

MUSICAL PRAYER

JOSEPH ADAM

St. James Cathedral Director of Music & Cathedral Organist

Resident Organist, Seattle Symphony

Artist in Residence in Organ, University of Washington School of Music

Tonight's Musical Prayer is presented in memory of

Daniel James Jinguji

(1956–2021)

longtime Cathedral Cantor, Chorister, and Catechist.

Psalm-Prelude No. 1, op. 32

Herbert Howells

This poor soul cried out, and was heard by the Lord,
and was rescued from every trouble. (Ps. 34:6)

1892–1983

It has been written of Herbert Howells that “he is more widely respected than performed.” While this may be true of his orchestral and chamber music, it is certainly not true of his organ and choral works, which form a cornerstone of the 20th-century English repertoire. The first of the first set of Psalm-Preludes was written in 1915, early in Howell’s output. In his music he often cultivated splendor combined with a sense of nostalgia, even resignation and despair. Among Howell’s self-confessed influences were plainsong, Gregorian modes, folk song, his friendship with Ralph Vaughan Williams, and a feeling of oneness with the Tudor period.

Viatore (2002)

Pēteris Vasks

b. 1942

Pēteris Vasks was born the son of a minister in Azipute, Latvia, in 1946. He attended the Riga Music School and the Lithuanian College of Music in Vilnius where he studied double bass. He later studied composition with Valntius Utkins at the Latvian College of Music in Riga. From 1963 until 1974, Vasks was a member of various symphony and chamber orchestras in the Baltic nations. During his studies, Vasks took an interest in both early and contemporary music, as well as traditional and folk elements of Latvian music, all of which have influenced his own compositions. *Viatore* (Italian for “traveler” or “wanderer”) tells the story of a wanderer who arrives in this world, grows up in it, develops, falls in love, fills himself up, and then departs. The journey is illuminated by the endless, starry universe. This composition is in one movement, but is made up of two sound images. The theme of the traveler is subject

to growth and development; however, the theme of eternity does not change and is always played very softly. *Viatores* is dedicated to the great Estonian composer Arvo Pärt, an especial inspiration for Vasks.

Preludium and Fugue in C Major, BWV 547

Johann Sebastian Bach
1685–1750

Bach's *Preludium and Fugue in C Major* is one of his most mature works, displaying a complete mastery of counterpoint and balance of form, as well as the ability to make the most of the simplest of material. The broadly laid-out prelude has an unusual 9/8 meter, a high motivic density, and a strikingly catchy melody based on a simple major scale and a downward fanfare-like arpeggio. It is followed by a fugue that is exceptionally strict in design as it is sensual in sound; in keeping with the "minimalistic" approach of the prelude, the fugue is based on one of Bach's most concise subjects, only one measure in length. Again, Bach makes the most of a simple subject, developing it in its original form as well as inversion; towards the end, the subject is introduced in augmented note values in the pedal and resolutely exposed in all voices. A dramatic deceptive cadence heightens the drama at the close.

JOSEPH ADAM was first appointed Cathedral Organist at St. James Cathedral in 1993, and was named Director of Music in 2018. There he leads a program that includes three adult choirs and three youth choirs that provides music for nearly 600 services annually, as well as an extensive concert series that presents a wide range of choral and organ programs.

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 2019. As Resident Organist of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra since 2003, he has performed regularly in the keyboard section of the orchestra, undertaking organ, harpsichord, piano and celesta parts, as well as annual 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. During the coming year, he will be a part of a series of recitals at St. James Cathedral that will present performances of the complete organ works of Louis Vierne in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. His performances last season included recitals at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle, St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha, and Stanford University. He also gave performances of the Poulenc Concerto and Respighi Suite for Organ and Strings with the North Carolina Symphony at the new Cathedral of the Holy Name of Jesus in Raleigh.

Joseph Adam was educated at The University of Iowa, the Eastman School of Music, and the University of Washington, and concertizes as a member of the Windwerk Artists cooperative.

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