

MUSICAL PRAYER

DAN WILLIAMS

oboe & English horn

JOSEPH ADAM

organ

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern, BuxWV 223

Dieterich Buxtehude
(1637–1707)

“A major precursor of Bach,” both in his organ music and his cantatas, Dieterich Buxtehude was born a Dane and died a German, after having done significant work on the borders of three countries: Denmark, Sweden, and Germany. His most significant position was as Organist of the Marienkirche (St. Mary’s Church) in Lübeck, an important Hanseatic port city in northern Germany. The structure of the chorale fantasia on the Epiphany chorale “How brightly beams the morning star” is without parallel in the organ repertoire of the seventeenth century. In the first part the whole melody is developed in contrasting sections along with dramatic shifts in the musical affects. In the second part the whole melody is set forth again in the form of a concertante fugue with manual changes throughout. This setting offers an unusual opportunity for the use of some of most beautiful stops on the Rosales organ.

Sonata in A Minor, TWV 41:a3

Georg Philipp Telemann
(1681–1767)

Siciliana
Spiritoso
Andante
Vivace

Telemann’s three surviving autobiographical works all help us to understand a little more clearly the unusual origins of a German composer who was more famous in his day than Johann Sebastian Bach. Born in Magdeburg, he initially studied law at the University of Leipzig, but soon turned to music as a profession. He was remarkably successful, despite being almost entirely self-taught. From 1721 until his death, he directed the music at the main churches in Hamburg. He was an enormously prolific composer, even in terms of his own day. His complete work-list is vast and covers every musical genre.

Tre Choralforspil
Af Høiheden oprunden er

Niels Gade
(1822–1890)

The Danish composer Niels Gade is perhaps best known (if at all outside of Scandinavia) as the collaborator of Mendelssohn as conductor of the Leipzig Gewandhaus orchestra. After his return to Denmark in 1848, he became the leading figure in the musical life in Copenhagen, where he directed the Musical Society's concerts from 1850, and later become one of the founders of the Royal Conservatory of Music. For about forty years Gade held the position of organist, first at the Garnisons Church, and from 1858 until his death, at the venerable Holmens Church. He composed only a few works for organ, including this setting of the great Epiphany hymn "How brightly beams the morning star" in 1852.

Partita, Op. 41
Liberamente - Allegro
Larghetto
Vivace
Largo
Andante sostenuto

Jan Koetsier
(1903–1986)

Jan Koetsier was born in Amsterdam in 1911 and did his musical studies in Berlin. As an "undesirable alien," he returned to his native country in 1940, where he became artistic director of a chamber opera company in The Hague and conductor of the Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam. In 1950 he assumed the same position with the Bavarian Radio Orchestra in Munich. As a composer, he wrote in a relaxed neo-classical style, producing primarily chamber music, orchestral, and choral works; his works for wind instruments have become a particularly important part of the repertoire. This *Partita* dates from 1954; based on the chorale *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*, the first four movements utilize the choral as basic melodic material, though fairly well-disguised; the final movement assigns the unadorned choral to the English horn.



DAN WILLIAMS is one of Seattle's most sought-after performers, as soloist, orchestral musician, teacher and recording artist. He is principal oboist of the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra, and has also served as principal oboist of the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. He held the same positions in the Harrisburg (PA) and Binghamton (NY) Symphonies. He has also played principal oboe with the Seattle Symphony and the Seattle Opera. Of his 1996 performance of Bach's Double Concerto with Joseph Silverstein and the Northwest Chamber Orchestra, the Seattle Times reported that "oboiist Dan Williams poured out waves of beautiful tone with considerable musicality." In a 1999 review of the Vaughan Williams Oboe concerto, the Bellingham Herald described Williams as "a consummate player, in easy command of those subtle shades of color and phrase that can let the oboe approach the expressive range of the human voice. It was a performance to melt your heart." Mr. Williams currently teaches oboe at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, and has served on the faculties of Western Washington University and the

University of Washington School of Music. A native of Seattle, he received his musical training at the Juilliard School of Music and at Western Washington University, where he was voted most Outstanding Graduate by the music faculty.

JOSEPH ADAM was first appointed Cathedral Organist at St. James Cathedral in 1993, and was named Director of Music in 2018. A dedicated educator, for twenty years he taught organ and harpsichord as a faculty member at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. Continuing this work, he was named Artist in Residence in Organ at the University of Washington in the Fall of 2019. As Resident Organist of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra since 2003, he performs regularly as a member of the keyboard section of the orchestra, as well as frequent solo recitals. His playing received international attention when he was awarded the First Prize in the St. Albans International Organ Competition in 1991, one of the most prestigious organ competitions in the world. His subsequent performances have included recitals in notable venues throughout Europe and America. Joseph Adam holds a BM and MFA in piano performance from The University of Iowa, the Performer's Certificate in Organ from the Eastman School of Music, and is a Candidate for the DMA in Organ Performance at the University of Washington. He concertizes as a member of the Windwerk Artists cooperative.

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