wine and cheese reception (6:00pm-7:00pm) before the concert, and a charitable tax receipt of \$125 will be issued in January.

To become a Patron, please contact bookkeeper@stjamescathedral.ca or call 416-364-7865x258

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

OUR THANKS

We are most grateful to the Royal Canadian College of Organists (Toronto Chapter) for their support of this concert. The RCCO is the national voice for the organ and its music in Canada. It supports and promotes the organ music community through learning opportunities, professional certification, communications and advocacy. Everyone is welcome in the RCCO community from beginner to professional organists, composers, organ builders and organ music fans. For further information: 416-929-6400; info@rcco.ca.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations – the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty, we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.



The Cathedral Church of St. James
DIOCESE OF TORONTO
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA