

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

Méditation

Gabriel Dupont
1878–1914

Dupont was born in Caen; his father was a secondary school teacher and organist. Dupont began his studies at the Paris Conservatoire at the age of fifteen, where he studied composition with Charles-Marie Widor and Massenet, and entered Alexandre Guilmant's organ class in 1895. In 1901, while in military service, Dupont won Second Prize in the *Prix de Rome* (behind the winner André Caplet, but ahead of the third-place winner, Maurice Ravel). Only a few years later, tuberculosis would afflict Dupont, curtailing his professional prospects in every field except composition, and eventually claiming his life. The *Méditation* was published in 1899 in a series entitled *L'Orgue moderne*, a periodical publication founded by Widor and Guilmant which published the early works of their most accomplished students, among them Charles Tournemire, Louis Vierne, and, fortunately for us, Gabriel Dupont.

Sonata No. 1 in D Minor, op. 42 (1874)

Alexandre Guilmant
1837–1911

Introduction et Allegro

Pastorale

Final

Alexandre Guilmant was born into a family of organists, teachers, and instrument makers. Destined to a life as an organist like his father, Guilmant was appointed to his first position at the age of sixteen. Later studies with Jacques Lemmens in Brussels acquainted him with the more disciplined approach to organ technique adopted from German traditions. In 1871 he relocated to Paris, where he was appointed organist at the Church of Sainte-Trinité, and subsequently professor of organ at the Paris Conservatoire. Guilmant interspersed this with a myriad of other activities including composition, publishing, editing and organ recitals. He undertook extensive recital tours throughout Europe and Russia, capped by a landmark tour to the United States in 1904, where he was engaged at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis for a series of forty recitals, each with a completely different program with no single composition repeated.

The Sonata No. 1 in D Minor dates from 1874, shortly after Guilmant's move to Paris. The opening movement consists of a large sonata form with an introduction reminiscent of the grand tradition of the French overture. The main theme is introduced in the pedals, with further development in the most traditional manner. Amongst all his French contemporaries, Guilmant was the strictest in terms of the formal organization of his larger compositions, adapting with the principles of the German symphonic tradition to the new French style developing at the close of the 19th century. The second movement is a gentle Pastorale in musette form for the oboe and clarinet, which alternates with a chorale played on the Voix humaine. This particular piece has a long association with St. James Cathedral, as it was performed on the dedicatory recital on the new Hutchings-Votey organ on December 15, 1907, one week before the dedication of the completed cathedral. The closing Final is perhaps Guilmant's finest composition, a toccata of immense vigor. A contrasting central chorale is framed by an energetic whirlwind of activity, culminating in a final triumphant statement of the chorale for full organ.

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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