Organ Recital

St. Stephen’s on the Green

12:15 PM Thursday March 3, 2016

George Matthew Jr., organist

1. Chaconne in e minor Dietrich Buxtehude

(1637 – 1707)

1. Chaconne en homage à Buxtehude Thierry Levaux, 1995

b. 1959

1. Fugue sur l’ Ite Missa est de la messe Cum Jubilo Jean Baptiste Lemoine, 1938

(1901 - 1958)

1. Variations on an Old Chorale from Dalarna Oskar Lindberg, 1934

(1887 – 1955)

1. Toccata from Sonata for Organ Philip Hammond, 1983

(b. 1951)

George Matthew, Jr.

Organist and Carillonneur

George Matthew, Jr. has been carillonneur of Middlebury College and Norwich University in Vermont since 1986. A church organist since the age of 13, he is currently organist at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church of Middlebury, Vermont and of All Souls Interfaith Gathering in Shelburne. From 2006 to 2007 he was interim organist at First Baptist Church, Burlington. From 2007 until 2011 he was Minister of Music at First United Methodist Church, Burlington.

Until his retirement from teaching music in public school in 1998, Mr. Matthew was carillonneur of the First Presbyterian Church, organist and choir master of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and associate organist of St. Mauricius Roman Catholic Church, all in Stamford, CT. For 18 years, he served as organist and choir master of Temple Sinai and for 23 years as Director of Instrumental Music at Rogers School, both in Stamford.

Mr. Matthew has made 36 carillon concert tours of the USA and 13 of Europe, performing in Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, France, England, Ireland, Scotland, and Russia. In August 2005, he played two carillon concerts on the new carillon of St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral, in St. Petersburg, Russia. Mr. Matthew is the first American to play carillon in Russia.

He has played organ recitals in the New York and New England area, as well as in Germany and the Netherlands. In recent years, he has made a study of Russian organ music and has played a number of recitals of entirely Russian music on the organ. In July of 2012 he played the 12th such program for the Summer Russian School of Middlebury College. He has also presented Russian organ programs at Christ Church Methodist, Rochester, MN. In June 2004, he was named Artist of the Year by the Vermont Chapter American Guild of Organists.

He has studied carillon with Arthur Bigelow and Frank Law, organ with Hugh Ross and Ernest White, and composition with David Barnett. He is a graduate of Columbia, Bridgeport, and Wesleyan Universities.

Program Notes

Dietrich Buxtehude is claimed by both Denmark and Germany as “their composer”. He succeeded Franz Tunder as organist of the Marienkircke in Lubeck, where he continued the Abendmusik program started by Tunder. Buxtehude was also Werkmeister (business manager) of the church, as had been his predecessor and father-in-law Tunder. Nicholas Bruhns was his pupil and Matheson and Handel visited him and Bach almost lost his job at Arnstadt when he overstayed allowed absence to learn Buxtehude’s art (having walked 150 miles each way!).

Thierry Levaux was born in Verviers (Belgium), educated at Catholic University (Louvain) and later at the Conservatory at Brussels, Liege and Mons, winning first prize in counterpoint and organ. He has written a definitive history of Belgian musicians from the Middle Ages to the present day. He is organist of the church of Our Lady of Grace in Woluwe-St.Pierre and teaches at the Free University of Brussels and is active as conductor, vocalist and recitalist in performances of new musical works, notably at the Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels.

Jean Baptiste Lemoine’s father was a worker in a machine shop at Roubaix (Fr.). When this firm went to Czechoslovakia, the family moved with it. When Jean was 4 years old he contracted meningitis and became completely blind. From 1920 he studied music at St.-Lambrechts-Woluwe in a school for the blind. His teachers were Nikolaas Cleemput and Jean Janssens. He studied further at Paris with Nadia Boulanger and Alfred Cortot. He played concerts in Belgium and abroad.

In 1921 he received a first prize in organ and in 1922 the ‘diplome d’honneur pour piano’. In 1925 he won a first prize in a piano competition at Paris. In 1929 he won on piano the ‘Prix d’Excellence de la Belgique’. He was a teacher of organ and piano at the school for the blind at St.-Lambrechts-Woluwe and in 1938 he composed a Fugue for organ on *Ite missa est* (mass ‘Cum jubilo’) for the school’s Jubilee.

Oskar Lindberg was born in the province of Dalarna, Sweden where many of his ancestors were peasant violinists; he was steeped in folk music and developed a rich late Romantic orchestral style. He became prominent in the Young Swedes Group (1910 – 1930). A church organist since age 14, he served the Englebreckskyrka in Stockholm from 1914 until his death. A professor at the Conservatory since 1936, he wrote a symphony, five tone poems, choral works and this organ sonata.

Philip Hammond received his A.B., M.A. and D.Mus from Queen’s University, Belfast, N. Ireland. He is Arts Development Director of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. He is active as a pianist, organist, music critic and broadcaster and has written for a variety of media.