

Sunday, November 15, 2015

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

Barry Wenger, Organ

Praeludium and Fugue in E Minor	Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697)
Concerto in A Minor, BWV 593 I. Allegro-Adagio-Allegro	Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741) arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
Sonata No. 4 in B Flat Major II. Andante religioso	Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
Master Tallis' Testament	Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Passacaglia	Virgil Thomson (1896-1989)
Rhosymedre	Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
Introduction and Passacaglia	Max Reger (1873-1916)

Barry J. Wenger was appointed to the position of Organist and Director of Bell Choirs in August of 2015 at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. He was honored to accept this position directing the Lakeminsters Ringers and Chancel Bell Choir and playing the 1973 Casavant Organ, which was recently refurbished by the Casavant Organ Company of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec. He is excited to join the staff of First Presbyterian Church with its extensive and historic music ministry. Most recently, Dr. Wenger was the Principal Organist at First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple. He provided music for four services each week and accompanied the Temple Choir as well as played for numerous weddings and special tours at the church. Barry concertized and fundraised to complete the restoration of the 92-rank/4-manual 1923 E.M. Skinner pipe organ in the Temple's sanctuary.

Before moving to Chicago, Dr. Wenger was the Organist and Director of Worship and Music at Central United Methodist Church, Kansas City, Missouri, where he directed 6 choirs (choral and bell) and played the 1967 Casavant Organ, Op. 2731. Casavant refurbished that instrument under his tenure and guidance there. He was also a Staff Organist at the Community of Christ Headquarters in Independence, MO, for 13 years, playing in recital and worship on the 114-rank Aeolian-Skinner organ and the 102-rank Casavant tracker organ.

In church music since 1990, Barry finished the D.M.A (Doctor of Musical Arts) in Organ Performance at the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri – Kansas City in 2003. His early studies were at the University of North Dakota, M.M. in Organ Performance, 1995; and Minot State University, B.M. in Organ and Piano Performance and B.S.E in K-12 Music Education – Choral, 1993. Dr. Wenger's teachers include John Obetz and Mark Dimond – organ; Jane Solose – harpsichord and piano. Barry has performed in masterclasses with Marie-Claire Alain, Robert Anderson, and David Higgs.

Barry has concertized throughout the Midwest and the South and also maintains a private lesson studio where he teaches organ, piano, and harpsichord. In 2013, he toured England with the Chicago Temple Choir and played Charles Wesley's pipe organ. Dr. Wenger is a member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) – Chicago Chapter, and has held many positions in the organization including being the Dean of the Greater Kansas City Chapter and organizing their annual Bachathon 6-hour concert!

A champion of new music, Dr. Wenger has premiered new works for organ, choir and organ, harp and organ, and cello and organ. He was requested to perform in recital to honor the new President of Garrett Evangelical Seminary on their 1992 Casavant organ. Most recently he played a new work for cello and organ for the Chicago AGO Chapter.